



Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) and Students with Intellectual Disabilities

What is it?

The Ohio Department of Higher Education administers the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) program, which provides grant money to Ohio residents who demonstrate the highest levels of financial need (as determined by the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that should be completed) who are enrolled at Ohio public colleges or universities, Ohio private, non-profit colleges or universities, and Ohio private, for-profit institutions.

Who is Eligible?

Recent statute changes allow for Ohio residents with an EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of 2190 or less and a maximum household income of \$96,000 that are enrolled in a degree, certificate, or non-degree program designed to support individuals with intellectual disabilities to be considered for an OCOG award. The student must be receiving academic, career, technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education being prepared for gainful employment and supported by the United States Department of Education. All other OCOG eligibility must be met. **Since this change will not be legally effective until late September, this change will not be effective until the winter/spring 2018 term.**

Utilization

Students are limited to the equivalent of 10 full-time semesters or 15 full-time quarters of state, need-based grant aid (including combination of OCOG and OIG). Students can be enrolled in less than full-time study so utilization will be prorated.

How do I apply?

Students apply for OCOG benefits by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application deadline is October 1 of each year.

Award Amounts

OCOG is available to use toward tuition and general fee charges. *For the purposes of the OCOG program,* general fees are defined as those assessed uniformly to all students and those that *do not allow* for a waiver to be offered to any student(s). For example, a fee charged to students to provide health care coverage would not be considered to be uniformly assessed if students can opt out. Therefore, this would not be considered a general fee and would not be factored into any OCOG eligibility scenario. Statute maintains the requirement that a student's Pell grant and EFC combo must be applied toward tuition and general charges before the student's specific OCOG award amount can be determined.



Any student receiving 100% tuition/general fees in the form of a waiver or institutional, athletic, third party, federal, or state aid is not eligible for OCOG. For students receiving any tuition/general fees-specific aid not equal to 100% of their tuition/general fees, a simple calculation should be performed to determine final OCOG eligibility. This other tuition/general fees-specific aid must be applied prior to the OCOG award. Tuition/general fees minus aid that is tuition/general fee-specific minus the Pell/EFC combo equals final OCOG eligibility (up to the respective maximum grant award).

The OCOG award chart outlines maximum per student award amounts; however, each student will not automatically receive the maximum award amount due to the interaction(s) between the Pell/EFC combo and tuition and general charges as assessed to each individual student.

| OCOG 2017-2018 | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| PUBLIC | Enrollment Status | | | |
| | Full-time | 3/4 Time | 1/2 Time | 1/4 Time |
| Community Colleges* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Regional Campuses* | 58 | 44 | 29 | 15 |
| All Other Public Main Campuses | 1536 | 1152 | 768 | 384 |
| PRIVATE | Enrollment Status | | | |
| | Full-time | 3/4 Time | 1/2 Time | 1/4 Time |
| Private, Non-Profit | 3072 | 2304 | 1536 | 768 |
| Private, For-Profit | 1140 | 855 | 570 | 285 |

***Awards at Community Colleges and Regional Campuses**

Ohio Administrative Code maintains that the Chancellor may choose to calculate the average tuition and general charges for each sector in determining eligibility for an OCOG award. Based on this calculation, no OCOG awards will be available to students attending community colleges and a modified maximum OCOG award amount will be available to students attending regional campuses.

Students attending year-round at a public community college or regional campus, may be eligible for an OCOG award the third-term of the academic year, once Pell grants have been exhausted for that year. This exception is **only** for students that are Pell eligible. All other OCOG eligibility requirements remain. *Note that with the recent implementation of year-round Pell grants, an institution may find less students that would qualify for third-term OCOG.*

The following is a link to provide a few more details regarding OCOG: <http://www.ohiohighered.org/ocog>.

Financial aid personnel should direct questions to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program Manager, Tamika Braswell, 614.728.8862, tbraswell@highered.ohio.gov.