



2024-2025 Pell Grant Policy and Procedures

I. Policy Statement

The Pell Grant is a federal grant program that provides financial aid to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need. Pell Grant offers funds that do not need to be repaid, unlike student loans. The amount of the grant varies and is determined by the student's Student Aid Index (SAI) as reported on the FAFSA, the cost of attendance at the school, and whether the student is enrolled full-time or part-time. The maximum amount of Pell Grant is determined by the federal government and the Department of Education. The amount of time in which a student can receive Pell grant has been reduced from 18 semesters to 12 semesters or when they reach 600%. This change in duration is not limited to students who received their first Federal Pell Grant on or after the 2008-2009 award year, as the HEA previously provided when the duration of eligibility was 18 semesters. The federal government will calculate the equivalency by adding together each of the annual percentages of a student's scheduled award that was actually disbursed to the student.

II. Purpose of Policy

Pell Grants are awarded based on a student's financial need, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Pell Grant is the largest federal grant program for undergraduate students, designed to help those from low-income households afford college. Pell Grant funds can be used for tuition, fees, books, and other necessary expenses related to attending college.

III. Applicability

Initial eligibility requirements

- Be an undergraduate student who has not earned a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree.
- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the applicable year.
- Demonstrate exceptional financial need based upon the SAI (Student Aid Index) calculation.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non- citizen.

Continuing eligibility requirements

- Complete the FAFSA form each academic year.
- Complete any unsatisfied ULM financial aid requirements that appear on your ULM Banner Self-Service.
- Students must meet the University of Louisiana Monroe's Satisfactory Academic Policy (SAP) to be awarded any Pell Grant during an academic year.
- The amount of Federal Pell Grant funds you may receive over your lifetime is limited by federal law to be the equivalent of six years of Pell Grant funding.
- Maintain enrollment in an undergraduate, degree seeking course of study.

IV. Definitions

The Pell Grant is a source of financial government funding provided to students who are determined eligible based on the information from their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This source of funding does not have to be repaid as long as the student completes their courses and earns the funds provided to them.

V. Packaging Policy & Procedures

Award amounts:

The maximum Federal Pell Grant award is \$7,395 for the 2024-2025 award year. This does not include year-round Pell. Please see further in the document for more information on year-round Pell.

Packaging Policy:

- The amount of Pell Grant a student can receive will depend on the following:
 - Your Student Aid Index (SAI based on your FAFSA form calculation).
 - The cost of attendance or budget (determined by the institution for your specific program of study and regulated by the individual state the institution is in).
 - The student's status as a full-time or part-time student. Pell Grant is awarded based on hours attending. ULM awards students based on the assumption of full-time enrollment. However, only the amount of eligible Pell Grant will actually apply to the bill.
 - Does the student plan to attend for one term or the entire academic year?
 - The student is meeting the university's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.
 - Pell Grant is awarded by automatic packaging within the Oracle Banner system.
 - Terms and Conditions are applied to the account for the student to review and accept. This is so students will read and understand all of the rules and regulations needed to receive and keep their awarded Pell Grant.
- Pell Grant is reviewed and adjusted until after the 14th class day of full-term classes and after the 5th class day for module classes.
 - For example, if you were attending a 12-hour, full-time course load and dropped to 9 credit hours before one of the above timeframes, your Pell Grant would be adjusted to the amount of Pell Grant for the appropriate amount of credit hours at that time. This could cause the student to owe a balance to the institution.
- Students must attend and complete 60.004% of their classes for each term to earn 100% of their awarded Pell Grant. If a student withdraws from the institution completely, all of their federal aid, including Pell Grant will be reviewed and adjusted based upon the student's last date of participation. This could cause the student to owe a balance to the institution.
- In certain situations, an eligible student can receive up to 150% of his or her scheduled Pell Grant award for an academic year.

- For example, if you are eligible for a \$2000 Pell Grant for the award year and are enrolled full-time for both the fall term and spring term, you will likely receive \$1000 in the fall and \$1000 in the spring. However, under certain circumstances, you may be eligible to receive up to an additional \$1000 for attendance in an additional term within that award year. Such as summer. (Resulting in your receiving 150% of your original award).

Minimum Pell Grant Eligibility Criteria

This section describes eligibility criteria to qualify for a Min Pell Grant and the "Minimum Pell Indicator" value that you will see on the student's ISIR.

Dependent Student

Min Pell Indicator	Eligibility Criteria
1	The student's parent is a single parent and has an AGI less than or equal to 325% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.
2	The student's parent is not a single parent and has an AGI less than or equal to 275% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.
Blank	Ineligible for Min Pell

Independent Student

Min Pell Indicator	Eligibility Criteria
3	The student is a single parent, and the AGI is less than or equal to 400% of the poverty line.
4	The student is a parent and is not a single parent, and the AGI is less than or equal to 350% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.
5	The student is not a parent, and the student's (and spouse's if applicable) AGI is less than or equal to 275% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.
Blank	Ineligible for Min Pell

Maximum Pell Grant Eligibility Criteria

This section describes eligibility criteria to qualify for a Max Pell Grant and the "Max Pell Indicator" value that you will see on the student's ISIR.

Dependent Student

Max Pell Indicator	Eligibility Criteria
1	The student's parent(s) is not required to file a federal income tax return.
2	The student's parent is a single parent and has an AGI greater than zero and less than or equal to 225% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.
3	The student's parent is not a single parent and has an AGI greater than zero and less than or equal to 175% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.
Blank	Ineligible for Max Pell

Independent Student

Max Pell Indicator	Eligibility Criteria
1	The student (and spouse, if applicable) is not required to file a federal income tax return.
2	The student is a single parent and has an AGI greater than zero and less than or equal to 225% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.
3	The student is not a single parent and has an AGI greater than zero and less than or equal to 175% of the poverty guideline for the applicant's family size and state of residence.
Blank	Ineligible for Max Pell

Year-Round Pell Grant

- Beginning summer 2018, Federal Pell Grant rules allowed students to receive additional Pell Grant funds and accelerate their academic careers to finish their program of study sooner. At this time, a student who attended full time during the fall and spring would have to attend a minimum of 6 credits in his/her major in the summer to qualify for year-round Pell of up to 150%. All other student types could be reviewed with less summer enrolled hours to see if they qualify for any additional Pell Grant.
- Beginning summer 2024, this policy is still in effect with the following changes:
 - Although \$7,395 is the maximum Pell Grant Scheduled Award for the 2024-2025 award year, institutions are reminded that a student may be eligible to receive Pell Grant funds for up to 150 percent of the student's Pell Grant Scheduled Award for an award year. **The FAFSA Simplification Act removed the requirement for a student to be enrolled at least half-time to receive Pell Grant funds of more than 100 percent of the student's Scheduled Award.** Therefore, to be eligible for the additional Pell Grant funds, the student must only be otherwise eligible to receive Pell Grant funds for the payment period to receive funds more than 100 percent of the student's Scheduled Award.
- Students must attend and complete 60.004% of their classes for each term to earn 100% of their awarded Pell Grant. If a student withdraws from the institution completely, all of their federal aid, including Pell Grant will be reviewed and adjusted based upon the student's last date of participation. This could cause the student to owe a balance to the institution.
- Pell Grant is reviewed and adjusted until after the 14th class day of full-term classes and after the 5th class day for module classes.
- The Office of Financial Aid Services strongly advises students to carefully consider their enrollment load before registration. The student is expected to complete all registered classes to avoid possible repayment of Financial Aid.

Eligibility and Packaging Procedures

- Summer awarding is a manual process at ULM. Summer sheets are printed in batches and awarded in order of enrollment. Adjusting enrollment after initial enrollment will be processed in a later batch.
- Students who change their enrollment schedule will have their summer offer or award adjusted after the batch has been completed and the up/down sheets are printed.
- Students will receive an email if they are awarded summer aid, if their aid is revised for summer or if they are not eligible for summer financial aid.
- These emails are sent out at the end of each business day.
- Students begin enrolling for summer in March.
- The ULM Financial Aid Office then determines the estimated Cost of Attendance (COA) based on the previous year's tuition and fee amounts and the current housing amounts listed on the ULM webpage. This is to assist in awarding students within a few weeks after they begin enrolling.
- A pop sel (Summer Population Calc) will be utilized to calculate the student's satisfactory academic progress (SAP) status for summer utilizing ROPSAPR program in Banner FA at the end of the spring term. This process will update the student's SAP status for the 20XX80 term in Banner FA form ROASTAT-Eligibility tab. For initial awarding of current students, the 20xx60 term will be utilized to determine SAP eligibility until spring grades are available for review. SAP will be calculated for new students entering for the 20xx80 term. Once SAP has been calculated for the summer at that time **any student that is deemed to be bad SAP, will have the summer award cancelled.**
- Once the hour load process has occurred, the FAO will run a manual pop sel (Summer Population Aid Year Duration) Fall/Spring/Summer FSS or Spring/Summer SPS on GLBDATA within Banner FA to identify enrolled students and then change the Aid Year on the Budget screen for these students to reflect summer. The batch post process on Banner FA form RORPOST will be utilized to perform this process. This will allow for the calculation of the student's summer Cost of Attendance (COA). This will also repopulate the student budget duration utilized to calculate the student's SAI #.
- The batch post process on RORPOST and the RNPFMXX program will be utilized to perform this process. This will allow for the calculation of the student's expected family contribution (SAI) value for summer. The summer SAI calculation only affects whether or not the student has SUB eligibility for summer. The calculation of the summer SAI will be (Combined duration SAI which is the 12-month aka FASPSUM– 3-month duration SAI = Summer SAI. Summer Need = Summer COA – Summer SAI. If prior SAI exceeds prior COA, the difference must be added to current SAI to determine correct summer SAI. The SAI for a Summer only student will be the 3-month SAI. For a student that is

SPRSUM the calculation will be 8 month – the 3-month summer. The SAI for a SUMMER only is the 3 months.)

VI. Enforcement

In some cases, you may discover that a student has been guilty of fraud and should be reported. The law doesn't allow you to modify either the formula or the tables used in the SAI calculation. If you suspect that a student, employee, or other individual has misreported information or altered documentation to fraudulently obtain federal funds, you should report your suspicions and provide any evidence to the Office of Inspector General.

VII. Policy Management

The Director of Financial aid, along with the support staff are responsible for implementing and administering the rules within this policy.

VIII. Exclusions

Any exclusions in this policy will be according to and in compliance with the guidance provided by The Department of Education and the Federal Government.

IX. Effective Date

3/18/2025

X. Adoption

This policy is hereby adopted on this 18 day of March 2025.

This policy is hereby updated on this 18 day of March 2025.

XI. Appendices, References and Related Materials

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell#how-apply>

<https://askregs.nasfaa.org/article/36678/how-much-extra-can-we-award-a-student-under-year-round-pell-grant-rules>