



STATE GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (SGS) GUIDANCE MEMO

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OCOG Rosters

The 2009-2010 OCOG eligibility rosters are now current. 2009-2010 ISIR records have been loaded through October 26, 2009. Our HEI team will continue to load new ISIR records on a daily basis Monday through Friday going forward.

As a reminder, the new and improved format for the rosters (including the remaining terms of eligibility and the ability to run incremental versus cumulative updates) is still not available. In the meantime, prior guidance has suggested consulting 2008-2009 eligibility rosters and/or contacting the OCOG program administrator for assistance in determining remaining terms of OCOG eligibility (primarily for those students who were formerly OIG eligible).

Keep in mind that due to the delay in payment files, our system will not be updating summer term OCOG usage until the payment files begin to flow. Therefore, caution should be exercised with students who have 2 or less terms of remaining OCOG eligibility since our system does not yet know if that same student utilized any of that remaining OCOG eligibility this past summer at a ***different*** institution. For the vast majority of situations where students reflect more than 2 terms of eligibility, there should be plenty of room for both summer and fall awards regardless of the institution(s) attended.

Delay in Payment Requests and Overrides

We continue to make progress toward the re-coding and re-programming efforts within HEI to make the OCOG payment request files for 2009-2010 available as soon as possible. The goal for full project completion remains on track for December. In the meantime, requests for residency and foster youth (in the community college sector) overrides cannot be processed. Once the payment files are available, and our administrative capabilities are restored within the HEI system, all such requests will be accommodated. Certainly, as a result of the extended delay of the payment files for OCOG, extension requests for summer, fall and winter payment window submissions will be honored. Respective cut-off dates for terms will be published once the payment files are up and running. ***This leniency in extension requests applies to OCOG only, and schools should continue to submit payment request files for all other state financial aid programs within their respective term submission window deadlines.***

Financial Aid Consortiums

The combined number of credits under a financial aid consortium can be counted toward determining a student's enrollment status for OCOG. So, a student enrolled in 6 credits at his 'home' semester school and 6 credits at his 'visiting' semester school would be eligible for a full-time OCOG award. This applies only if the home school is 'OCOG eligible' even though the visiting school may not be, e.g., community colleges and eligible proprietary institutions. For example, a student attending a public university main campus can have his community college credits under a financial aid consortium counted toward his OCOG enrollment status even though the community college sector is not 'OCOG eligible' under the Pell-first structure.

However, schools should factor in the modified tuition charges for the classes taken at the visiting school. It is possible that a reduced tuition charge could make an otherwise OCOG eligible student ineligible or eligible for less OCOG in any given term if his Pell/EFC combo covers all or a larger portion of his tuition/fees due to lower charges at the visiting school. A scenario where a university main campus student would be taking **all of his classes** at a 'visiting' community college under a financial aid consortium during any given term would yield no OCOG eligibility. A student in this case, just like his peer attending the same community college as her 'home' school, would have his full tuition/general fees covered by his Pell/EFC combo for that term.

General Fees

OCOG is available to use toward instructional and general fees charges. **For the purposes of the OCOG program**, general fees are defined as those assessed universally to all students and those that **do not allow** for a waiver to be offered to any student(s). For example, a fee charged to students to provide health care coverage would not be considered to be universally assessed if students can opt out with proof of health insurance coverage on their parents' plan. Therefore, a health care coverage fee like this would not be considered a general fee and, therefore, would not be factored in to any OCOG eligibility scenario.

Updated Mailing Address

Please note an update to our mailing address. Refund checks and correspondence should no longer be sent to the PO Box 182452 address. Rather, checks and all correspondence should be mailed to: Ohio Board of Regents, 30 E. Broad Street, 36th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-3414. **You may need to pass this information on to your respective finance offices to update this mailing address in their automated systems.**

Financial aid personnel should direct questions to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program Administrator, Tamika Braswell, 614.728.8862, tbraswell@regents.state.oh.us