

**LOUISIANA STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Student Financial Aid Bulletin

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DISTRIBUTION:	College, University and LAICU Chancellors, Financial Aid Offices, Business Offices, Registrars and Auditors; Louisiana Legislators, Officials and the Congressional Delegation; Higher Education Board; Libraries; Commission Members; Technical College Campus Deans and Student Personnel Services Officers
PROGRAM:	Louisiana Go Grant
TOPICS:	Emergency Rules

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission approved an Emergency Rule and Notice of Intent at its meeting held on July 19, 2007 that adds Chapter 12 to the Scholarship/Grant Program Rules to implement the Louisiana GO Grant Program. This program adds a need based student financial aid component to the state's financial aid plan that supports nontraditional and low income students. This chapter sets the initial and continuing eligibility requirements, the roles and responsibilities of the participants, and general guidelines for the program.

To be eligible for a Louisiana Go Grant, a student must:

- Be a Louisiana Resident;
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Receive a federal Pell grant or a financial need grant (defined in rule);
- Have an Education Cost Gap (ECG) greater than \$0 calculated by adding a student's tuition and mandatory fees at a school (as approved by Board of Regents and posted annually on LOFSA's website) with a \$2,000 education allowance and subtracting the Pell or financial need grant amount for a full-time student;
- Not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations; and
- Be a student enrolled in an eligible postsecondary school on a part-time or full-time basis who:
 - entered college as a first time freshman during academic year 2007-2008 or later; OR
 - is age 24 or younger who entered college as a first time freshman during academic year 2007-2008 or later; OR
 - is age 25 or older and who has had a break in enrollment of at least two consecutive semesters, not including a summer semester or term, immediately preceding the period of enrollment for which the student is being considered for receipt of a grant.

Note: For students attending an eligible college or university that is a member of LAICU, the ECG is calculated using the average tuition and mandatory fees for full-time students at the state's four-year public postsecondary institutions plus the \$2,000 education allowance. The current year tuition and fees table for the Go Grant Program can be found on LOSFA's website at www.osfa.state.la.us.

To receive a grant in subsequent years, the student must file a FAFSA or the Renewal Application annually, continue receiving a Pell or a financial need grant, have an ECG greater than \$0, and maintain steady academic progress as defined by the institution enrolled in accordance with the federal Higher Education Act of 1965. The maximum annual award is \$2,000 and the award can be renewed for subsequent years to a maximum lifetime award of \$10,000 per student.

In order to receive a grant, an eligible student must be enrolled in an undergraduate program at an eligible postsecondary institution through the 14th class day (9th class day at quarter and term schools). If a student adds classes after the 14th (9th) class day and becomes full-time, a second billing request cycle will be accepted from the schools to process additional payments for students. In situations where a retroactive action changes the enrollment status of a student from full-time to part-time as of the 14th (9th) class day, it will be the responsibility of the school to apply credit for Go Funds paid in accordance with their existing policy to ensure that excess funds are available to the student to cover additional costs of attendance.

For additional information, please contact one of our Public Information Officers by calling **225-922-1012** or toll-free by dialing **1-800-259-LOAN (5626), Extension 1012**.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Student Financial Assistance Commission Office of Student Financial Assistance Scholarship/Grant Programs (LAC 28:IV.Chapter 12)

The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) is exercising the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act [R.S. 49:953(B)] to amend and re-promulgate the rules of the Scholarship/Grant programs (R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 3041.10-3041.15, and R.S. 17:3042.1.1-3042.8, R.S. 17:3048.1, R.S. 56:797.D(2)).

The emergency rules are necessary to implement changes to the Scholarship/Grant programs to allow the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance and state educational institutions to effectively administer these programs. A delay in promulgating rules would have an adverse impact on the financial welfare of the eligible students and the financial condition of their families. LASFAC has determined that these emergency rules are necessary in order to prevent imminent financial peril to the welfare of the affected students.

This rulemaking will add Chapter 12 to LASFAC's Scholarship/Grants rules to implement the Louisiana GO Grant Program. The Program will provide \$15 million in need-based aid to Louisiana students in state fiscal year 2007-2008. The Program was reviewed and approved by both the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education on April 12, 2007, and \$15 million has been included in the agency's budget for the 2007-2008 state fiscal year.

This declaration of emergency is effective July 19, 2007, and shall remain in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act. (SG0889E)

Title 28
EDUCATION
Part IV. Student Financial Assistance- Higher
Education Scholarship and Grant Programs

Chapter 12. Louisiana GO Grant

§1201. General Provisions

A. Authority.

1. In accordance with the requirements of Act 695 of the 2004 Regular Session of the Legislature, the Board of Regents developed the GO Grant Program. The program was reviewed and approved by both the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education on April 12, 2007.

2. The Louisiana GO Grant Program is administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance in accordance with the approved program and a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission.

B. Description, History and Purpose. The Louisiana GO Grant assists those students who can demonstrate financial need to pay for the cost of postsecondary education. The GO Grant is used to pay a portion of the cost of attendance at an eligible Louisiana postsecondary institution.

C. Maximum Award Amount.

1. The maximum annual award for any student is \$2,000 per academic year.

2. The annual award amount for students who enroll less than full time shall be reduced based on the maximum amount the postsecondary institution is authorized to submit a payment request in §1211.C.2.

3. The maximum total lifetime award amount for any student is \$10,000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR

§1203. Definitions. The following definitions shall be applicable to the Louisiana GO Grant Program.

Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

Academic Year—The academic year begins with the fall semester or term of the award year, includes the winter

term, if applicable, and concludes with the completion of the spring semester or term of the award year. Summer terms *may* be included in the academic year if the postsecondary institution provides students with Pell grants or financial need grants during the summer session, in which case, the academic year culminates with the summer session.

Administering Agency—The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance or LOSFA.

Age—A student's age is calculated by subtracting his birth year from the academic begin year he begins college enrollment. For example, a student who is born in 1983 who enrolls in college during the fall semester of 2007 or the spring semester of 2008 is 24.

Cost of Attendance—The total cost for a student to attend a particular postsecondary institution, usually expressed as an academic year figure. This cost shall be determined by the postsecondary institution attended in compliance with Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and shall be annually updated and adopted by the institution.

Credit-bearing Course—A course in which postsecondary education credit is attempted.

Dependent Student—A student who does not qualify as an independent student and is deemed to be dependent on his parents for support and therefore is required to include parental information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or renewal FAFSA.

Education Allowance—\$2,000 per academic year.

Education Cost Gap (ECG)—

a. For postsecondary institutions, except a Louisiana public college that has been granted regional Candidacy Status and is eligible to participate in the Go Grant Program, the Louisiana Basic College Costs (LBCC) minus the federal Pell grant amount for a full time student.

b. For a Louisiana public college that has been granted regional Candidacy Status and is eligible to participate in the Go Grant Program, the Louisiana Basic College Costs (LBCC) minus the financial need grant amount at that institution for a full time student.

Enrollment—Registration in programs of study for which a student may receive a Pell grant or a financial need grant at a postsecondary institution.

Federal Pell Grant—The Pell Grant provided under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

Financial Need Grant—An institutional grant provided by the state for students with financial need as evidenced by the data reported on the FAFSA at a Louisiana public college that has been granted regional Candidacy Status and is eligible to participate in the Go Grant Program.

First-time Freshman—A student who, after high school graduation, has never attended any college or other postsecondary institution, including students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term after high school graduation and students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school).

Full Time—A student enrolled in a postsecondary institution who is considered program full time by the school, or is enrolled in at least 12 semester credit hours, or 8 hours at a term school.

Go Grant Award Amount—The award amount actually paid during an academic year.

Half Time — A student enrolled in a postsecondary institution who is not full time but is enrolled in at least 6 semester credit hours, or 4 hours at a term school.

Independent Student—A student who meets at least one of the criteria listed in Subparagraphs a-f or has been determined independent by a financial aid officer exercising professional judgment in accordance with applicable provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended:

- a. reached 24 years of age prior to January of the year preceding the academic year for which the student is applying for aid;
- b. is currently serving on active duty for purposes other than training or is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, including a student who was activated to serve in Operation Desert Storm;
- c. is an orphan or a ward of the court or was a ward of the court until age 18;
- d. has legal dependents other than a spouse;
- e. is a graduate or professional student;
- f. is married.

Less Than Half Time — A student enrolled in a postsecondary institution who is not full time and is enrolled in less than 6 semester credit hours or 4 hours at a term school.

Louisiana Basic College Costs (LBCC)—

a. For students enrolled at Louisiana public postsecondary institutions, the tuition and mandatory fees that are assessed a full time student for enrollment during the academic year at that institution, not including summer semesters or sessions, as approved on a yearly basis by the Louisiana Board of Regents, plus the education allowance.

b. For students enrolled at regionally accredited independent colleges or universities in the state that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the average tuition and mandatory fees for full time students at the four year public postsecondary institutions, plus the education allowance.

Louisiana resident—

a. A dependent or independent student whose true, fixed, and permanent home of residence is Louisiana as reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

b. A dependent student whose non-custodial parent completes a residency affidavit in subparagraph e below that establishes Louisiana residency.

c. A dependent student whose parent is transferred out of Louisiana temporarily by his/her employer and that parent completes a residency affidavit in subparagraph e below that establishes Louisiana residency.

d. A dependent student whose parent is on active duty in the Armed Forces and who is stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders, or an independent student who is on active duty military status in the Armed Forces and is stationed in Louisiana under permanent change of station orders.

e. If the dependent or independent student does not report Louisiana as his true, fixed, and permanent home of residence as Louisiana on the FAFSA, the administering agency may require an independent student applicant or the parent of a dependent student applicant to show proof of residency. Residency may be established by completion of a standard affidavit developed by the administering agency. Such affidavits must be completed in their entirety by the independent student applicant or by at least one parent of the dependent student applicant and be sworn to and notarized by a licensed notary public. Further, the affiant shall be required to submit records in support of the affidavit to include the following records and such other records as may be required by the administering agency:

i. if registered to vote, a Louisiana voter registration card; and

ii. if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, a Louisiana driver's license; and

iii. if owning a motor vehicle located in Louisiana, a Louisiana registration for that vehicle; and

iv. if earning a reportable income, a Louisiana tax return.

Over Award—an over award occurs when a student receives financial aid in excess of the cost of attendance or an award under state programs to which the student was not entitled.

Postsecondary Institution—Louisiana public colleges or universities and regionally accredited independent colleges or universities in the state that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and a Louisiana public college that has been granted regional Candidacy Status, but is not yet eligible to participate in Title IV programs, may award students a Go Grant. Candidacy Status institutions must require students to complete a FAFSA and the institution must determine a student's eligibility in accordance with rules under this chapter.

Program Full Time —A student is enrolled in a degree program at a postsecondary institution that the institution defines full-time as less than 12 hours per semester or eight hours per term.

Satisfactory Academic Progress—A standard established in accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, by the institution at which a GO Grant recipient is enrolled for measuring a student's progress in his or her educational program.

Undergraduate Program—A program of study that is designed to lead to a certificate or undergraduate degree.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR

§1205. Application and Initial Eligibility.

A. Application. A student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the year during which he intends to enroll in college.

B. Initial Eligibility. In order to be eligible for a Louisiana GO Grant, a student must:

1. Be a Louisiana Resident; and
2. Receive a federal Pell grant or a financial need grant; and
3. Have an Education Cost Gap (ECG) greater than \$0; and
4. a. Be a student who entered college as a first time freshman during academic year 2007-2008 or later; OR
 - b. Be a student who is age 24 or younger who entered college as a first time freshman during academic year 2007-2008 or later; OR
 - c. Be a student who is age 25 or older and who has had a break in enrollment of at least two consecutive semesters, not including a summer semester or term, immediately preceding the period of enrollment for which the student is being considered for receipt of a grant under this Chapter.

5. Not have a criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations.

C. In order to receive a grant under this Chapter, an eligible student must be enrolled in an undergraduate program at a postsecondary institution through the 14th class day (9th class day at quarter and term schools).

§1207. Continuing Eligibility.

A. Application. A student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or the Renewal Application for each year he enrolls in college to be considered for a Pell grant and the Go Grant.

B. A student's eligibility will be reevaluated on the same schedule as eligibility for a federal Pell grant or a financial need grant is determined at the institution, but at least once annually.

1. The student must continue to receive the Federal Pell grant or a financial need grant.

2. The student must still have an education cost gap greater than \$0 as determined using the ECG formula.

3. The student must have maintained satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution in which he is enrolled in accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR

§1209. Eligibility of Postsecondary Institutions

A. Postsecondary Institutions Eligible to Participate

1. Postsecondary institutions that provide undergraduate programs.

2. Regionally accredited private colleges and universities that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Inc. (LAICU). As of July 2007, LAICU membership included Centenary College, Dillard University, Louisiana College, Loyola University, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Our Lady of the Lake College, Our Lady of Holy Cross College, St. Joseph Seminary College, Tulane Medical Center, Tulane University and Xavier University.

B. Audits

Postsecondary institutions that participate in the Louisiana GO Grant program grant LOSFA and the Louisiana legislative auditor the right to inspect records and perform on-site audits of each institution's administration of the program for the purpose of determining the institution's compliance with state law and applicable rules and regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR

§1211. Responsibilities of Postsecondary Institutions

A. Initial Eligibility.

1. a. Postsecondary institutions must determine whether the student meets the criterion in subparagraph a of the definition of Louisiana resident in §1203.

b. If this criterion is not met, the student may request that LOSFA make a determination of residency under subparagraph e of the definition of Louisiana resident in §1203

2. Postsecondary institutions must determine whether a student meets the initial eligibility criteria enumerated in §1205.B.2-4.

B. Continuing Eligibility

Postsecondary institutions must determine whether a student meets the continuing eligibility criteria enumerated in §1207 on the same schedule as eligibility for a Pell grant or a financial need grant is determined at the institution, but at least once annually.

C. Submission of Payment Requests.

Each semester or term, postsecondary institutions shall submit a payment request to LOSFA for students enrolled at the institution who have been determined eligible for a Louisiana GO Grant as follows:

1. For each student eligible for a Louisiana GO Grant who is enrolled at the end of the 14th class day for semester schools, or the 9th class day for quarter and term schools, or for any qualifying summer sessions, at the end of the last day to drop and receive a full refund for the full summer session.

2. Payment Request Amount.

a. \$1,000 per semester for a student enrolled full time after the 14th class day in a postsecondary institution that operates on a semester basis or \$667 (\$666 for the final term of the award year) per term for a student enrolled full time after the 9th class day in a postsecondary institution that operates on a term basis;

b. \$500 per semester for a student enrolled half time after the 14th class day in a postsecondary institution that operates on a semester basis or \$333 (\$334 for the final term) per term for a student enrolled half time after the 9th class day in a postsecondary institution that operates on a term basis;

c. \$250 per semester for a student enrolled less than half time after the 14th class day in a postsecondary institution that operates on a semester basis or \$167 (or \$166 for the final term) per term for a student enrolled half time after the 9th class day in a postsecondary institution that operates on a term basis.

d. For summer sessions, the difference between what the student was paid during the preceding fall semester or term, winter term, if applicable, and spring semester or term and the student's maximum annual award amount; provided the award for the summer session shall not exceed \$1,000.

3. The payment request shall include the social security number, college code, term, date, hours attempted, award amount, education cost gap and amount requested for each student.

4. For students who are enrolled in more than one postsecondary institution, the home school (school paying the Pell grant or a financial need grant) is responsible for submitting a payment request for the Go Grant based on the total hours enrolled at all institutions.

D. Over Payments

1. No institution shall submit a payment request for GO Grant funds which would result in a student receiving an annual total of more than is authorized in §1201.C.

2. Postsecondary Institutions certify by submitting a payment request for a GO Grant that the institution will reimburse LOSFA for any award funds that are disbursed to ineligible students, in excess of the maximum annual award or in excess of the maximum lifetime award.

E. Over Award

In the event the student's total aid, including vocational rehabilitation awards, exceeds the cost of attendance, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the Louisiana GO Grant, then a TOPS Award, if applicable, shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award.

F. Records Retention.

Records pertaining to the payment requests for Louisiana GO Grants are subject to audit as required by LASFAC, the Louisiana Board of Regents, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Postsecondary institutions shall maintain all records for a minimum of three years from creation. All such records shall be made available upon request by LASFAC, the Louisiana Board of Regents and/or the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR

§1213. Responsibilities of LOSFA

A. LOSFA shall pay each postsecondary institution an amount equal to that amount in a payment request by the postsecondary institution in accordance with the provisions of §1211.C.

B. LOSFA shall determine the residency of students who do not meet the criteria enumerated in Subparagraph a of the definition of Louisiana Resident in §1203 and notify postsecondary institutions of its determination(s).

C. LOSFA shall maintain a database of all students who have received the GO Grant, including social security number, college code, term, date, hours attempted, award amount, education cost gap amount, annual amount received, and aggregate amount received. In the event LOSFA receives a payment request for a student in an amount that would exceed the student's eligibility, LOSFA will pay only that amount that will not exceed the student's eligibility.

D. Adequacy of Funding

1. After the receipt of fall semester or term payment requests, but no later than October 15 of each year, LOSFA shall determine whether sufficient funds are available to pay all anticipated awards for subsequent semesters, terms and sessions of the academic year.

2. In the event projections indicate sufficient funds are not available, LOSFA shall notify the Board of Regents.

3. In the event additional funds are not allocated for payment of all anticipated awards for subsequent semesters, terms and sessions during the academic year, the Board of Regents shall develop, approve and deliver a plan to LOSFA to address the shortfall.

E. LOSFA shall audit postsecondary institutions to ensure compliance with these rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR

§1215. Responsibilities of LASFAC

LASFAC shall promulgate administrative rules in accordance with the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, in consultation with the Louisiana Board of Regents and in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding entered into by and between LASFAC and the Louisiana Board of Regents.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3021-3023 and R.S. 17:3129.7.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Student Financial Assistance Commission, Office of Student Financial Assistance, LR

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General Counsel