



Pell Grant FAQs

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1. What is a Pell Grant: A Pell Grant is a type of financial aid that can help pay for tuition, fees and other educational expenses. The Pell Grant is sponsored by the United States Department of Education and does not have to be paid back as long as you complete the courses attempted.
2. How do I apply for a Pell Grant: To apply for a Pell Grant you will need to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov.
3. Who is eligible for a Pell Grant: In order to be eligible to receive a Pell Grant you must:

- Demonstrate financial need by submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or eligible non-citizen
 - Have a valid Social Security Number
 - Have a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate or demonstrate “ability to benefit” by passing an approved test (and any other admissions requirements)
 - Meet satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
 - Be enrolled in an eligible post-secondary school
 - Be working toward a first undergraduate degree or teaching credential
 - Be registered with Selective Service if you are a male between the ages of 18 and 25
 - You cannot be in default of any student loans
4. What does the Pell Grant provide and how long does it last: A Pell Grant provides financial aid that can be used for tuition, fees and other educational expenses. You can receive as long as you continue to meet the eligibility requirements until you have met your lifetime limit.
5. Can I qualify for a Pell Grant while I am eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program: Yes. A Pell Grant is **not** considered income or assets if used during the academic period for which it was awarded and for educational expenses. A Pell grant also does **not** affect your SSDI eligibility because SSDI does not count income or assets.
6. Are there rules for immigrants to qualify for a Pell Grant: Yes, to qualify for a Pell Grant you must be able to live and attend school legally in the United States as a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or eligible non-citizen. To be an eligible non-citizen you must be a:
- U.S. permanent resident (has Alien Registration Card or I-551)
 - Conditional permanent resident (has I-551C Card)
 - Refugee
 - Asylum grantee

- Parolee
 - Cuban-Haitian entrant with an Arrival Departure Record (I-94) from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)
7. How long can I continue to receive Pell Grants: You can receive a Pell Grant as long as you continue to meet the eligibility requirements. However, you can only receive one award per academic year.
 8. Can I receive a Pell Grant if I am attending school part-time: Yes, you can receive a Pell Grant if you are attending school part-time or enrolled for less than a full academic year. However, you are awarded on a full-time basis so attending less than full-time will reduce your disbursement amount.
 9. What documents will I need when applying for a Pell Grant: To apply for a Pell Grant you will need to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have the following information ready:
 - Actual or estimated tax returns for the year specified
 - W-2 Forms and other records of earnings
 - Records of untaxed income (e.g. Social Security Statements)
 - Investment records
 - Business and farm records
 - Driver's license
 - Social Security Number
 10. Are there other types of financial aid if I do not qualify for a Pell Grant:
Yes, if you are ineligible for a Pell Grant, you may be eligible for other types of aid. You should speak with your financial aid counselor for information on other types of aid that may be available to you.
 11. Where can I get more specific information about a Pell Grant: For more specific information that can answer any additional questions please go to *Student Aid on the Web* at studentaid.ed.gov.