

Academic Competitiveness Grant

Changes in legislation have brought about the creation of a new grant program for students. The Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) has been created to assist eligible students in paying their college expenses starting with the 2006-2007 academic year. The ACG is awarded to students in their first and second year of undergraduate studies who are enrolled in an eligible program of study. The eligibility requirements for this new grant program are further explained in this flyer.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN ACG YOU MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Be a 1st or 2nd year undergraduate
- Be enrolled full time
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Eligible for a Federal Pell Grant
- Have successfully completed a rigorous high school curriculum.
- Meet specific academic requirements

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

First year students must have completed high school on or after January 1, 2006. Second year students must have completed high school on or after January 1, 2005. In addition, students must have completed a rigorous high school curriculum as designated by the state in which they graduated. The rigorous high school curriculum options for each state, including Washington, can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/2007/state-programs-07.html>.

In addition, students may also meet this requirement if they completed a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and received passing test scores on the exams for those courses.

ENROLLMENT

Students must be enrolled full time in an eligible program of undergraduate study. Full time is defined as 12 credits or more per quarter. An eligible program is defined as a two-year program that leads to a degree and is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Eligible students must follow Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy. A copy of this policy is enclosed for your reference. In addition to the general eligibility requirements, students must earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 in their first academic year of study in order to be eligible for a second year Academic Competitiveness Grant.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Unlike other grants you may be eligible for, an ACG may not be prorated to match your enrollment level. In order to receive an ACG each quarter, you must be enrolled full time (12 credits or more). In addition, an ACG will be awarded but not disbursed until the Office of Financial Aid has confirmed your final enrollment for each quarter. Changes to enrollment can only be made through the 10th day of each quarter. At the end of the 10th day your aid will be adjusted to reflect your enrollment for that quarter. If you are at full time status after the 10th day, your ACG will be disbursed. Should you fail to complete all of your classes or withdraw from credits after the 10th day you will be subject to Financial Aid Probation or Termination as described in the SAP Policy enclosed.

Financial Aid Office Phone: 360-992-2153 | Fax: 360-992-2868

Email: finaid@clark.edu | Web: <http://cf.clark.edu/HoursLocation/normal/financialAid.cfm>

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