



Western Nebraska
Community College

Revised Federal Pell Grant Update

Please note: The following is based on current federal regulations and applies to Summer 2011 only.

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) authorizes schools to disburse up to two Pell grants (or 200% of scheduled award) during the 2010-2011 school year for Pell grant eligible students. You may hear this program referred to as either “two Pell grants in one year” or “year-round Pell.” The purpose of this legislation is to allow needy students to accelerate their academic progress during Summer 2011.

The following Pell grant requirements were in place before the new legislation was enacted and will remain the same:

- Students are required to meet all other federal aid eligibility criteria.
- Students must complete the 2010-2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov to determine Pell grant eligibility for summer.
- There is no change in calculating the Pell formulas.
- Satisfactory academic progress will be calculated at the end of each WNCC fall, spring, and summer semesters.
- Students who receive their first Pell grant on or after July 1, 2008, may receive Pell grant for a total of (or the equivalent of) eighteen semesters.
- Calculation of the annual Stafford student loan limits will remain the same; students who receive their full annual loan during the fall and spring semesters will not have loan eligibility for summer.

For Summer 2011, Pell grants will be administered as follows:

- Pell grant eligibility will be based on results of the **2010-2011 FAFSA**.
- At least one credit hour in the summer payment period must be attributable to the student’s next academic year to receive payment from the 2nd scheduled Pell award (see Academic year completion requirements below).
- Student must be enrolled at least half time (6 credit hours or more) to receive payment from the 2nd scheduled Pell award.
- If a student is not enrolled at least half time or does not meet the acceleration requirement and has used 100% of Pell eligibility, no Pell funds will be available for summer.
- Student must be pursuing a program of study greater than one year in length to receive Pell from 2nd scheduled award.
- All Satisfactory Academic Progress rules will apply.

Academic year completion requirements:

Annual grant limits are tied to completion of an academic year. WNCC uses 24 credit hours to define a financial aid academic year. For purposes of determining eligibility for a second scheduled Pell grant award, a student must first earn a minimum of 24 credit hours. Classes for which a student received a grade of W, WF, CR, NP, F,

I, or AU will not be counted as earned credits under this policy. The following hours will not be counted as earned credits under this policy:

- Advanced placement programs
- International baccalaureate programs
- Testing out, life experience, or similar competency measures

Note: Initial Pell calculations for summer are based on the assumption that ALL Spring 2011 classes will be successfully completed. Pell calculations will be revised, if necessary, after final spring grades are posted. If a student drops or fails to complete any summer classes that allowed him/her to meet this acceleration policy, Pell grant eligibility may be affected and student may owe for Pell grant that has already been disbursed.

Transfer students:

- If a student received 100% of a first scheduled Pell grant award at a previous institution, WNCC will assume the student completed a full academic year.
- If a student received less than 100% of a first scheduled Pell grant award at a previous institution, WNCC will assume the student completed the same ratio of academic year as Pell grant received. For example, if student received 75% of first scheduled Pell grant at a prior institution, we would assume student completed 18 credits toward academic year (75 % X 24 credit hours in WNCC's federal financial aid academic year).