

New 2010-11 Federal Policies Impacting Pell Grant Eligibility

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Limit on Pell Grant Eligibility

Pell Grants Limited to 18 Full-Time Semesters

If a student receives a Federal Pell Grant for the first time on or after July 1, 2008, the student may receive no more than nine Scheduled Awards. (Federal Register/Vol. 74, No. 208/Thursday, October 29, 2009/Rules and Regulations 55951)

Students who receive their first Pell Grant on or after July 1, 2008, will be eligible to receive a Pell Grant for as many as 18 semesters (full-time) or its equivalent if attending less than full-time. Pell Grant usage and remaining percentage available will be documented by the U.S. Department of Education on the Student Aid Report (SAR) that students receive via email after they file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year.

Second Pell Grant Award during the Academic Year

Previously, students were eligible to receive one Pell Grant award during the academic year, usually divided equally between fall and spring semesters. Effective for the summer semester, 2009, and beyond, students may be eligible to receive up to two Pell Grant awards in one academic year in order to accelerate the completion of their program. At Santiago Canyon College, students must meet the following criteria in order to qualify to receive a second Pell Grant award within the same academic year:

- Have received 100% of the first Pell Grant award for the academic year
- Continue to be Pell Grant eligible
- Be enrolled at least six credit hours or more during the term
- Santiago Canyon College will assume a student successfully completed at least 24 credit hours during the two consecutive semesters for the purpose of determining acceleration.
- All awards will count toward the lifetime Pell eligibility limit.
- Hours earned during the summer semester will count towards the acceleration calculation for second Pell payment within the same award year.

Example of a Second Pell Grant Award During the Academic Year

A student enrolls in the fall and spring semesters and receives a full-time Pell Grant Award of \$5,350. This award is divided equally between the two semesters and the student receives \$2,675 for fall and \$2,675 for spring. The student wishes to accelerate their program and enrolls full-time during the summer semester. Because Santiago Canyon College assumes the student successfully completed 24 credit hours during fall and spring, and now enrolls full-time for summer semester, the student will receive another Pell Grant award in the amount of \$2,675 for summer.

Transfer Students

If a student received 100% of the first Scheduled Award at another school, Santiago Canyon College 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 as the percentage of the first Scheduled Award utilized at the other school.

Impact on Future Summer Aid Awards

Beginning in the summer semester, 2011, we will review student FAFSA results for both the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years in order to determine which year will result in the highest Pell Grant award for the summer. This means that currently enrolled students who are interested in accelerating their program by taking summer courses should always submit their FAFSAs before the priority application deadline.

Year-round Pell 2010-11 - Payment from Second Award Example:

Example1: 2010-11 Award Year 0 EFC = \$5,550

Summer 2010 Full-time (12 units)	Fall 2010 Full-time (12 units)	Spring 2011 Full-time (12 units)
\$2,775	\$2,775	\$2,775

Yes, the student receives a second scheduled award year in spring 2011 since at **least one** credit hour is attributable to the second academic year.

We reserve the right to make changes to our policies and procedures regarding this new Pell Grant update.