

CALIFORNIA CODES

EDUCATION CODE

SECTION 69430-69433.9

69430. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program.

69431. There is hereby established the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program, which may also be referred to as the Cal Grant Program.

69432. (a) Cal Grant Program awards shall be known as "Cal Grant A Entitlement Awards," "Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards," "California Community College Transfer Entitlement Awards," "Competitive Cal Grant A and B Awards," "Cal Grant C Awards," and "Cal Grant T Awards."

(b) Maximum award amounts for students at independent institutions and for Cal Grant C and T awards shall be identified in the annual Budget Act. Maximum award amounts for Cal Grant A and B awards for students attending public institutions shall be referenced in the annual Budget Act.

69432.5. The Budget required by the California Constitution to be submitted by the Governor at each Regular Session of the Legislature shall take into consideration the amount of federal grant funds for student financial aid.

69432.7. As used in this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) An "academic year" is July 1 to June 30, inclusive. The starting date of a session shall determine the academic year in which it is included.

(b) "Access costs" means living expenses and expenses for transportation, supplies, and books.

(c) "Award year" means one academic year, or the equivalent, of attendance at a qualifying institution.

(d) "College grade point average" and "community college grade point average" mean a grade point average calculated on the basis of all college work completed, except for nontransferable units and courses not counted in the computation for admission to a California public institution of higher **education** that grants a baccalaureate degree.

(e) "Commission" means the Student Aid Commission.

(f) "Enrollment status" means part- or full-time status.

(1) "Part time," for purposes of Cal Grant eligibility, means 6 to 11 semester units, inclusive, or the equivalent.

(2) "Full time," for purposes of Cal Grant eligibility, means 12 or more semester units or the equivalent.

(g) "Expected family contribution," with respect to an applicant, shall be determined using the federal methodology pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 (as established by Title IV of the federal Higher **Education** Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1070 et seq.)) and applicable rules and regulations adopted by the

commission.

(h) "High school grade point average" means a grade point average calculated on a 4.0 scale, using all academic coursework, for the sophomore year, the summer following the sophomore year, the junior year, and the summer following the junior year, excluding physical **education**, reserve officer training corps (ROTC), and remedial courses, and computed pursuant to regulations of the commission. However, for high school graduates who apply after their senior year, "high school grade point average" includes senior year coursework.

(i) "Instructional program of not less than one academic year" means a program of study that results in the award of an associate or baccalaureate degree or certificate requiring at least 24 semester units or the equivalent, or that results in eligibility for transfer from a community college to a baccalaureate degree program.

(j) "Instructional program of not less than two academic years" means a program of study that results in the award of an associate or baccalaureate degree requiring at least 48 semester units or the equivalent, or that results in eligibility for transfer from a community college to a baccalaureate degree program.

(k) "Maximum household income and asset levels" means the applicable household income and household asset levels for participants, including new applicants and renewing recipients, in the Cal Grant Program, as defined and adopted in regulations by the commission for the 2001-02 academic year, which shall be set pursuant to the following income and asset ceiling amounts:

CAL GRANT PROGRAM INCOME CEILINGS

	Cal Grant A, C, and T	Cal Grant B
Dependent and Independent students with dependents*		
Family Size		
Six or more	\$74,100	\$40,700
Five	\$68,700	\$37,700
Four	\$64,100	\$33,700
Three	\$59,000	\$30,300
Two	\$57,600	\$26,900
Independent		
Single, no dependents	\$23,500	\$23,500
Married	\$26,900	\$26,900

*Applies to independent students with dependents other than a spouse.

CAL GRANT PROGRAM ASSET CEILINGS

	Cal Grant A, C, and T	Cal Grant B
Dependent**	\$49,600	\$49,600
Independent	\$23,600	\$23,600

**Applies to independent students with dependents other than a spouse.

The commission shall annually adjust the maximum household income and asset levels based on the percentage change in the cost of living within the meaning of paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) of Section 8 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution. The maximum household income and asset levels applicable to a renewing recipient shall be the greater of the adjusted maximum household income and asset levels or the maximum household income and asset levels at the time of the renewing recipient's initial Cal Grant award. For a recipient who was initially awarded a Cal Grant for an academic year before the 2011-12 academic year, the maximum household income and asset levels shall be the greater of the adjusted maximum household income and asset levels or the 2010-11 academic year maximum household income and asset levels. An applicant or renewal recipient who qualifies to be considered under the simplified needs test established by federal law for student assistance shall be presumed to meet the asset level test under this section. Prior to disbursing any Cal Grant funds, a qualifying institution shall be obligated, under the terms of its institutional participation agreement with the commission, to resolve any conflicts that may exist in the data the institution possesses relating to that individual.

(1) (1) "Qualifying institution" means an institution that complies with paragraphs (2) and (3) and is any of the following:

(A) A California private or independent postsecondary educational institution that participates in the Pell Grant Program and in at least two of the following federal campus-based student aid programs:

- (i) Federal Work-Study.
- (ii) Perkins Loan Program.
- (iii) Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program.

(B) A nonprofit institution headquartered and operating in California that certifies to the commission that 10 percent of the institution's operating budget, as demonstrated in an audited financial statement, is expended for the purposes of institutionally funded student financial aid in the form of grants, that demonstrates to the commission that it has the administrative capacity to administer the funds, that is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and that meets any other state-required criteria adopted by regulation by the commission in consultation with the Department of Finance. A regionally accredited institution that was deemed qualified by the commission to participate in the Cal Grant Program for the 2000-01 academic year shall retain its eligibility as long as it maintains its existing accreditation status.

(C) A California public postsecondary educational institution.

(2) (A) The institution shall provide information on where to

access California license examination passage rates for the most recent available year from graduates of its undergraduate programs leading to employment for which passage of a California licensing examination is required, if that data is electronically available through the Internet Web site of a California licensing or regulatory agency. For purposes of this paragraph, "provide" may exclusively include placement of an Internet Web site address labeled as an access point for the data on the passage rates of recent program graduates on the Internet Web site where enrollment information is also located, on an Internet Web site that provides centralized admissions information for postsecondary educational systems with multiple campuses, or on applications for enrollment or other program information distributed to prospective students.

(B) The institution shall be responsible for certifying to the commission compliance with the requirements of subparagraph (A).

(3) (A) The commission shall certify by October 1 of each year the institution's latest three-year cohort default rate as most recently reported by the United States Department of **Education**.

(B) For purposes of the 2011-12 academic year, an otherwise qualifying institution with a 2008 trial three-year cohort default rate reported by the United States Department of **Education** as of February 28, 2011, that is equal to or greater than 24.6 percent shall be ineligible for initial and renewal Cal Grant awards at the institution, except as provided in subparagraph (F).

(C) For purposes of the 2012-13 academic year, and every academic year thereafter, an otherwise qualifying institution with a three-year cohort default rate that is equal to or greater than 30 percent, as certified by the commission on October 1, 2011, and every year thereafter, shall be ineligible for initial or renewal Cal Grant awards at the institution, except as provided in subparagraph (F).

(D) (i) An otherwise qualifying institution that becomes ineligible under this paragraph for initial and renewal Cal Grant awards may regain its eligibility for the academic year following an academic year in which it satisfies the requirements established in subparagraph (B) or (C), as applicable.

(ii) If the United States Department of **Education** corrects or revises an institution's three-year cohort default rate that originally failed to satisfy the requirements established in subparagraph (B) or (C), as applicable, and the correction or revision results in the institution's three-year cohort default rate satisfying those requirements, that institution shall immediately regain its eligibility for the academic year to which the corrected or revised three-year cohort default rate would have been applied.

(E) An otherwise qualifying institution for which no three-year cohort default rate has been reported by the United States Department of **Education** shall be provisionally eligible to participate in the Cal Grant Program until a three-year cohort default rate has been reported for the institution by the United States Department of **Education**.

(F) An institution that is ineligible for initial and renewal Cal Grant awards at the institution under subparagraph (B) or (C) shall be eligible for renewal Cal Grant awards for recipients who were enrolled in the ineligible institution during the academic year before the academic year for which the institution is ineligible and who choose to renew their Cal Grant awards to attend the ineligible institution. Cal Grant awards subject to this subparagraph shall be reduced as follows:

(i) The maximum Cal Grant A and B awards specified in the annual Budget Act shall be reduced by 20 percent.

(ii) The reductions specified in this subparagraph shall not

impact access costs as specified in subdivision (b) of Section 69435.

(G) Notwithstanding any other law, the requirements of this paragraph shall not apply to institutions with 40 percent or less of undergraduate students borrowing federal student loans, using information reported to the United States Department of **Education** for the academic year two years prior to the year in which the commission is certifying the three-year cohort default rate pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(H) By January 1, 2013, the Legislative Analyst shall submit to the Legislature a report on the implementation of this paragraph. The report shall be prepared in consultation with the commission, and shall include policy recommendations for appropriate measures of default risk and other direct or indirect measures of quality or effectiveness in educational institutions participating in the Cal Grant Program, and appropriate scores for those measures. It is the intent of the Legislature that appropriate policy and fiscal committees review the requirements of this paragraph and consider changes thereto.

(m) "Satisfactory academic progress" means those criteria required by applicable federal standards published in Title 34 of the **Code** of Federal Regulations. The commission may adopt regulations defining "satisfactory academic progress" in a manner that is consistent with those federal standards.

69432.8. The commission may determine that an advance payment is essential to ensure that funds provided pursuant to this chapter to assist students to enroll in postsecondary **education** are available at the time students enroll. Upon making that determination, the commission may, on the basis of institutional academic calendars, advance, per term to authorized postsecondary educational institutions, the funds for eligible students who have indicated they will attend those institutions, less an amount based on historical claim enrollment attrition information. Each institution shall disburse the funds in accordance with the provisions set forth in the institutional agreement between the commission and the institution.

69432.9. (a) A Cal Grant applicant shall submit a complete official financial aid application pursuant to Section 69433 and applicable regulations adopted by the commission.

(b) Financial need shall be determined to establish an applicant's initial eligibility for a Cal Grant award and a renewing recipient's continued eligibility using the federal financial need methodology pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 and applicable regulations adopted by the commission, and as established by Title IV of the federal Higher **Education** Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.).

(1) "Expected family contribution," with respect to an applicant or renewing recipient shall be determined using the federal methodology pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 69506 (as established by Title IV of the federal Higher **Education** Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.)) and applicable rules and regulations adopted by the commission.

(2) "Financial need" means the difference between the student's cost of attendance as determined by the commission and the expected family contribution. The calculation of financial need shall be consistent with Title IV of the federal Higher **Education** Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq.).

(3) (A) The minimum financial need required for receipt of an initial and renewal Cal Grant A or Cal Grant C award shall be no less than the maximum annual award value for the applicable institution, plus an additional one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) of financial need.

(B) The minimum financial need required for receipt of an initial and renewal Cal Grant B award shall be no less than seven hundred dollars (\$700).

(c) The commission shall require that a grade point average be submitted for all Cal Grant A and B applicants, except for those permitted to provide test scores in lieu of a grade point average. The commission shall require that each report of a grade point average include a certification, executed under penalty of perjury, by a school official, that the grade point average reported is accurately reported. The certification shall include a statement that it is subject to review by the commission or its designee. The commission shall adopt regulations that establish a grace period for receipt of the grade point average and any appropriate corrections, and that set forth the circumstances under which a student may submit a specified test score designated by the commission, by regulation, in lieu of submitting a qualifying grade point average. It is the intent of the Legislature that high schools and institutions of higher **education** certify the grade point averages of their students in time to meet the application deadlines imposed by this chapter.

69433. (a) (1) A Cal Grant Program award shall be based upon the financial need of the applicant, and shall not exceed the calculated financial need for any individual applicant. The minimum level of financial need of each applicant shall be determined by the commission pursuant to Section **69432.9**. The commission may provide renewal awards.

(2) A student attending a nonpublic institution shall receive a renewal award for tuition or fees, or both, in an amount not to exceed the maximum allowable award amount that was in effect in the year in which the student first received a new award.

(b) A Cal Grant award authorized pursuant to this chapter shall be defined as a full-time equivalent grant. An award to a part-time student shall be a fraction of a full-time grant, as determined by the commission.

(c) (1) The commission shall prescribe the use of standardized student financial aid applications for California. These applications shall be simple in nature, and collect common data elements required by the federal government and those elements needed to meet the objectives of state-funded and institutional financial aid programs.

(2) The applications prescribed in paragraph (1) shall be utilized for the Cal Grant Program, all other programs funded by the state or a public institution of postsecondary **education** (except for the Financial Assistance Program of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges authorized by Chapter 1118 of the Statutes of 1987, for which a simplified application designed for that sole purpose may be used), and all federal programs administered by a public postsecondary **education** institution.

(3) Supplemental application information may be utilized if the information is essential to accomplishing the objectives of individual programs. All supplemental application information used for the purposes of commission-administered programs shall be subject to approval by the commission, and applications shall be identical for programs with similar objectives, as determined by the commission.

(4) Public postsecondary institutions are encouraged to use, but may decide whether to use, the standard applications for funds provided by private donors.

(5) The Legislature finds and declares that it is in the best interest of students that all postsecondary **education** institutions in California participating in federal and state-funded financial aid programs accept the standard applications prescribed by the commission.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent an individual public postsecondary institution from processing, with its own staff and fiscal resources, the standard financial aid applications specified in subdivision (c) for student aid programs for which it has legal responsibility.

(e) The commission may enter into contracts with a public agency or a private entity to improve the processing and distribution of grants, fellowships, and loans through the use of electronic networks and unified data bases.

69433.2. As a condition for its voluntary participation in the Cal Grant Program, each Cal Grant participating institution shall, beginning in 2012, annually report to the commission, and as further specified in the institutional participation agreement, both of the following for its undergraduate programs:

(a) Enrollment, persistence, and graduation data for all students, including aggregate information on Cal Grant recipients.

(b) The job placement rate and salary and wage information for each program that is either (1) designed or advertised to lead to a particular type of job; or (2) advertised or promoted with any claim regarding job placement.

69433.4. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a recipient of a Cal Grant award who is a member of the National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia on active duty within the meaning of Section 66025.6, who is obliged to withdraw from his or her studies because of that active duty, and who later resumes those studies no later than one year after completing that active duty, does not forfeit either any of the monetary value of the Cal Grant award or any of his or her period of eligibility for that award.

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2012, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute that is enacted before January 1, 2012, deletes or extends that date.

69433.5. (a) Only a resident of California, as determined by the commission pursuant to Part 41 (commencing with Section 68000), is eligible for an initial Cal Grant award. The recipient shall remain eligible for award renewal only if he or she is a California resident, in attendance, and making satisfactory academic progress at a qualifying institution, as determined by the commission.

(b) A part-time student shall not be discriminated against in the selection of Cal Grant Program award recipients, and an award to a part-time student shall be approximately proportional to the time the student spends in the instructional program, as determined by the commission. A first-time Cal Grant Program award recipient who is a

part-time student shall be eligible for a full-time renewal award if he or she becomes a full-time student.

(c) Cal Grant Program awards shall be awarded without regard to race, religion, creed, sex, or age.

(d) No applicant shall receive more than one type of Cal Grant Program award concurrently. Except as provided in Section 69440, no applicant shall:

(1) Receive one or a combination of Cal Grant Program awards in excess of the amount equivalent to the award level for a total of four years of full-time attendance in an undergraduate program, except as provided in Section 69433.6.

(2) Have obtained a baccalaureate degree prior to receiving a Cal Grant Program award, except as provided in Section 69440.

(e) A Cal Grant Program award, except as provided in Section 69440, may only be used for educational expenses of a program of study leading directly to an undergraduate degree or certificate, or for expenses of undergraduate coursework in a program of study leading directly to a first professional degree, but for which no baccalaureate degree is awarded.

(f) Commencing in 1999, the commission shall, for students who accelerate college attendance, increase the amount of award proportional to the period of additional attendance resulting from attendance in classes that fulfill requirements or electives for graduation during summer terms, sessions, or quarters. In the aggregate, the total amount a student may receive in a four-year period may not be increased as a result of accelerating his or her progress to a degree by attending summer terms, sessions, or quarters.

(g) The commission shall notify Cal Grant award recipients of the availability of funding for the summer term, session, or quarter through prominent notice in financial aid award letters, materials, guides, electronic information, and other means that may include, but not necessarily be limited to, surveys, newspaper articles, or attachments to communications from the commission and any other published documents.

(h) The commission may require, by the adoption of rules and regulations, the production of reports, accounting, documents, or other necessary statements from the award recipient and the college or university of attendance pertaining to the use or application of the award.

(i) A Cal Grant Program award may be utilized only at a qualifying institution.

69433.6. (a) Cal Grant A awards and Cal Grant B awards may be renewed for a total of the equivalent of four years of full-time attendance in an undergraduate program provided that minimum financial need as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section **69432.9** continues to exist. Commencing with the 2001-02 academic year, the total number of years of eligibility for grants pursuant to this section shall be based on the student's educational level in his or her course of study as designated by the institution of attendance when the recipient initially receives payment for a grant.

(b) For a student enrolled in an institutionally prescribed five-year undergraduate program, Cal Grant A awards and Cal Grant B awards may be renewed for a total of five years of full-time attendance, provided that minimum financial need, as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section **69432.9**, continues to exist.

(c) (1) A Cal Grant Program award recipient who has completed a

baccalaureate degree, and who has been admitted to and is enrolled in a program of professional teacher preparation at an institution approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is eligible for, but not entitled to, renewal of a Cal Grant Program award for an additional year of full-time attendance, if minimum financial need, as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 69432.9, continues to exist.

(2) Payment for an additional year is limited to only those courses required for an initial teaching authorization. An award made under this subdivision may not be used for other courses.

(d) A student's Cal Grant renewal eligibility shall not have lapsed more than 15 months prior to the payment of an award for purposes of this section.

69433.7. The commission shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this chapter. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commission may adopt emergency regulations pursuant to Section 11346.1 of the Government **Code** in order to ensure that the program enacted by this chapter may function in its first academic year.

69433.8. An award under this chapter does not guarantee admission to an institution of higher **education** or admission to a specific campus or program.

69433.9. To be eligible to receive a Cal Grant award under this chapter, a student shall be all of the following:

(a) A citizen of the United States, or an eligible noncitizen, as defined for purposes of financial aid programs under Title IV of the federal Higher **Education** Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Secs. 1070 et seq., as from time to time amended).

(b) In compliance with all applicable Selective Service registration requirements.

(c) Not incarcerated.

(d) Not in default on any student loan within the meaning of Section 69507.5.

(e) (1) For purposes of Article 2 (commencing with Section 69434), Article 3 (commencing with Section 69435), and Article 4 (commencing with Section 69436), except as provided in subdivision (d) of Section 69436, at the time of high school graduation or its equivalent, be a resident of California.

(2) A student who does not meet the requirements for a high school diploma or its equivalent in the academic year immediately preceding the award year, but who meets the requirements for a high school diploma or its equivalent by December 31 of the academic year immediately following the date of application, satisfies any requirement for obtaining high school graduation or its equivalent for the purposes of this chapter as of the first day of the academic term immediately following the term in which the requirements for the high school diploma or its equivalent are met.

(3) No student shall receive an award for a term that begins prior to satisfying any requirement for obtaining high school graduation or its equivalent.