

Two Pell Grants in One Award Year

Student Guide

What is a Pell Grant?

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Grant amounts are dependent on: the student's expected family contribution (EFC); the cost of attendance (as determined by the institution); the student's enrollment status (full-time or part-time); and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less. Students may use their grants at any CUNY college.



In order to apply for a Pell Grant you must fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can learn more about this process online at www.fafsa.gov.

NEW! Two Pell Grants in an Award Year

Students can now receive two Pell Grant Awards within one Award Year, if certain criteria are met. The first scheduled Pell Grant Award is the yearly amount initially provided and the second scheduled Pell Grant Award is the additional amount you could receive based on successfully completing over 24 credits in an award year. An example of an award year is July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

The purpose of implementing the Two Pell Grant Option is to give students the opportunity to accelerate their progress towards their degrees by giving them access to Pell Grant funding each semester they attend college including summer terms.

Students who received their first Pell payment in the 2008-2009 award year or after will be limited to 18 terms of full-time payments or its equivalent for part-time study. Students can track their remaining Pell Grant eligibility on NSLDS.ed.gov (National Student Loan Data Base) or through their Student Aid Report.

Pell Grant Awards

During the 2010-11 Award Year, the maximum Pell Grant award is \$5,550. Students can also review their estimated annual award amount, based on their EFC and enrollment status using the [Federal Pell Grant Chart](#). Your EFC can be found on your Student Aid Report (SAR) at www.fafsa.gov.

Student Eligibility

Students can be enrolled in any enrollment status to receive funding from the first Pell Grant Award. However, in order to receive funding from the second scheduled Pell Grant Award, students must have earned at least 24 credit hours AND be enrolled at least half-time (6 credits). This means that you must be taking your 25th credit in the semester in which you receive any part of your 2nd scheduled Pell Grant Award.

Transfer Students

For students who transfer from one college to another, the new college will have to take into consideration the Pell Grant award received at the prior college and credits attempted.

Here's an example of how this works:

Let's say you are enrolled in 9 credits for Fall and 12 credits for Spring. You still have 3 credits left to meet the Award Year requirement of 24 credits. So, you take 9 credit hours in the Summer term. You have now met the 1st year Award Year requirement (for the first 3 credits that will be paid out of the 1st scheduled award) and you are now eligible to be paid under the 2nd Scheduled Award (for the remaining 6 credits).

	Fall	Spring	Summer	Total
Credits registered & successfully completed	9 credits	12 credits	9 credits	30 credits
% of Pell award payment	37.5% from 1 st award	50% from 1 st award	12.5% from 1 st award & 25% from 2 nd award	100% from 1 st award 25% from 2 nd award