

GO Grant Policy 2020-2021

Revised 05/08/2020

The policy contained herein is the result of the state regulations SFA No. S2013-01.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a Louisiana Go Grant, a student must:

- Be a Louisiana Resident;*
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Receive a federal Pell grant;
- Have remaining financial need after deducting Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and all federal/state/institutional grant or scholarship aid (“gift aid”) from student’s Cost of Attendance (COA);
- Be a student enrolled in an eligible Louisiana institution on at least half-time basis (minimum 6 hours at semester school or 4 hours at a quarter school)

Campus Allocations

Annual allocation of funds to eligible participating campuses will be based on the annual legislative appropriation and will be proportionate to the institutions’ prior year Go Grant expenditures.

Award Amounts

Award amounts to eligible students are based on the institution’s allocation and their packaging policy. Awards may vary with each academic year. Awards will not be paid for summer sessions, quarters or terms.

Maximum and minimum annual award amounts for the 2020-2021 Academic year:

- Minimum Annual Award \$300
- Maximum Annual Award \$1,500

Award Calculations

Institutions are expected to make a good faith effort to distribute their Go Grant allocations in the manner that reaches students with the most financial need to bring their maximum financial need met with gift aid to 60%.

Example:

COA = \$17,500

EFC = 1,500

Need 16,000

60% of need (16,000) =\$9,600

Gift aid, inclusive of the Go Grant amount should not exceed \$9600 for this student. Examples of gift aid include Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, TOPS, TOPS stipends and institutional scholarships. CARES Act funding provided directly to students shall be excluded from this calculation.

Packaging Policy

The Louisiana Go Grant is awarded to students who meet the Go Grant eligibility requirements. Due to the limited amount of funding received for the GO Grant program, students may receive a maximum award up to \$1500 per award year provided they are full-time. The basis of a \$1500 award year maximum ensures that the greatest number of students are awarded up to 60% need met. Students enrolled in less than full-time, but at least ½ time will receive reduced amounts. Enrollment level is determined as of the 9th class day. Availability of Go Grant is subject to funding by the State of Louisiana. Go Grant is not available for the summer quarter unless the state allocates excess funds. Go grant distributions are awarded during the Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters as follows:

- Full-time = \$500 per quarter
- ¾ -time = \$400 per quarter
- ½ -time = \$300 per quarter

Priority of packaging will be given to those students who:

- are 25 or over;
- meet the published deadline for a complete file;
- are under 60% of need after “gift aid”;
- Prior recipients of the Go Grant.

All eligible students (including transfer & re-entering students) are flagged to determine Go Grant award eligibility. The students are then reviewed for awards in order of priority. Eligibility criteria **does not**; automatically eliminate students receiving TOPS, nor eliminate students on the basis of any academic criteria other than Satisfactory Academic Progress for receipt of Title IV aid.

Renewal Requirements

- Must file a FAFSA or the Renewal FAFSA at least annually;
- Continue receiving a Federal Pell Grant;
- Have remaining financial need after deducting Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and all federal/state/institutional grant or scholarship aid (“gift aid”) from student’s Cost of Attendance (COA);
- The award can be renewed for subsequent years to a maximum lifetime award that correlates to that of the Federal Pell Grant.

***Residency:** Louisiana resident as of the day the FAFSA is filed and Louisiana is the student's true and fixed domicile as reported on the FAFSA. If student's state of residence on the FAFSA is not reported as LA, but a dependent student claims that a non-custodial parent is a Louisiana resident, or that parents are Louisiana residents living out of state, LOSFA will determine residency based on the completion, by the parents, of a residency affidavit.

Additional information regarding the GO Grant program and common Q&A's can be found online at http://www.osfa.la.gov/go_grant.html.

Over Award Policy

The Louisiana Go Grant is packaged on a need basis and sometimes the student is inadvertently awarded over the 60% need allowed due to the addition of need based aid later on in the year. In order to find these inadvertent over awards, all GO Grant recipients are double-checked to determine if they still meet the eligibility requirements for the grant prior to billing. If the receipt of additional gift aid occurs during the fall quarter or winter quarter, the GO Grant award for the spring quarter will be reduced. If the receipt of additional gift aid occurs during the spring quarter, no reduction is required per LOSFA guidelines. The reason for the excess award will be noted on the student file.

In the event the student's total aid exceeds his financial need or cost of attendance causing an over award, the GO Grant will be reduced and a refund will be processed to LOSFA to return any funds that the student was ineligible to receive. Federal loan aid must be reduced first followed by any institutional aid and TOPS, if an additional over award still exists, the GO Grant funds will be reduced.

Go Grant eligibility is based on enrollment levels as of the 9th class day. If the student was eligible for the award on the 9th class day, no refund is due to LOSFA. Pell adjustments after the 9th class day will not impact the level of GO Grant funding. If a student resigns/withdraws from the University prior to the 9th class day and the Financial Aid office does not become aware of the resignation/withdrawal until after it has already billed for the student, then a refund will be due to LOSFA since the student did not meet the enrollment criteria to receive the grant.

Go Grant eligibility is contingent on the student receiving a Pell Grant. If a student loses their Pell Grant eligibility for a specific quarter, then they will also lose their GO Grant eligibility. For instance, if a student Never Attends all of their coursework for a given quarter, then they are no longer considered Pell eligible for that quarter, and therefore, is ineligible for the GO Grant. In these such cases the GO Grant will be refunded to LOSFA.