Florida Student Assistance Grant Program

Florida Statutes 1009.50 - 1009.52 State Board of Education Rules 6A-20.031 - 20.033

Program Description

The Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG) Program is a need-based grant program available to degree-seeking, resident, undergraduate students who demonstrate substantial financial need and are enrolled in participating postsecondary institutions.

- The Florida Public Student Assistance Grant is available to students who attend state universities and Florida colleges (public community colleges).
- The Florida Private Student Assistance Grant is available to students who attend eligible private, non-profit, four-year colleges and universities.
- The Florida Postsecondary Student Assistance Grant is available to students who attend eligible degree-granting private colleges and universities not eligible under the Florida Private Student Assistance Grant.
- The Florida Public Postsecondary Career Education Student Assistance Grant (FSAG-CE) is available to students who attend eligible and participating Florida colleges (public community colleges) or career centers operated by district school boards. See the separate fact sheet for additional information regarding the FSAG-CE program.

The Talented Twenty Program provides priority FSAG funding for eligible high school students. Talented Twenty students should contact the financial aid office for FSAG eligibility and priority funding. Additional information about Talented Twenty is available at http://www.fldoe.org/Talented20/.

Each participating institution determines application procedures, deadlines, student eligibility, and award amount.

Applying for an Award

The student will demonstrate financial need by completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) in time to be processed error free by the deadline specified by the institution.

Requirements to Receive Funding

The student will:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by the postsecondary institution. Questions regarding such status should be directed to the financial aid office or admissions office of the institution the student plans to attend.
- Not owe a repayment or be in default under any state or federal grant, loan, or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, in an associate or baccalaureate degree program at an eligible institution to participate in the FSAG Public, FSAG Private, or FSAG Postsecondary programs.
- Enroll for 9-11 credit hours per term, or the equivalent in an associate or baccalaureate degree program at a state university or Florida college (public community college) in order to participate in the FSAG **Public** program three-quarter-time.
- Enroll for 6-8 credit hours per term, or the equivalent in an associate or baccalaureate degree program at a state university or Florida college (public community college) in order to participate in the FSAG **Public** program half-time.
- Meet Florida's general eligibility requirements for receipt of state aid.

Student Award Renewal

- A renewal applicant must have earned a minimum institutional cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and earn the following for each term an award was received during the academic year for the programs listed below:
    - Florida Public Student Assistance Grant,
        - 12 credit hours for each term for full-time enrollment;
        - 9 credit hours for three-quarter-time enrollment; or
        - 6 credit hours for half-time enrollment.
    - Florida Private and Postsecondary Student Assistance Grants, 12 credit hours for each term the award was received.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of the second semester or third quarter of each academic year. Credit hours earned during the previous summer can be counted toward the total number of credit hours required.
- A student should consult the postsecondary institution for renewal requirements established by the institution.
- Demonstrate financial need by completing an error-free FAFSA each academic year by the deadline specified by the institution.

Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal GPA

- If a student does not meet the minimum institutional cumulative GPA, a probationary award may be granted for two semesters or three quarters.
- To be eligible for renewal the following year after probation, the student must have earned the required credits and an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal Credit Hours

- A student who does not meet the annual minimum number of credit hours required for renewal may not receive funding the following academic year.
- To be eligible for funding in a subsequent year, the student must apply for restoration and meet the general eligibility requirements for restoration and have earned an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Student Award Restoration

- A student may be eligible for restoration if an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale is earned at the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year for which the student was ineligible.
- A student may apply for restoration with the postsecondary institution after two semesters or three quarters at the end of the spring term.

Student Award Reinstatement

A student who met the requirements for a renewal award, but did not receive an award during a full year of eligibility and wishes to reestablish use of the grant, may apply for reinstatement with the postsecondary institution in a subsequent year provided the student has earned an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale as of the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year preceding the year the award is sought.

Award Procedures

- The postsecondary institution will determine applicant eligibility and award amount.
- The annual award amount may vary each academic year. The minimum annual award amount for 2015-16 is $200. The maximum award amount is set by the Legislature in the General Appropriation Act each year.

Award Disbursement

The postsecondary institution will disburse awards to eligible students each term. Awards are not available for the summer term.

Terms of Eligibility

- A student receiving the FSAG Public is eligible to receive an award for a maximum 110 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete a program.
- A student receiving FSAG Private or Postsecondary is eligible to receive scholarship funding for 9 semesters or 14 quarters of full-time enrollment.
- Undergraduate students participating in college-preparatory instruction, students requiring additional time to complete the college-level communication and computation skills testing programs (CLAST), or students enrolled in a 5-year undergraduate program are eligible to receive financial aid for a maximum of 10 semesters or 15 quarters.
- Unused hours may not be used for further course funding after a student earns a baccalaureate degree.

Institutional Appeal Process

An applicant who believes financial aid has been wrongly denied has certain rights to appeal. If aid is denied for failure to meet state academic progress requirements, an applicant may appeal the denial to the institution by providing proof of illness or other emergency beyond the applicant's control. An institutional academic progress appeal is to be filed within 30 days of the denial letter or by the date established by the institution's financial aid office, whichever is later.

Updating Information

A recipient must notify OSFA of any change in name, address, or institution attended.

A student may update information by contacting OSFA toll-free at 1-888-827-2004 or online:

www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org

- ✓ Select **State Grants, Scholarships & Applications**
- ✓ Select **Update My Demographics**

Transferring from one institution to another could affect an applicant's award.

Use of an Applicant's Social Security Number/Non-discrimination Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 requires state agencies to inform applicants of the reasons for requesting their Social Security Numbers (SSN). The FDOE requests an SSN on all applications for student financial assistance in order to correctly identify applicants, match each applicant's financial aid record with the student record at the postsecondary institution the applicant attends, and help coordinate state student aid programs with federal student aid programs.

An applicant will not be denied financial assistance for failure to disclose the SSN. Without an SSN, correct identification of an applicant's record cannot be assured and may result in an error in the award amount or a delay in the disbursement of an award.

Pursuant to Section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, state student financial assistance is provided to eligible applicants without discriminating on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status. Minority status will be considered when required by law as a condition of eligibility or selection.

Contact Information

Address:
Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
State Scholarship and Grant Programs
Suite 1314
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Phone:
1-888-827-2004

E-mail:
OSFA@fldoe.org