

Pell Grant

Students must annually complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") to apply for all federal financial aid programs. This includes the Federal Pell Grant Program.

Priority Deadline
Fall April 1st
Spring October 1st
Summer March 1st

Annual Maximum Awards

- For the **2009-10 award year** (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010), the maximum scheduled Pell Grant award is \$5,350 for undergraduate students enrolled on a **full-time basis**.
- The maximum amount can change each award year and depends on program funding. The amount you get, though, will depend not only on your financial need, but also on your costs to attend school, your status as a full-time or part-time student, and your plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.
- The maximum scheduled Pell Grant award for the **2010-2011 award year** is \$5,550 for students enrolled on an **full-time basis**.

Key concepts and definitions

- The first critical concept revolves around the definition of an *academic year*.
- For purposes of federal financial aid programs at Alvin Community College, an *academic year* is a period of time (normally a minimum of 30 weeks or fall plus spring semester) during which a full-time undergraduate student is expected to complete a minimum of 24 credit hours.
- Annual grant limits are tied to the completion of an *academic year*.
- *Award year* refers to the specific enrollment period. The "normal" award year at Alvin Community College is the fall and spring semesters (currently the 2009-2010 year). *Award years* run from July 1 to June 30.
- A "*Cross-Over Payment Period*" is any period that includes both June 30th and July 1st. For the purposes of federal financial aid programs, this period must be assigned to a specific financial aid award year. These years begin each July 1st.

New Policies

Eligibility Limit and Disbursement

- Students who receive their **first Pell Grant** *on or after July 1, 2008* may receive Pell Grants for as many as 18 full-time semesters (or the equivalent)
- **Effective July 1, 2009** students enrolled in a certificate, associate, or baccalaureate program may receive up to two Pell Grants in one award year to **accelerate** their program.
- **NOTE:** This is new legislation. We continue to receive additional clarification and implementation guidance from the Department of Education, so please continue to check this page for the latest updates BEFORE you make any academic decisions.

How We Think This Will Work:

- **For the 2010 summer session only:** Alvin Community College offers a number of summer sessions of differing lengths in an effort to be responsive to the needs of the student body. For the purposes of the federal Pell Grant program, the separate sessions are combined into one "**Cross-over**" Payment Period".
- The 2010 summer session will be attached to the 2009-2010 academic year. Students interested in receiving federal financial aid for summer must complete the 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA")
- **If eligible**, a student will be able to receive all or a portion of a *second scheduled Pell Grant* within an **award year**.
- For the **First Scheduled Pell Grant Award**, a student must
 - Be Pell Grant eligible;
 - Be enrolled in six hours, half-time enrollment;
 - The amounts received will count toward the aggregate lifetime limit.
- To Qualify to Receive a **Second Scheduled Award for the Summer 2010** within the same award year, a student must :
 - Continue to be Pell Grant eligible (remember, we check for "satisfactory academic progress" at the end of every semester;
 - Have received 100% of the First Scheduled Pell Grant Award;
 - **Be enrolled on at least a half-time basis ;**
 - The amounts received will count toward the aggregate lifetime limit;
- *Beginning with the 2010-2011 Award Year*, the student must demonstrate *academic year acceleration*.
- At least one credit hour in the payment period when the award will be made from a *Second Scheduled Award* must be attributable to the student's *next academic year*.
 - The student need not have completed a full academic year's worth of coursework prior to the payment period in which the second scheduled award funds are paid. For example, a student earned 9 credits in the fall semester and 9 credits in the spring semester. Since Alvin Community College uses 24 credits to define the academic year and places summer in the

concluding award year, the student would need to enroll for more than 6 credits in the summer term to be paid funds out of the second scheduled award (6 credits to finish the first academic year's worth of work, plus some additional number of credits that count toward the second academic year). This student would be paid any remaining first scheduled award funds plus the amount of second scheduled award funds needed to make up the payment for the term as calculated under the appropriate Pell formula.

- Hours earned during the 2010 summer semester will count towards the acceleration calculation in all subsequent semesters.

Transfer Students

- If a student received 100% of the first Scheduled Award at their prior school, we will assume that the student completed an academic year.
- If a student received less than 100% of their first Scheduled Award, we will assume that the student completed the same ratio of the academic year (24 credit hours at Alvin Community College) as the percentage of the first Scheduled Award utilized at the prior school
 - Prior school disbursed \$2,007 of a \$5,350 Scheduled Award
 - $\$2,007 \times 24 / \$5,350 = 9$ credits assumed earned at the prior school (Remember, Alvin Community College normally only accepts "C" or better grades for transfer credits)

Impact on Future Summer Aid Awards

Starting with the 2011 Summer Semester: We must fully implement the new Pell Grant Regulations starting with the 2011 summer semester. We will look at **BOTH** your 2010-2011 FAFSA **AND** your 2011-2012 FAFSA and utilize whichever year that results in the **HIGHEST** Pell Grant award for summer. **This means that currently enrolled students who are interested in accelerating their degree completion dates by taking summer courses should submit their FAFSAs before the "regular" April 1 priority application deadline.**

The new regulations allow a student to receive funds from a second scheduled award within an award year **if** the student is enrolled for credit hours attributable to a *second academic year* within that *award year*. The student need not have completed a full academic year's worth of coursework prior to the payment period in which the second scheduled award funds are paid. For example, a student earned 9 credits in the fall semester and 9 credits in the spring semester. Since Alvin Community College uses 24 credits to define the academic year and places summer in the concluding award year, the student would need to enroll for more than 6 credits in the summer term to be paid funds out of the second scheduled award (6 credits to finish the first academic year's worth of work, plus some additional number of credits that count toward the second academic year). This student would be paid any remaining first scheduled award funds plus the amount of second scheduled award funds needed to make up the payment for the term as calculated under the appropriate Pell formula.

In addition, at least one credit hour in the payment period when the award will be made from a second scheduled award must be attributable to the student's *next* academic year.

Special Adjustments for children of deceased service members

The **Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008** grants an automatic zero EFC for the **Pell Grant Program** ONLY to Pell Grant eligible students whose parent or guardian was a member of the Armed Forces and died in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001. For more information, go to [Programs for dependents of Veterans](#).

Eligibility Exclusions

Effective July 1, 2009, an individual subject to involuntary civil confinement or civil commitment upon completion of a period of incarceration for a forcible or non-forcible sexual crime is ineligible for a Pell Grant.

Privacy Act

To protect privacy, all records and conversations between you, your family and Campus Financial Aid Services Office staff are confidential. No public announcement shall be made of need-based amounts awarded to you. No information concerning your financial aid record will be released to anyone outside the Financial Aid Office without your permission, in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Students must have a **signed FERPA form on file with the registrar's office before any information can be released to a parent/guardian/spouse.**

Notice of Change

The programs, policies, and information contained herein are subject to change without notice and are intended for information only.