

Federal Pell Grant – FAQ's

What is the Pell Grant and how is it awarded?

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduates.

- To apply for the Federal Pell Grant, file the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA.\)](#)
- The grant is only available to undergraduate students who have not yet earned a bachelor's or professional degree.
- Award amounts for the 2016-17 award year range from \$590 to \$5,815.
- Pell Grants are pro-rated based on your enrollment. If you are enrolled less than full time, your grants will be reduced.
- Awards are adjusted based on enrollment at the census date of each module you are enrolled in.
- Awards may be decreased or canceled if you drop or withdraw from a class, or withdraw from MCC.

NOTE: You may not receive Pell Grant funds from two schools for the same semester. If this happens, one of the schools would be required to cancel your award, and you may owe money back to the school(s).

Federal Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU)

A new law reduces the duration of Federal Pell Grant eligibility from 18 semesters (or its equivalent) to 12 semesters (or its equivalent). This applies to all Federal Pell Grant eligible students beginning with the 2012-13 academic year.

The maximum amount of Pell Grant funding a student can receive each academic year is equal to 100%. The 12-semester or six-year lifetime equivalent is 600%.

Does this change affect me?

This change affects all students regardless of when or where they received their first Federal Pell Grant.

How does this change affect me?

- Once you receive your lifetime eligibility limit of 600% of your Federal Pell Grant award (or 12 semesters), you will not have any remaining Federal Pell Grant eligibility.
- Once you receive between 501% - 600% of your Federal Pell Grant award, you will not have a full year (100%) of Pell grant eligibility, but will likely receive a portion of your scheduled award; this will also be adjusted based on enrollment.

The Federal Pell schedule of 100% includes the following breakdown for each semester of the academic year:

- Full-time enrollment (12 or more credits per semester) = 50% Pell Grant
- Three-quarters time enrollment (9, 10 or 11 credits per semester) = 37.5% Pell Grant
- One-half - time enrollment (6, 7 or 8 credits per semester) = 25% Pell Grant
- Less than one-half time (5 or less credits per semester) = 12.5% Pell Grant

May I appeal my Pell lifetime eligibility?

- No, you may not.
- Federal Pell Grant limits are set by federal law.
- If you rely on Federal Pell Grant funding, be sure to meet regularly with your Student Services Advisor to help you stay in school, only enroll for classes that count toward your degree program and be conscientious about the lifetime limits when changing majors and/or scheduling classes.

How can I see my Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) percentage?

- Log on to the [National Student Loan Data System \(NSLDS\)](#) website using your Federal Student Aid ID to view your Pell LEU
 - Forgot FSA ID? [Click Here](#)
- Pell LEU may be viewed under "Grants"
- You will view your percentage used

If I have reached or exceeded Pell LEU, what are my options?

- Schedule an appointment with your Student Services Advisor to develop an academic plan and understand course requirements for graduation from your program of study.
- Check the [MCC Online Financial Aid System](#) frequently to insure all requirements for aid have been met.
- Turn in any outstanding documents early in order to be considered for all available funding.
- [Click here](#) to view MCC Scholarship opportunities.
- Sign up for a payment plan or pay your bill in full:
 - Go to your [JICS](#) account
 - Login
 - Select the student tab
 - Select Payment & Account Information
 - Select the e-Cashier logo in the bottom right-hand corner
- [Click here](#) for additional financial aid programs including Federal Work Study and requesting a Direct Student Loan.

How can the census date affect me?

- A date that is determined by the last day of add/drop in each module (15 week, 12 week, 8 week).
- If you enrolled in a course that began in the module of the census date, a snapshot of your enrollment is taken on this day and awards such as Pell may be adjusted for your current enrollment.
- This may mean if you added, dropped or withdrew from a course and the number of credits enrolled on the census date is different than when aid was disbursed the award(s) will be adjusted.
- Based on this adjustment being lower you will owe money back or if the adjustment is higher the difference will be disbursed to your account.