

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

Student Financial Aid Bulletin

SFA No:	S2013-01
DATE ISSUED:	January 29, 2013
EFFECTIVE DATE:	As indicated
DISTRIBUTION:	High School Counselors, College and University Financial Aid Offices and Registrars, LAICU Financial Aid Offices and Registrars, Technical School Deans and Technical School Personnel
TOPICS:	Notice of Change in Methodology in Awarding the Louisiana Go Grant Beginning AY 2013-14

The Board of Regents has approved a change in the Go Grant Framework (framework) that will result in a new methodology in awarding students beginning with the 2013-14 award year. Under the framework, institutions will have the ability to structure the award to best fit the needs of their student populations, while making the best use of scarce state financial aid dollars.

The framework includes substantial changes to the minimum and maximum annual award amounts, the maximum lifetime award, the manner in which postsecondary institutions are to package students' awards, and the requirements for institutional policy regarding packaging a student for a Go Grant award. Institutions should read the attached 2013-2014 Louisiana Go Grant Program Framework carefully to ensure compliance.

LOSFA appreciates all the efforts that the financial aid community contributed towards the formulation of the new Go Grant methodology, especially those of the LASFAC Advisory Committee and their Go Grant Task Force. The Go Grant annual allocation schedule will be determined and distributed once final funding appropriation is set by the legislature in June.

Questions regarding this bulletin or the Go Grant Framework for 2013-14 should be directed to Bonnie Lavergne at bonnie.lavergne@la.gov or Deborah Paul at deborah.paul@la.gov.

GO GRANT ELIGIBILITY FRAMEWORK FOR 2013-14

Eligibility Requirements

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;
- Have remaining financial need after deducting Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and all federal/state/institutional grant or scholarship aid ("gift aid") from student's Cost of Attendance (COA);
- Be a student enrolled in an eligible Louisiana institution on at least a half-time basis (minimum 6 hours at semester school or 4 hours at a quarter school)

Campus Allocations

Annual allocation of funds to eligible participating campuses will be based on the annual legislative appropriation and will be proportionate to the institutions' prior year Go Grant expenditures.

Award Amounts **

Award amounts to eligible students are based on the institution's allocation and their packaging policy. Awards may vary with each academic year. Awards will not be paid for summer sessions, quarters or terms.

Maximum and minimum annual award amounts for the 2013-2014 Academic Year:

- Minimum Annual Award \$300
- Maximum Annual Award \$3,000

Award Calculations

Institutions are expected to make a good faith effort to distribute their Go Grant allocations in a manner that reaches students with the most financial need to bring their maximum financial need met with gift aid to 60%.

Example:

COA = \$17,500

EFC = 1,500

Need 16,000

60% of need (16,000) = \$9,600

Gift aid, inclusive of the Go Grant amount should not exceed \$9600 for this student. Examples of gift aid include Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, TOPS, TOPS stipends and institutional scholarships.

Packaging Policy

Institutions must have a written packaging policy for GO Grant Awards that provides:

- Semester, quarter or term award amounts that are equal to the annual maximum amount at the institution divided by the number of semesters, quarters or terms during the academic year, excluding summer sessions, quarter and terms;
- Bases for any institutionally set maximum award amount that is less than the authorized maximum amount established in the framework;
- Priority for students who are 25 or over;
- Award amounts for less than full time students;
- Procedures for identification of transfer and re-entering students that ensure such students receive awards on the same basis as continuing students;
- Eligibility criteria.

NOTE: Eligibility criteria MAY NOT:

- Use any academic criteria other than Satisfactory Academic Progress for receipt of Title IV aid; or
- Automatically eliminate students receiving a TOPS award (see also the 4th bullet under "Eligibility Requirements" and "Award Calculations");

Renewal Requirements

- Must file a FAFSA or the Renewal FAFSA at least annually
- Continue receiving a Federal Pell Grant
- Have remaining financial need after deducting Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and all federal/state/institutional grant or scholarship aid ("gift aid") from student's Cost of Attendance (COA);
- The award can be renewed for subsequent years to a maximum lifetime award that correlates to that of the Federal Pell Grant.

***Residency:** Louisiana resident as of the day the FAFSA is filed and Louisiana is the student's true and fixed domicile as reported on the FAFSA. If student's state of residence on the FAFSA is not reported as LA, but a dependent student claims that a non-custodial parent is a Louisiana resident, or that parents are Louisiana residents living out of state, LOSFA will determine residency based on the completion, by the parents, of a residency affidavit.

**** Students should check with the financial aid office at the school they plan to attend regarding policy on award calculation and distribution.**