

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

Student Financial Aid Bulletin

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TOPICS:	Go Grant 2010-2011 - Notice of Change in Methodology

See the attached Notice of Change in Methodology in Awarding the Louisiana Go Grant Beginning AY 2010-11.

Please note, specifically, the following changes:

- No separate calculation to determine a student's ECG is necessary
- New method uses the student's cost of attendance and the student's actual Pell award amount (not full time Pell amount)
- New method allots the same award amount for each student based on enrollment status (award amount is no longer based on student's ECG amount)
- New method still asserts that the Go Grant award may cause the student to exceed federal financial need or COA so there may still be a need for schools to reduce the Go Grant award in which case the "overaward" billing indicator would be coded as "Y" (yes)

Based on the 2010-2011 appropriation, \$26,429,108, the Go Grant award amounts for 2010-2011 will be as follows:

\$900 – Full-time enrollment
\$450 – Half-time enrollment
\$225 – Part-time enrollment

The allocation amounts for each school are forthcoming following review and approval by LASFAC at the commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2010.

It is imperative that schools bill timely during each semester/term. LOSFA will conduct a fall survey to determine whether spring awards will be affected. The final billing deadline for the academic year will remain the same, March 24.

In the event that the allocation is insufficient to fund all eligible students, schools will have autonomy relative to award distribution, e.g., first come, first served; priority to incoming students; priority to continuing students; or another method in line with the school's priority order. Schools are required to document the chosen priority/distribution method as a matter of policy and to adhere to the policy in a consistent manner. Documentation of compliance should be sufficiently present for audit purposes.

Notice of Change in Methodology in Awarding the Louisiana Go Grant Beginning AY 2010-11

The Board of Regents is responsible for the state's student financial aid programs. The Louisiana GO Grant was established to assist in providing access to postsecondary education to students with the greatest financial need. In consultation with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, the Board of Regents is authorizing a change in the GO Grant framework beginning with the 2010-11 academic year for the Louisiana Go Grant Award.

Elements of the existing Go Grant Framework that remain:

- Eligible students must be in a cohort originally determined by the Board of Regents and defined in current rule by LASFAC
- Eligible students must be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant
- Eligible students must meet their institution's requirements for admission and Satisfactory Academic Progress as established for their Title IV recipients.
- If sufficient funds are appropriated the Maximum annual awards for the Louisiana Go Grant will remain:
 - \$2,000 for full-time enrollment
 - \$1,000 for half-time enrollment
 - \$ 500 for part-time enrollment

If sufficient funds are not appropriated the annual award will be prorated based upon the final appropriation. **The prorated amount for AY 2010-2011 is:**

\$900 for full-time enrollment

\$450 for half-time enrollment

\$225 for part-time enrollment

Effective AY 2010-11, students who meet the above criteria must also have a remaining Financial Need of > \$0, based on the following methodology:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Cost of Attendance (Federal definition)} \\ - \text{ Expected Family Contribution} \\ - \text{ Federal Pell Grant} \\ = \text{ Remaining Financial Need} \end{array}$$

If annual legislative appropriation is insufficient to fund all students at the maximum annual award amount, the administering agency will provide to the Board of Regents the projected number of Go Grant eligible students for which, based on the annual appropriation, an award determination can be established, such that all students will receive the same monetary award (dependent on their enrollment status). This amount will become the annual award, however, should additional funds become available, that allow for the award amount to be increased after loans are packaged, schools will be required to reduce the students' loan disbursement (fall and/or spring) accordingly.