

Notice of Changes to Pell Grant Program Effective 2012-2013 Academic Year

The Office of Financial Assistance is notifying federal student aid applicants of major changes to the Federal Pell Grant Program beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year. If you have been a Pell Grant recipient in prior years this change may affect your eligibility for the Pell Grant in the upcoming 2012-2013 year or future years.

What happened?

In December 2011, President Obama signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74). This law has significantly impacted the Pell Grant Program. Beginning in fall 2012, students are now limited to 12 full time semesters (or 600%) of Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) during their lifetime. This change affects **ALL** students regardless of when or where they received their first Pell Grant. Students who are currently receiving the Pell Grant in the academic year 2011-2012 and have already used 600% of their Pell Grant eligibility will not be eligible to receive a Pell Grant beginning with the fall 2012 semester.

How do I know if this affects me?

If you have attended full time semesters in college for 4 years or longer, and received the Pell Grant each year, you are likely to already have exhausted or will exhaust your lifetime limit of 12 semesters of Pell Grant eligibility during the 2012-2013 school year. If you have attended college and received the Pell Grant for less than 4 years, you will likely not surpass the lifetime limit during the 2012-2013 school year. Regardless of how much Pell lifetime eligibility you have used, please be conscious about the lifetime limit of the Pell Grant when changing majors and/or scheduling classes. To understand more about the Pell Grant LEU please visit <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PellLimit.jsp>.

How do I know how much of my lifetime Pell Grant I have used?

You should be able to view your Pell Grant LEU by using your federal student aid pin and logging into www.NSLDS.ed.gov. Until that time, the Department of Education will be sending email notifications to students who have used 450% or more of their LEU.

How is my LEU calculated?

The percentage is based off the annual award at fulltime enrollment status. For example, if you attended 12 or more credit hours each fall and spring semester the percentage used for that academic year is 100%. If you only attended 9 credits hours each fall and spring semester, your percentage used for that academic year is 75%.