

Texas Educational Opportunity Grant

Texas Education Code (TEC), Title 3, Chapter 56, Subchapter P

Sec. 56.401. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

- (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- (2) "Eligible institution" means:
 - (A) a public junior college;
 - (B) a public technical institute; or
 - (C) a public state college.
- (3) "Public junior college," "public technical institute," and "public state college" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 624, Sec. 1, eff. June 11, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 56.351 by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(35), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Sec. 56.402. PROGRAM NAME; PURPOSE. (a) The student financial assistance program authorized by this subchapter is known as the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant Program.

(b) The purpose of this subchapter is to provide a grant of money to enable eligible students to attend two-year public institutions of higher education in this state.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 624, Sec. 1, eff. June 11, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 56.352 by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(35), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1181 (S.B. 1227), Sec. 39, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 56.403. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM. (a) The coordinating board shall administer the grant program and shall adopt any rules necessary to implement the grant program or this subchapter. The coordinating board shall consult with the student financial aid officers of eligible institutions in developing the rules.

(b) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to provide a grant under this subchapter to an eligible student enrolled in an eligible institution in a manner consistent with the administration of federal student financial aid programs.

(c) The total amount of grants awarded under the grant program may not exceed the amount available for the program from appropriations, gifts, grants, or other funds.

(d) In determining who should receive a grant under this subchapter, the coordinating board and the eligible institutions shall give highest priority to awarding grants to students who demonstrate the greatest financial need.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 624, Sec. 1, eff. June 11, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 56.353 by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(35), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1181 (S.B. 1227), Sec. 40, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 56.404. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT. (a) To be eligible initially for a grant under the grant program, a person must:

- (1) be a resident of this state as determined by coordinating board rules;
 - (2) meet financial need requirements as defined by the coordinating board;
 - (3) be enrolled in an associate degree or certificate program at an eligible institution;
 - (4) be enrolled as an entering student for at least one-half of a full course load for an entering student in the associate degree or certificate program, as determined by the coordinating board;
 - (5) have applied for any available financial aid or assistance; and
 - (6) comply with any additional nonacademic requirement adopted by the coordinating board under this subchapter.
- (b) A person is not eligible to receive a grant under this subchapter if the person has been convicted of a felony or an offense under Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code (Texas Controlled Substances Act), or under the law of another jurisdiction involving a controlled substance as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, unless the person has met the other applicable eligibility requirements under this subchapter and has:
- (1) received a certificate of discharge by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or a correctional facility or completed a period of probation ordered by a court and at least two years have elapsed from the date of the receipt or completion; or
 - (2) been pardoned, had the record of the offense expunged from the person's record, or otherwise been released from the resulting ineligibility to receive a grant under this subchapter.
- (c) A person is not eligible to receive a grant under this subchapter if the person has been granted an associate or baccalaureate degree.
- (d) A person may not receive a grant under this subchapter for more than 75 semester credit hours or the equivalent.
- (e) A person may not receive a grant under this subchapter and a TEXAS grant under Subchapter M for the same semester or other term, regardless of whether the person is otherwise eligible for both grants during that semester or term. A person who but for this subsection would be awarded both a grant under this subchapter and a TEXAS grant for the same semester or other term is entitled to receive only the grant of the greater amount.
- (f) A person's eligibility for a grant under this subchapter ends on the fourth anniversary of the initial award of a grant under this subchapter to the person and the person's enrollment in an eligible institution.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 624, Sec. 1, eff. June 11, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 56.354 by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(35), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1181 (S.B. 1227), Sec. 41, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2011, 82nd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1185 (H.B. 3577), Sec. 1, eff. June 17, 2011.

Sec. 56.405. CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS. (a) After initially qualifying for a grant under this subchapter, a person may continue to receive a grant under this subchapter during each semester or term in which the person is enrolled at an eligible institution only if the person:

- (1) meets financial need requirements as defined by the coordinating board;
- (2) is enrolled in an associate degree or certificate program at an eligible institution;
- (3) is enrolled for at least one-half of a full course load for a student in an associate degree or certificate program, as determined by the coordinating board;
- (4) makes satisfactory academic progress toward an associate degree or certificate; and
- (5) complies with any additional nonacademic requirement adopted by the coordinating board.

(b) A person is not eligible to continue to receive a grant under this section if the person has been convicted of a felony or an offense under Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code (Texas Controlled Substances Act), or under the law of another jurisdiction involving a controlled substance as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, unless the person has met the other applicable eligibility requirements under this subchapter and has:

- (1) received a certificate of discharge by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or a correctional facility or completed a period of probation ordered by a court and at least two years have elapsed from the date of the receipt or completion; or
- (2) been pardoned, had the record of the offense expunged from the person's record, or otherwise been released from the resulting ineligibility to receive a grant under this subchapter.

(c) If a person fails to meet any of the requirements of Subsection (a) after the completion of any semester or term, the person may not receive a grant under this subchapter during the next semester or term in which the person enrolls. A person may become eligible to receive a grant under this subchapter in a subsequent semester or term if the person:

- (1) completes a semester or term during which the student is not eligible for a scholarship; and
- (2) meets all the requirements of Subsection (a).

(d) For the purpose of this section, a person makes satisfactory academic progress toward an associate degree or certificate only if:

- (1) in the person's first academic year the person meets the satisfactory academic progress requirements of the institution at which the person is enrolled; and

(2) in a subsequent academic year, the person:

(A) completes at least 75 percent of the semester credit hours attempted in the student's most recent academic year; and

(B) has earned an overall grade point average of at least 2.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent on course work previously attempted at institutions of higher education.

(e) A person who is eligible to receive a grant under this subchapter continues to remain eligible to receive the grant if the person enrolls in or transfers to another eligible institution.

(f) The coordinating board shall adopt rules to allow a person who is otherwise eligible to receive a grant under this subchapter, in the event of a hardship or for other good cause shown, including a showing of a severe illness or other debilitating condition that may affect the person's academic performance or that the person is responsible for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person and that the person's provision of care may affect the person's academic performance, to receive a grant under this subchapter:

(1) while enrolled in a number of semester credit hours that is less than the number of semester credit hours required under Subsection (a)(3); or

(2) if the student's grade point average or completion rate falls below the satisfactory academic progress requirements of Subsection (d).

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 624, Sec. 1, eff. June 11, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 56.355 by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(35), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1181 (S.B. 1227), Sec. 42, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 56.406. GRANT USE. A person receiving a grant under this subchapter may use the money to pay any usual and customary cost of attendance at an eligible institution incurred by the student. The institution may disburse all or part of the proceeds of a grant under this subchapter to an eligible person only if the tuition and required fees incurred by the person at the institution have been paid.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 624, Sec. 1, eff. June 11, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 56.356 by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(35), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1181 (S.B. 1227), Sec. 43, eff. September 1, 2005.

Sec. 56.407. GRANT AMOUNT. (a) The amount of a grant under this subchapter for a student enrolled full-time at an eligible institution is the amount determined by the coordinating board as the average statewide amount of tuition and required fees that a resident student enrolled full-time in an associate degree or certificate program would be charged for that semester or term at eligible institutions.

(b) The coordinating board may adopt rules that allow the coordinating board to increase or decrease, in proportion to the number of semester credit hours in which a student is enrolled, the amount of a grant award under this section to a student who is enrolled in a number of semester credit hours in excess of or below the number of semester credit hours described in Section 56.404(a)(4) or 56.405(a)(3).

(c) The amount of a grant under this subchapter may not be reduced by any gift aid for which the person receiving the grant is eligible, unless the total amount of a person's grant plus any gift aid received exceeds the total cost of attendance at an eligible institution.

(d) Not later than January 31 of each year, the coordinating board shall publish the amounts of each grant established by the board for the academic year beginning the next fall semester.

(e) Repealed by Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1155, Sec. 62(5), eff. September 1, 2013.

(f) An eligible institution may not:

(1) charge a person attending the institution who also receives a grant under this subchapter an amount of tuition and required fees in excess of the amount of the grant under this subchapter received by the person; or

(2) deny admission to or enrollment in the institution based on a person's eligibility to receive a grant under this subchapter or a person's receipt of a grant under this subchapter.

(g) An institution may use other available sources of financial aid, other than a loan or a Pell grant, to cover any difference in the amount of a grant under this subchapter and the actual amount of tuition and required fees at the institution.

Added by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 624, Sec. 1, eff. June 11, 2001. Renumbered from Education Code Sec. 56.357 and amended by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1275, Sec. 2(35), 3(9), eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 1181 (S.B. 1227), Sec. 44, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1155 (S.B. 215), Sec. 62(5), eff. September 1, 2013.