



Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

Montana Promise Grant

Montana Promise Grant– Eligibility Criteria and Procedures

There is a Montana promise grant program for the purpose of providing funds to increase college affordability and attainment and decrease the amount of college debt incurred by Montana residents. The program is administered by the board of regents through the office of the commissioner of higher education. The board of regents shall adopt policies for the administration of the program consistent with 20-26-621 through 20-26-623.

A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. To be eligible, a student must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Be enrolled at least half-time in a community or tribal college located in the state of Montana or in a 2-year institution of the Montana university system and taking courses that lead to: the ability to transfer to another postsecondary institution entering as at least a second-year student; an associate degree offered by the institution; or a professional credential offered by the institution
 - b. Must be a Montana resident per BOR Residency Policy, 940.1
 - c. Must have graduated from high school or received a secondary education equivalency certificate
 - d. Must complete the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) each academic year, and must be receiving the maximum Pell amount each year (as prorated for credits)
 - e. Must not have earned an associates degree OR completed more than 60 credit hours OR completed more credit hours than is needed to obtain the associates degree they are pursuing (some associate degrees require more than 60 hours)
 - f. Must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as determined by their campus (students on warning or probation do qualify)

B. AWARD AMOUNTS

1. The amount of the grant is \$500 per semester for part-time (6-11 credits) or \$1,000 per semester for full-time students (12+ credits), Fall and Spring semesters only
2. Promise grants are awarded by each campus, based upon a student's FAFSA until all funds are extinguished
3. Awards are contingent upon continued funding through Montana State Legislature and can be discontinued at any time
4. Receiving a Promise Grant one semester does not guarantee funding for future semesters
5. Promise Grants are not transferable between eligible institutions

C. ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

1. A campus of the Montana University System (MUS), as defined in § 20-25-201
2. A Montana community college, defined and organized as provided in § 20-15-101
3. A two-year, accredited tribal community college located in the state of Montana, or a four-year accredited tribal college located in the state of Montana

D. AUTHORIZATION TO DISTRIBUTE FUNDS

1. OCHE distributes Promise Grant funding directly to each campus; each campus is responsible for awarding funds according to the established eligibility criteria
2. Continued awards are contingent upon continued funding through the Montana State Legislature and can be discontinued at any time

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. OCHE will develop and maintain appropriate procedures
2. OCHE is charged with the central administration of the grants and is responsible for the disbursement of the state appropriated funds to each campus
3. The campuses are charged with the execution of the individual student awards according to the established eligibility criteria set forth in the operating procedures
4. OCHE will collect the following information from participating campuses at the end of each biennium; Student first name, last name, Date of birth and amount awarded per recipient each semester