

Pell Grant Guide

Understanding the Rules About

2PAY

Two Pell Grants in One Award Year

And

The Summer Crossover Semester

You must accelerate toward your degree.

W, F, and I Grades can Cost you a lot of Money!

Don't Be Left Behind

What is a Pell Grant?

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low income undergraduate students who have not yet earned a bachelor's or professional degree to promote access to postsecondary education. You may use your Pell Grant at Valencia Community College.

Grant amounts are dependent on:

- Your expected family contribution (EFC)
- Your cost of attendance (as determined by your school)
- Your enrollment status (full-time or part-time)
- Whether you attend for a full academic year or less

In order to apply for a Pell Grant you must fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To learn more about applying for financial aid and the Pell Grant visit www.fafsa.gov.

NEW! Two Pell Grants in One Award Year

You can now receive two Pell Grant awards within one award year, if you meet certain criteria. The purpose of implementing the Two Pell Grants in One Award Year option is to give you the opportunity to accelerate your progress towards your degree by giving you access to Pell Grant Funding each semester you attend college. This will also include summer term (see "Summer Crossover Term" section for specifics).

1) The first scheduled Pell Grant award

This is the amount initially provided. During the 2010-2011 academic year, the maximum amount initially provided is \$5,550. You can be enrolled in any enrollment status to be eligible for funding from the first scheduled Pell Grant award, depending on your EFC.

If you use your entire first scheduled Pell Grant award you may be eligible to get funding from a second scheduled award.

2) The second scheduled Pell Grant award

This is an additional amount you can receive based on your ability to successfully complete more than 24 credit hours in an award year.

Award Amounts:

You can review your estimated annual award amount, based on your EFC and enrollment status using our [Pell Grant Calculator](#). Your EFC can be found on your Student Aid Report (SAR) at www.fafsa.gov.

How to Qualify for the Second Pell Grant

You must:

- Have already used your entire first scheduled Pell Grant award.
- Be eligible to earn **greater than** 24 credit hours (25+) in the 2010-2011 award year.
- Be taking at least 6 credit hours in the term you receive the second scheduled Pell Grant award.

Why greater than 24 credit hours?

In order to be eligible for a second Pell Grant award, you must progress to the second year. At Valencia an academic award year is defined as 24 hours. Therefore, the second year begins at 25 credit hours.

Remember, you must accelerate in order to receive two Pell Grants in one academic year. Withdrawing from classes could cost you a lot of money.

Important Note: The summer term is called a “crossover term.” You may be awarded either a second scheduled Pell grant award from the current award year or a first scheduled Pell grant award from the upcoming award year, whichever gives you the most money. It is important to know which award you are receiving to understand the credits you need to complete for acceleration. To learn more about the summer crossover term read the section later in this publication on the summer crossover term. You must have a completed FAFSA and verification for each award year for this to apply. (See “Summer Crossover Term” below for details.)

Transfer Students

If you transfer from one college to another, the new college will take into consideration your credits attempted and the Pell Grant award received at your prior college.

EXAMPLES OF AWARD AMOUNTS RECEIVED

Example A:

100% of first award, 50% of second – over 3 terms

	Fall	Spring	Summer	Total
Credits registered & successfully completed	12 Credits	12 Credits	12 Credits	36 Credits
% of Pell Grant award payment	50% from 1 st Award	50% from 1 st Award	50% from 2 nd Award	100% from 1 st Award & 50% from 2 nd Award

Why?

The 24 hours earned in fall and spring, plus the 12 hours in summer add up to 36. Therefore, the student met the 25+ credit hour requirement to be eligible for the 2nd Pell Grant award.

Example B:**100% of first award, 100% of second – over 4 terms**

	1 st Summer	Fall	Spring	2 nd Summer	Total
Credits registered & successfully completed	12 Credits	12 Credits	12 Credits	12 Credits	48 Credits
% of Pell Grant award payment	50% from 1 st Award	50% from 1 st Award	50% from 2 nd Award	50% from 2 nd Award	100% from 1 st Award & 100% from 2 nd Award

Why?

This student was able to maximize their Pell Grant awards by taking a full load of courses for all four terms (including summers). The student used up the 1st Pell Grant on the first summer and fall terms, totaling 24 credits. Because they then took 12 more credits in spring, they became eligible for the 2nd Pell Grant. They used the entire 2nd Pell Grant by taking a full load in spring and the second summer.

Example C:**100% of first award, ineligible for second award – over 3 terms**

	Fall	Spring	Summer	Total
Credit Registered	12 Credits	12 Credits	6 Credits	30 Credits
Successfully Completed	6 Credits	9 Credits	6 Credits	21 Credits
% of Pell Grant award payment	50% from 1 st Award	50% from 1 st Award	Not Eligible	100% of 1 st Award

Why?

The reason this student is not eligible for the 2nd Pell Grant is because the hours earned in fall and spring plus the hours registered in summer do not add up to 25+ credit hours. It only adds up to 21 credit hours. The student would have had to register for at least 10 credit hours in the summer in order to have qualified for the 2nd Pell Grant.

NOTE: If you received your first scheduled award and want to determine if you are going to receive your second award, add up the hours. Completed hours in the terms you received your first scheduled award plus the registered hours in the next term must be equal to 25 credit hours or more.

Example D:**100% of first award, ineligible for second award – over 4 terms**

	1 st Summer	Fall	Spring	2 nd Summer	Total
Credits Registered	12 Credits	12 Credits	12 Credits	6 Credits	42
Successfully Completed	6 Credits	6 Credits	6 Credits	NA	18 +
% of Pell Grant Award Payment	50% from 1 st Award	50% from 1 st Award	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	100% of 1 st Award

Why?

In the spring term, the student is ineligible to receive the 2nd Pell Grant because they did not meet the 25+ credit hour requirement. They completed 12 credit hours in the first summer and fall terms and are attempting 12 credits in the spring. This totals 24 hours – just short of the 25+ credit hour requirement.

In the second summer term, the student is again ineligible to receive the 2nd Pell Grant. They only completed 18 credit hours between the first summer, fall and spring terms, and are attempting 6 credit hours in the second summer. This totals 24 hours – just short of the 25+ credit hour requirement.

However, in the second summer term the student may be eligible for a 1st Pell Grant award from the upcoming academic year providing they are otherwise eligible (they have a completed file for the year, FAFSA and verification complete and are making satisfactory academic progress).

SUMMER CROSSOVER TERM

A crossover term is defined as a term which crosses over July 1st. If a college combines mini-terms in the summer the entire term is considered a crossover term.

We encourage students to complete the FAFSA early in 2011 for the 2011-2012 year to maximize your funding for summer. You will be paid a Pell Grant from the year giving you the higher funding. You can complete the FAFSA as early as January 1st for the upcoming fall semester (August).

For the summer of 2011, Valencia will consider the term to be a crossover payment period and will pay Pell out of the 2010-2011 or 2011-2012, whichever award year provides the student with the most Pell eligibility. Students must have a completed FAFSA and verification, if required, for the year used to determine Pell eligibility.

If you are awarded a 2nd Pell Grant award from the 2010-2011 academic year and you complete a FAFSA for the 2011-2012 academic year; you will receive the higher of the two awards. We would cancel your 2010-2011 award and fund you out of the 2011-2012 year if it is higher.

Don't Lose Out on a Pell Grant

If you are ineligible in the summer of 2011 for a second Pell Grant award and have a valid FAFSA, with completed verification, for 2011-2012 you may be eligible for a 1st scheduled award from the new year.

Semester Limits

If you received your first Pell Grant payment in the 2008-2009 award year or after you will be limited to 18 semesters of full-time payments (or its equivalent for part-time study). You can track your remaining Pell Grant eligibility on the National Student Loan Data Base at www.nslds.ed.gov or through your Student Aid Report (SAR).