

Pell Grant Percentage Fact Sheet



Effective July 1, 2012, the Consolidated Appropriations Act reduces from 18 to 12 the maximum number of semesters of full-time enrollment or the equivalent for which a student may obtain Pell Grant funds. The 12-semester limit equates to 600 percent of a scheduled award. This provision applies to *all* Pell Grant recipients, regardless of when the first grant was received.

For students enrolled less than full time, only the percentage of the full-time enrollment status for which the student is enrolled counts toward the limit. Pell Grant usage is tracked and displayed in the "Lifetime Eligibility Used" field on the Common Origination and Disbursement website and the National Student Loan Data System. Students who have received 600 percent or more of their LEU no longer will be eligible to receive Pell Grant funds.

The following charts illustrate how to calculate the percentage of Pell Grant eligibility used.

Formulas 1 and 2

Pell Grant Formulas 1 and 2 are used for credit-hour, standard-term programs. A student's award is divided by the payment periods in the academic year.

Semester Programs

For example: Fall and spring standard semesters with a summer header/trailer. Summer may be a nonstandard term. Pell Grant payments are divided only between the two standard terms. Students still may qualify for Pell Grants during the summer if remaining eligibility exists.

Percentage of Scheduled Award			
Full time	Three-quarter time	Half time	Less than half time
50%	37.5%	25%	12.5%

Trimester Programs

For example: Fall and spring standard trimesters. Summer may be a standard or nonstandard term. Pell Grant payments are divided between the two standard terms.

Percentage of Scheduled Award			
Full time	Three-quarter time	Half time	Less than half time
50%	37.5%	25%	12.5%

Quarter Programs

For example: Fall, winter and spring standard quarters with a summer header/trailer. Summer may be a nonstandard term. Pell Grant payments are divided only between the three standard terms. Students still may qualify for Pell Grants during the summer if remaining eligibility exists.

Percentage of Scheduled Award			
Full time	Three-quarter time	Half time	Less than half time
33%	24.75%	16.5%	8.25%

Formula 3

Any term-based program can use Formula 3, but the school *must* use this formula if the program does not qualify for Formula 1 or 2 or is a program offered in nonstandard terms.

Nonstandard Term Programs

To calculate the percentage of Pell Grant used, the school must perform a number of calculations. The scheduled award for the nonstandard term is determined based on the following formula:

$$\text{Annual Pell Grant Award} \times \frac{\text{Weeks in Payment Period}}{\text{Weeks in Academic Year}} = \text{Scheduled Award for Payment Period}$$

Full-time enrollment status for each nonstandard term is used to determine the remaining enrollment statuses. Use the following formula to calculate full-time status:

$$\text{Credit Hours in an Academic Year} \times \frac{\text{Weeks in Nonstandard Payment Period}}{\text{Weeks in Academic Year}} = \text{Full-time Enrollment Status for Payment Period}$$

Each student's enrollment status then is based on the full-time enrollment status for the nonstandard term based on the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Credit Hours Enrolled in Payment Period}}{\text{Credit Hours in Full-Time Enrollment Status for Payment Period}} = \text{Student's Enrollment Status for Payment Period}$$

To calculate the Pell Grant payment amount to the student for the payment period, or nonstandard term, multiply the student's enrollment status by the scheduled award for the term.

$$\text{Scheduled Award for Term} \times \text{Student's Enrollment Status for Term} = \text{Student's Award Amount for Payment Period}$$

Finally, to calculate the percentage of Pell Grant used for the payment period, divide the student's award amount by the scheduled award for the payment period.

$$\frac{\text{Student's Award Amount for Payment Period}}{\text{Scheduled Award for Payment Period}} = \text{Percentage of Scheduled Award Used}$$

Formula 4

Formula 4 is used for credit-hour nonterm programs and all clock-hour programs. The annual award amounts typically are based on the full-time schedule, regardless of the student's enrollment status.

Nonterm Programs

Students in nonterm programs typically are paid based on the full-time Pell Grant payment schedule, unless enrolled less than half time. The percentage of scheduled award for nonterm programs is determined based on the lesser result of the following:

$$\text{Scheduled Pell Grant Award} \times \frac{\text{Weeks in Payment Period}}{\text{Weeks in Academic Year}} = \text{Scheduled Award for Payment Period}$$

OR

$$\text{Scheduled Pell Grant Award} \times \frac{\text{Hours in Payment Period}}{\text{Weeks in Academic Year}} = \text{Scheduled Award for Payment Period}$$

To calculate the percentage of Pell Grant used for the payment period, divide the student's award amount by the scheduled award for the term.

$$\frac{\text{Student's Award Amount for Payment Period}}{\text{Scheduled Award for Payment Period}} = \text{Percentage of Scheduled Award Used}$$

Note that subsequent Pell Grant payments are not allowed until the student successfully completes the required number of hours AND weeks in the payment period.

Clock-Hour Programs

The percentage of scheduled award for nonstandard term programs is determined based on the *lesser* result of the following formulas:

$$\frac{\text{Scheduled Pell Grant Award}}{\text{Scheduled Pell Grant Award}} \times \frac{\text{Weeks in Payment Period}}{\text{Weeks in Academic Year}} = \text{Scheduled Award for Payment Period}$$

OR

$$\frac{\text{Scheduled Pell Grant Award}}{\text{Scheduled Pell Grant Award}} \times \frac{\text{Hours in Payment Period}}{\text{Hours in Academic Year}} = \text{Scheduled Award for Payment Period}$$

To calculate the percentage of Pell Grant used for the payment period, divide the student's award amount by the scheduled award for the payment period.

$$\frac{\text{Student's Award Amount for Payment Period}}{\text{Scheduled Award for Payment Period}} = \text{Percentage of Scheduled Award Used}$$

Note that subsequent Pell Grant payments are not allowed until the student successfully completes the required number of hours AND weeks in the payment period.



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