



Financial Aid, Scholarships and Veterans Department
www.piercecollege.edu/offices/financial_aid

New Limit on semesters you may receive a Federal Pell Grant

In December 2011, President Obama signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74). This law has significantly impacted the Federal Pell Grant Program. Effective July 1, 2012, students are now limited to 12 semesters (or 600%) of Federal Pell Grant eligibility *during their lifetime*. This change affects all students regardless of when or where they received their first Federal Pell Grant. Students that are currently receiving the Federal Pell Grant in the academic year 2011-2012 and have already used 600% of their Pell Grant eligibility will no longer be eligible to receive a Pell Grant starting Summer 2012.

How Do I Know If This Affects Me?

If you have attended college for **4 years or longer**, receiving the Federal Pell Grant each year, you are likely to exhaust or have already exhausted your lifetime limit of 12 semesters of Federal Pell Grant eligibility during the 2012-2013 school year.

If you have attended college and received the Federal Pell Grant for **3 years or less** you will likely not surpass the lifetime limit during the 2012-2013 school year.

Whether you have used all of your Federal Pell Grant eligibility or only half, please be conscious about the lifetime limit of the Federal Pell Grant when changing majors and/or scheduling classes.

Can I See My Lifetime Pell Grant Used?

You may view your percentage of Federal Pell Grant used by logging into NSLDS.ed.gov. Your 'Lifetime Eligibility Used' percentage will be displayed in the 'Grants' section.

How Is The Percentage Used Calculated?

The percentages are based off the annual award at fulltime enrollment status. For students with an annual award for 2011-2012 academic year, attending 12 or more credits in each semesters (Fall and Spring for example), the percentage used for the 2011-2012 academic year is 100%. If you only attended 9 credits for two semesters, your percentage used for the academic year would be 75%.

I Have Questions About This, Who Do I Call?

Our Financial Aid staff is available to discuss the change in the lifetime Federal Pell Grant eligibility with you. You may call our office at (818) 719-6428, send us an email at pierce_finaid@piercecollege.edu or visit us during our regular business hours.