

GO GRANT PROGRAM

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ELIGIBILITY

Q - 1 How does a student qualify for a GO Grant?

- A. The student must:
- Be a Louisiana resident; AND
 - Receive a federal Pell Grant or a financial need grant during the semester or term during which the GO Grant is received; AND
 - Have an Education Cost Gap of greater than \$199; AND
 - Be a first-time freshman during the 2007-2008 academic year or later; OR
 - Have been a first-time freshman during the 2007-2008 academic year or later and have become eligible for a federal Pell Grant or a financial need grant after the freshman year; OR
 - Be over 25, was a first-time freshman before the 2007-2008 academic year and have been out of college/university for at least 2 consecutive semesters (not including summer).

APPLICATION

Q - 2 How does a student apply for a GO Grant?

- A. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each year in which they intend to enroll in college.

LOUISIANA RESIDENT

Q - 3 What determines if a student is a Louisiana resident?

- A. If a dependent student's FAFSA indicates that he/she is a Louisiana resident on his/her FAFSA that was received by the federal processor, he/she is a Louisiana resident.

If an independent student's FAFSA indicates that he/she was a Louisiana resident when his/her FAFSA was received by the federal processor, he/she is a Louisiana resident.

Q - 4 What if a dependent student is not living in Louisiana or does not list his/her state of residency as Louisiana on the FAFSA but his/her parents' state of residence does reflect Louisiana on the FAFSA?

- A. If a dependent student's FAFSA does not reflect his/her residency in Louisiana, but the FAFSA does reflect his/her parents' residency as Louisiana, the student will be considered a Louisiana resident.

Q - 5 What if a dependent student is not living in Louisiana but has a parent that is a Louisiana resident, but that parent's state of residence is not reflected as Louisiana on the FAFSA?

- A. The dependent student's parent will be required to complete a residency affidavit and submit proof that he/she is a Louisiana resident.

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Q - 6 What if an independent student does not list his/her state of residence as Louisiana on the FAFSA?

A. If the student is considered independent and the FAFSA does not reflect his/her residency as Louisiana, the student will not be considered a resident. If an Independent Student believes he/she should be considered a resident, the student must complete a Residency Affidavit and submit proof that he/she is a Louisiana resident.

Q - 7 Where does the student obtain a residency affidavit?

A. The residency affidavit can be obtained from LOSFA by calling a Public Information Representative at 1-800-259-5626, Extension 1012 or by visiting LOSFA's website at www.osfa.la.gov and selecting the GO Grant Residency Affidavit on the Scholarships/Grants Frequently Requested Forms page.

Q - 8 What types of proof are needed for the Residency Affidavit?

A. Standard documents that can be used to support residency are voter registration cards, a valid Louisiana driver's license and Louisiana income tax returns. The documents must have been issued or be for tax years prior to the time of enrollment and the application for a GO Grant Award.

Q - 9 Can other documents other than those listed above be used to prove residency?

A. Yes, but each request and type of document will be reviewed on case-by-case basis.

Q - 10 Who reviews the Residency Affidavit and documentation?

A. LOSFA. Once a student completes the Residency Affidavit and compiles the required supporting documentation, he/she should forward all of it to LOSFA, Attention Scholarships and Grants, at P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821-9202. LOSFA will review the documentation and notify the college/university whether the student is a Louisiana resident for purposes of the GO Grant Program.

Q - 11 How can the college/university document LOSFA's determination of residency?

A. LOSFA will notify the college/university of its determination via facsimile. The college/university should retain a copy of the notification in the student's file.

EDUCATION COST GAP

Q - 12 What is an Education Cost Gap (ECG)?

A. An Education Cost Gap is an indicator used to determine whether a student has financial need.

Q - 13 How does a college/university calculate the Education Cost Gap?

A. **Public college/university participating in the Pell Grant program:**
Add the annual full-time tuition and mandatory fees at the college/university (this figure is made available each year *by the Board of Regents and posted on the LOSFA website*) to \$2,000 for the Education Cost Allowance. This amount is the Louisiana Basic College Costs (LBCC). Determine

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the **student's** full-time annual Pell Grant award (use the amount calculated for each individual student's full-time annual Federal Pell Grant regardless of whether that student is currently enrolled full-time, half-time or less than half-time to calculate the ECG) and subtract it from the LBCC at your institution. If this number is greater than \$199, and the student meets the other requirements, he/she is eligible to receive a GO Grant.

Public college/university that does not participate in the Pell Grant program:

The college/university must be granted Regional Candidacy status and provide financial need grants. Add the annual (fall and spring semesters or fall, winter and spring quarters) full-time tuition and mandatory fees at the college/university plus \$2,000. (This amount is the Louisiana Basic College Costs (LBCC).) Subtract the **student's** full-time annual financial need grant amount. If this number is greater than \$199, and the student meets the other requirements, he/she is eligible to receive a GO Grant.

Private college/university that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU):

Use the average of the annual tuition and mandatory fees for full-time students at all four-year public colleges/universities (this average amount will be provided by LOSFA) instead of the tuition and mandatory fees at the college/university. Add the average annual tuition and mandatory fee amount to \$2,000 for the Education Cost Allowance. This amount is the Louisiana Basic College Costs (LBCC). Determine the **student's** full-time annual Pell Grant award (use the amount calculated for each individual student's full-time annual Federal Pell Grant regardless of whether that student is currently enrolled full-time, half-time or less than half-time to calculate the ECG) and subtract it from the LBCC at your institution. If this amount is greater than \$199, and the student meets the other requirements, he/she is eligible to receive a GO Grant.

Q - 14 Who calculates the ECG?

- A. The college/university at which a potential GO Grant recipient is enrolled.

If a college/university does not have a program to calculate the ECG, it may enter the GO Grant Portal found in the TOPS Portal on the LOSFA website at www.osfa.la.gov where postsecondary institutions log in. Select the menu item "Enter Individual Educational Cost Gap (ECG) Analyses." Using the available fields, enter the student's SSN and full-time Federal Pell Grant award amount (use the full-time Federal Pell Grant amount the student would receive regardless of whether that student is currently enrolled full-time, half-time or less than half-time to calculate the ECG). If the calculation result is greater than \$199, that student meets the ECG requirement for a GO Grant.

Q - 15 If I submit batch payment requests am I still required to use the LOSFA web portal to calculate the ECG?

- A. No. The LOSFA web portal ECG calculator was designed as a tool to assist with this process. As long as you do not "SAVE" the record for which you have calculated the ECG, you do not have to use the web portal. However, if you "SAVE" the calculated ECG, you must submit a payment request through the portal for that record.

Q - 16 Is the ECG calculated each semester?

- A. No. The ECG is calculated for the academic year in which the student enrolls.

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Q - 17 What do I use to calculate the ECG for a student who is enrolled only part time?

A. You would apply the same procedure as you would for a full-time student; however, the payment amount will be based on the enrollment status. (See Q. 35)

Q - 18 What do I use to calculate the ECG for a student who is enrolled only for the spring semester or term?

A. You would use the Annual Full-time LBCC and the Student's full-time annual Pell amount in determining the ECG. See responses to Q-35 and 38 for award amounts based on enrollment status.

FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN

Q - 19 Who is a first-time freshman?

A. A first-time freshman is a student who has never attended any postsecondary institution (public, private or proprietary), except while in high school or during a summer session before first time enrollment in a regular semester or term.

Q – 20 If a student attends college while attending high school, is he/she a first-time freshman when he/she enrolls after graduation from high school for the next fall or spring semester; or fall, winter or spring term?

A. Yes. College enrollment during high school is not considered in determining whether the student is a first-time freshman.

Q – 21 If a student attends college during the summer session immediately following high school graduation, is he/she a first-time freshman when he/she enrolls for the next fall or spring semester; or fall, winter or spring term?

A. Yes. College enrollment during the summer session immediately after high school graduation is not considered in determining whether the student is a first-time freshman.

Q – 22 If a student enrolls in college with advanced standing (credits earned before graduation from high school), is he/she a first-time freshman when he/she enrolls for the first time in a regular fall or spring semester; or fall, winter or spring term?

A. Yes.

Q – 23 If a student graduates from high school in December and enrolls in college for the subsequent spring semester, is he/she a first-time freshman for the spring semester?

A. Yes.

Q - 24 A student graduated high school in 2006 and attended a postsecondary institution part-time during the fall semester of 2006 and/or the spring semester of 2007. Is that student still a first-time freshman during the fall semester of 2007?

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A. No.

Q - 25 A student graduated high school in 2006 and attended Louisiana Technical College part-time during the fall semester of 2006 and/or the spring semester of 2007. Is that student still a first-time freshman during the fall semester of 2007?

A. No. Louisiana Technical College is a postsecondary institution.

Q - 26 If a student is enrolling in a Louisiana postsecondary institution after attending an out-of-state postsecondary institution where he/she enrolled then withdrew, can this student be considered for an award?

A. No. The student is not a first-time freshman.

Q - 27 What is the difference between a “Postsecondary Institution” and an “Eligible Louisiana Institution”?

A. “Postsecondary Institutions” refer to all schools, colleges, and universities that provide formal instructional academic, vocational, and continuing professional education primarily for students beyond the compulsory age for high school. Out-of-state and out-of-country institutions are included.

“Eligible Louisiana Institutions” are those postsecondary institutions in Louisiana that are eligible to participate in the GO Grant Program. All Louisiana public postsecondary institutions and the LAICU member colleges are included.

INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR NON-FRESHMAN

Q - 28 Can a student be eligible for a GO Grant if he/she does NOT qualify as a first-time freshman?

A. Yes. Students who were first-time freshman during the 2007-2008 academic year or later are eligible for a GO Grant if they become eligible for a Pell Grant or financial need grant after their freshman year if they meet the other eligibility criteria.

Q - 29 I have a student who was a first-time freshman during the 2007-2008 academic year who was not eligible for a GO Grant that year. If this student becomes eligible for a Pell Grant and/or has an eligible ECG for the 2008-2009 academic year, will he/she be eligible for a GO Grant for that year?

A. Yes. If the student meets the other eligibility criteria, the fact the student was not eligible for a Pell Grant and/or did not have an eligible ECG for the 2007-2008 academic year will not make him ineligible for a GO Grant in subsequent years.

Q - 30 I have a student who was a first-time freshman during the 2007-2008 academic year who was not eligible for a GO Grant that year. If this student sits out the 2008-2009 academic year and returns to college for the 2009-2010 academic year, will he/she be eligible for a GO Grant if he receives a Pell Grant?

A. Yes. If the student meets the other eligibility criteria, the fact the student sat out a year will not make him ineligible for a GO Grant.

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AGE 25 OR OLDER

Q - 31 Does the provision requiring students who are 25 years old or older to be out of college/university for at least 2 consecutive semesters apply to ALL students who are 25 years old or older?

A. No. This provision applies ONLY to students who enrolled as first-time freshmen before the 2007-2008 academic year. If a student who is 25 years old or older enrolls as a first-time freshman in the 2007-2008 academic year and later, he/she is not subject to this provision and DOES NOT have to have had a break in enrollment of at least two consecutive semesters.

Q - 32 How do you calculate how old a student is?

A. To calculate a student's age, subtract the year the student was born from the beginning of the academic year during which the student is being considered for a GO Grant. For example, a student was born in 1982. The student intends to enroll for the spring semester of 2008. The academic begin year is 2007. Subtract 1982 from 2007. This calculation equals 25.

Q - 33 If a student aged 25 or older was enrolled for the previous academic year at an out-of-state institution, would he/she be eligible?

A. No. The student has not been out of college for at least two semesters.

Q - 34 If a student who is 25 years or older was enrolled as a first time freshman before the 2007-2008 academic year and has been out of college for at least two semesters does not qualify for a Pell Grant for the academic year he reenrolls in college, will the student be eligible for the GO Grant the next year if he becomes eligible for a Pell Grant?

A. Yes.

AWARD AMOUNT

Q - 35 What is the award amount?

A. For the 2009-2010 academic year, a student must have an ECG that is greater than \$199 to qualify to receive the GO Grant, and his GO Grant award amount is his qualifying ECG up to the maximum award amount for a student attending full-time, part-time, or half-time. The award amount for a full-time student is the student's qualifying ECG (if more than \$199) or \$2000, whichever is less. For a half-time student, the GO Grant annual award amount is the student's qualifying ECG (if more than \$199) or \$1000, whichever is less. For a student who is enrolled less than half-time, the GO Grant award amount is the student's qualifying ECG (if more than \$199) or \$500, whichever is less.

Q - 36 Can a student be awarded each semester for every year he/she is enrolled?

A. Yes, up to the maximum award amount. A student may receive up to \$10,000 in cumulative GO Grant funds.

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Q - 37 Who keeps track of the total amount of GO Grant a student has received?

A. LOSFA will post a transaction file for each student who receives a GO Grant.

Q - 38 A student is enrolled less than full-time. Is he/she eligible for a GO Grant?

A. Yes. The amount of the grant is based upon the number of hours in which the student is enrolled and that student's ECG. See question 35.

Q - 39 What does "half-time" mean for purposes of the GO Grant?

A. Half-time means that a student is enrolled less than full-time but in at least 6 semester hours, or 4 hours at a term college/university.

Q - 40 Can a student receive a GO Grant award during a summer session?

A. No.

BILLING

Q - 41 Is the ECG amount the amount to ask for payment?

A. Not in all cases. The annual award amount for a full-time student is the student's ECG or \$2000, whichever is less; the annual award for a half-time student is the student's ECG or \$1000, whichever is less; and for a student enrolled less than half-time, the award amount is the student's ECG or \$500, whichever is less.

Q - 42 What determines how much to request in payment?

A. The type of college/university (semester or term) and the number of hours in which the student is enrolled at the end of the 14th class day (or 9th class day at a term college/university), the ECG amount or the maximum allowed award amount are all factors that determine the amount of the payment request. See examples below:

- Student A is enrolled less than half-time with an ECG of \$350. The maximum annual GO Grant award for less than half-time is \$500. The student would be awarded \$350 annually.
- Student B is enrolled less than half-time with an ECG of \$485. The maximum annual GO Grant award for less than half-time is \$500. The student would be awarded \$485 annually.
- Student C is enrolled half-time with an ECG of \$1005. The maximum annual GO Grant award for half-time is \$1000. The student would be awarded \$1000 annually.
- Student D is enrolled half-time with an ECG of \$773. The maximum annual GO Grant award for half-time is \$1000. The student would be awarded \$773 annually.
- Student E is enrolled full-time with an ECG of \$2500. The maximum annual GO Grant award for full-time is \$2,000. The student would be awarded \$2,000 annually.
- Student F is enrolled full-time with an ECG of \$1831. The annual amount for full-time is \$2000. The student would be awarded \$1831 annually.

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Q - 43 How does the college/university request payment?

- A. The college/university may request payment for all students at once using a Batch File or it may request payment for one or any number of students individually directly through the GO Grant portal using the online menu items listed.

Q - 44 The college submits the payment request; but who receives the actual payment?

- A. The college or university receives the actual payment. Once the student's account is satisfied, any remaining amount should be disbursed directly to the student.

Q - 45 If a student becomes full-time after the 14th class day (9th class day at a term college/university), can we request a second payment?

- A. Yes. In order to request a second payment, the college/university must enter the total number of hours in which the student is enrolled at the time of the second payment request. Once the total number of hours for the student is entered into the GO Grant portal, the college/university may request a payment for the difference between the payment for a student enrolled full-time and the original payment request.

Q - 46 If the GO Grant award amount will make payment more than the college/university's bill, do I reduce the GO Grant award?

- A. No. As long as the total amount of the student's awards do not exceed his/her financial need or the Cost of Attendance (COA), the student may receive the excess as a refund from the college/university.

Q - 47 If a student is eligible for a GO Grant award but the amount would put them in an Over Awarded situation, what should be done?

- A. An Over Award occurs when a student receives financial aid in excess of his/her financial need or the Cost of Attendance.

If an Over Award occurs, any federal loan aid must be reduced first followed by any institutional aid and then, other aid in accordance with the institution's policy, until there is no remaining over award. In the event the student is also a TOPS award recipient, and further reduction in award is needed, the GO Grant award shall be reduced before the TOPS award.

Q - 48 Is a college required to refund all or part of the GO Grant award to LOSFA if a student was enrolled full-time through the 14th class day (9th at a term college/university) and later dropped to less than full-time enrollment?

- A. No.

Q - 49 Can a college bill for a student who was enrolled through the 14th class day (9th at a term college/university) and resigned before the college submits its bill?

- A. Yes. Once the student has been enrolled through the 14th class day (9th at a term college/university), the student is entitled to the GO Grant Award. The college must submit its bill.

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REFUNDS

Q - 50 Do we submit refunds if the student was awarded then withdrew from college/university?

A. If the student was eligible for the award on the 14th class day (9th class day at a term college/university), the college/university is not required to submit a refund.

Q - 51 A student is enrolled through the 14th class day (9th at a term college/university) and the school bills for a GO Grant. Subsequently, the Pell Grant is cancelled. Does the college/university have to refund the GO Grant?

A. Yes, the GO Grant would have to be refunded.

Q - 52 A student is enrolled through the 14th class day (9th at a term college/university) and the school bills for a GO Grant. Subsequently, the Pell Grant is reduced or increased. Does the college/university have to recalculate the GO Grant award?

A. No.

Q - 53 A college/university bills before the 15th class day (10th at a term college/university) and the student is not enrolled through the 14th class day. Is the college/university required to refund the GO Grant?

A. If a college/university bills before the 15th class day (10th at a term college/university), the bill will be rejected and must be submitted appropriately. If a college/university bills after the 15th class day (10th at a term school), for a student not enrolled through the 14th class day, the college/university must refund the GO Grant.

Q - 53 When should I consider marking a GO Grant payment request with the Over Award (OA) flag?

A. Use the Over Award (OA) indicator when you submit a bill for an amount that is less than the student's maximum GO Grant award because the original award would exceed the student's financial need or COA.