

## **Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Limit**

### **Financial Aid**

There is a new federal law effective with the 2012/13 school year that limits the amount students can receive in the Federal Pell Grant. Because the new Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) includes all awards received prior to the 2012/13 year, some students will already be ineligible at the start of the year. Others will have some eligibility but not enough to receive 100% of their award. It includes any Pell Grant award received at any school and it's a limit to receive it at any school. You can't transfer and receive additional awards at another school. There are no exceptions and it isn't possible to appeal. The school has no legal ability to award students beyond the limit.

The limit is 6 years of full time attendance. It's prorated for part time students. It's calculated based on 600% of annual awards. When you're awarded a Pell Grant, you are given a maximum annual Pell Grant award. If you attend full time for two semesters you receive 100% of it. If you attend half time for two semesters you receive 50% of it. Each semester you receive a percentage. When that total reaches 600% you're no longer eligible for the grant. To receive the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant you must also receive the Pell Grant, when you reach the limit you aren't eligible for either grant.

Updating of individual LEU's will be complete by mid July 2012 on the NSLDS web site. NSLDS is where you can find and track your financial aid history. You'll need your federal PIN to access your history. It's the same one you use to sign your FAFSA. See Tools for Students.

To read more about the LEU and how it's calculated including examples right click on the link below and select "open hyperlink" for a message from the U.S. Department of Education:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/attachments/040612CalPGLifetimeEligUsedSAOTWPage.pdf>

## **Declining Pell Grant Funds**

A student may decline all or part of a disbursement of Pell Grant funds that the student is otherwise eligible to receive. A student may wish to take this action if the student expects to qualify for a larger Pell Grant in future years as a result of an expected transfer to a more expensive educational institution or an expected change in the student's expected family contribution.

To decline Pell Grant funds, a student must deliver to the school a signed, written statement clearly indicating that the student is declining Pell Grant funds for which he or she is otherwise eligible and that the student understands that those funds may not be available once the award year is over. The school must, if necessary, submit any adjustment records for the student to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System.

**For more information regarding this new federal law visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov). In the search box type in "Pell Grant LEU" and it will direct you to the correct page.**