

2023 - 2024

Program Guidelines

Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG)



**Texas Higher
Education**
COORDINATING BOARD

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Texas Educational Opportunity Grant

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Program Guidelines are intended to support institutions by highlighting requirements that appear in the Texas Education Code (TEC) and Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). When administering this program, institutions should always refer to the relevant statutes and rules. The information in this document is to be used solely as a resource and does not override the statute or rules for this program.

Statutes (TEC) and rules (TAC) periodically change and may affect the links referenced in this document. Copies of statutes and rules used to create these guidelines are available in [Appendix 2](#).

Program Authority and Purpose ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.253](#))

The Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) Program is authorized by [TEC, Chapter 56, Section 56.402](#). Rules for administering the program can be found in [TAC, Title 19, Chapter 22, Subchapter M](#). The program is funded by appropriations from the Texas Legislature. The purpose of the TEOG Program is to provide financial aid to eligible students attending Texas two-year public institutions of higher education.

State Priority Deadline ([TEC, Title 3, Section 56.008](#) and [TAC, Title 19, Section 22.6](#))

The THECB sets the same priority deadline for all applications that qualify for state-funded financial aid in an academic year. General Academic Teaching Institutions (GATIs) in Texas (*including* Lamar State College Orange and Lamar State College Port Arthur), as defined in [TEC, Title 3, Section 61.003\(3\)](#), must publicize and use **January 15** as the state priority deadline for identifying eligible students to be given priority in receiving awards through the state financial aid programs. Institutions may define how their students must meet the priority deadline and are encouraged to adopt a policy describing the actions that students must take to meet the deadline.

Eligible Institutions ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.255](#))

Community colleges, public state colleges, and public technical institutes, as defined in [TEC, Title 3, Section 61.003](#), are eligible to participate in this program.

Program Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.256](#) and [22.258](#))

To receive an initial year (IY) award, a student must:	To receive a renewal year (RY) award, a student must:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ be classified by the institution as a Texas resident; ✓ be registered with Selective Service, or be exempt (see Selective Service Statement); ✓ have applied for any available financial aid; ✓ have financial need; ✓ be enrolled at least half time as an undergraduate student in an associate degree or certificate program at a two-year institution; ✓ not have attempted more than 30 semester credit hours (SCHs), excluding credits for dual enrollment or by examination; ✓ not have earned an associate or baccalaureate degree; ✓ not be concurrently receiving a TEXAS Grant; ✓ not have been convicted of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any felony; or • any offense under the law of any jurisdiction involving a controlled substance as defined by the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, Texas Controlled Substances Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ be classified by the institution as a Texas resident; ✓ be registered with Selective Service or be exempt; ✓ be a previous TEOG initial award recipient; ✓ have financial need; ✓ be enrolled at least half time as an undergraduate student in an associate degree or certificate program at a two-year institution; ✓ maintain satisfactory academic progress; ✓ not have earned an associate or baccalaureate degree; ✓ not be concurrently receiving a TEXAS Grant; ✓ not have been convicted of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any felony; or • any offense under the law of any jurisdiction involving a controlled substance as defined by the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, Texas Controlled Substances Act.

Additional Information

TEOG and TEXAS Grant in the Same Award Year

A student may receive a TEOG and TEXAS Grant award during the same award year if both awards are not received for the same semester or term.

Example

Student attends a public university in the fall and receives a TEXAS grant award but transfers to a public community college in the spring. A TEOG can be awarded for the spring semester if the student meets the eligibility requirements.

High School Equivalency Degree

A student who received a GED or high school equivalency certificate can be considered eligible for a TEOG if the student is admitted for enrollment as an entering student in the first 30 attempted SCHs of an associate degree or certificate program.

Child Support Arrearages

Per Texas Family Code, Title 5, Section 231.006, a student who is obligated to pay child support and is more than 30 days delinquent is not eligible to receive a state-funded grant or loan.

Institutions determine how to best comply with this state requirement and should work with their legal counsel on questions related to this statutory mandate.

Conviction Restrictions ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.258](#))

A student is not eligible to receive a TEOG award if they are convicted of any felony or of an offense under the law in any jurisdiction involving a controlled substance as defined the [Health and Safety Code, Chapter 481, Texas Controlled Substances Act](#), unless they meet **all** other eligibility requirements and **one** of the following conditions exists:

- The student received a certificate of discharge by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or a correctional facility, or they completed a period of probation ordered by a court, and at least two years have elapsed from the date of receipt of discharge or completion of probation.
- The student has been pardoned, or the record of the offense has been expunged from the student's record, and, therefore, the student has been released from the resulting ineligibility to receive a TEOG.

⚠️ ALERT: The eligibility requirement found under TEC, Sections [56.404](#) and [56.405](#), relates to **convictions of any felony as well as convictions of any offense under Chapter 481**. The phrase is not limited to controlled substance felonies. For more information, please refer to the [Updated Requirements that Impact Financial Aid Memo](#) from **Sept. 29, 2021**.

Institutions are required to collect a statement (electronic or paper) from each TEOG recipient to confirm eligibility before they disburse funds. This statement must be kept with the student's records at the institution and be made available if requested during a program review or audit. Each statement must be kept for seven years after the end of the student's award period (see [TAC, Title 19, Section 22.4\(a\)\(2\)\(A\)](#)).

The institution has the flexibility to determine the wording of the statement and the frequency with which it is collected. A **sample** statement is provided.

Note: Institutions should consult with their legal counsel concerning questions about this program requirement.

Statement of Student Eligibility

Have you ever been convicted of a felony?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever been convicted of an offense under Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code (Texas Controlled Substances Act, or under any the law of another jurisdiction involving a controlled substance as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code)?
☐ Yes ☐ No

I hereby certify that the information provided in this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I fail to provide accurate information, I may be required to reimburse the institution and penalties may be imposed. I also understand that it my responsibility to inform the financial aid office if my status concerning this statement of eligibility changes at any time while attending this institution.

Student Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Discontinuation of Eligibility ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.258](#))

TEOG funds can be used to pay for a maximum of 75 SCHs while a student remains eligible. Unless an extension of eligibility (due to a hardship circumstance) is granted, a student's eligibility ends if any of the following maximums have been met or the student earns an associate degree, whichever comes first.

Time Limit	Attempted Hours*	Hours While Receiving Grant Funds
4 years from the first semester awarded	75 SCHs	75 SCHs No hardship allowed

****Attempted hours** are defined as every course in every semester for which a student has been registered, as of the official census date for that semester, regardless of whether TEOG funds were used to pay for those courses. This includes but is not limited to repeated courses, courses the student drops, or those from which the student withdraws. Transfer hours (**including dual credit**) and hours for optional internship and cooperative education courses are included if they are accepted by the receiving institution toward the student's current program of study.

Hardship Provisions ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.259](#))

A student who is ineligible for a TEOG may be eligible under a hardship provision based on one of the following provisions:

- The student's GPA falls below SAP requirements.
- The student's completion rate falls below SAP requirements.
- The student is enrolled for less than 6 SCHs.
- The student receives a grant after **attempting** more than 75 hours.
 - However, the total number of hours **paid for**, at least in part, with TEOG funds may not exceed 75 semester credit hours or the equivalent.
- The student requires an extension of the year limits.

The institution will determine any acceptable reasons to grant a hardship decision. Each institution must adopt a hardship policy and have the policy available for public review. All hardship decisions must be documented in the student's record and be available for submission to the THECB, upon request.

Satisfactory Academic Progress ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.257](#))

At the end of the first academic year, a student must meet the satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirements set by the institution to be eligible for a first RY award.

At the end of the second academic year, and all subsequent years, a student must have completed 75% of total attempted hours and have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA or its equivalent.

The chart below reflects these requirements, which must be monitored to ensure compliance.

Academic Year	SAP Requirements	
End of 1 st Academic Year	Institution SAP policy	
End of 2 nd Academic Year and All Subsequent Years	Complete 75% of attempted SCHs in the most recent academic year	2.5 cumulative GPA on a 4-point scale or its equivalent

Summer Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements

If the student *receives* state grant funding for the summer term(s), institutions must include credits attempted for summer coursework when calculating the SAP.

If a student *does not receive* state grant funding for the summer term(s), the student can take summer coursework to reestablish eligibility if they failed to meet SAP requirements during the last term or semester. Summer coursework not funded using state grants should not be used to recalculate SAP if the attempted credits will result in the student losing their eligibility for the fall term.

Additional Information

First-Year Appeals

If a student completes their first year on academic warning, probation, or on an approved plan, the student can be considered meeting SAP if the institution's policy includes such provisions. However, at the end of the second year, the student must meet the program SAP requirements for continued eligibility, unless deemed eligible by the institution under a hardship provision.

Maximum Hours of Eligibility

While a hardship exception may be granted to allow an award in excess of 75 attempted semester credit hours, the total number of hours *paid for* with TEOG funds **cannot** exceed 75 SCHs.

GPA Requirement

A student who does not meet the GPA requirement at the end of the academic year may appeal to have courses taken at other institutions included in the GPA calculation. In this case, all grade points previously earned must be included in the overall GPA calculation. If the resulting GPA meets or exceeds the program's academic progress requirement, an otherwise eligible student may receive an award in the following term.

Selective Service Statement ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.3](#))

Under [TEC, Title 3, Section 51.9095](#), an individual must file a statement of their Selective Service status with the institution confirming registration or exemption.

This statute applies to all state-funded financial aid, as well as “federal funds or gifts and grants accepted by this state.” The statement is required from students receiving federal aid or private donations that pass through the state Treasury or governor’s office (i.e., Governor’s Emergency Education Relief, or GEER), state-appropriated funds, or institutional funding, which includes programs funded by tuition set-asides, exemptions, and waivers.

Any of the following can be used to meet the statutory statement requirement:

- THECB Selective Service Statement of Registration Status ([English Statement](#) or [Spanish Statement](#))
- Printout from [SSS.gov](#) website
- Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) if status is available*
- THECB Selective Service Statement of Registration Status embedded in the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)

*As of FY 2023-24, registration status is no longer reported on the ISIR.

Institutions can use any prior year ISIR that confirms registration to meet the statutory requirement for a student's status.

Institutions are **not** required to collect “proof” of registration or exemption from students or to verify the accuracy of the statement against external databases or other resources if conflicting information does not exist. See [Updated Guidance on Statutory Requirements that Impact Financial Aid Memo](#)).

Additional Information

Collection Method

The institution has flexibility to create an online, paper, or alternate method to collect the statement as long as it uses the content developed and required by the THECB.

Frequency Collecting the Statement

If the student’s status will NOT change, the statement collected can be used for subsequent semesters at the same institution.

If the student is NOT registered for Selective Service, a statement must be collected each time they apply for financial aid or a student loan until the statement indicates the student is registered or exempt.

Males Age 26 or Older

Individuals older than the maximum age at which an individual is required to be registered with the Selective Service System under federal law are not required to complete this status statement.

Retention Schedule

The status statement must be retained in the student’s record based on the retention schedule outlined in the institution’s Program Participation Agreement (PPA).

SELECTIVE SERVICE STATEMENT OF REGISTRATION STATUS

In accordance with [Texas Education Code, Section 51.9095](#), male students must file a Selective Service Statement of Registration Status with their institution or other entity granting financial assistance. For more information about the Selective Service System, visit [sss.gov](#).

Please mark **one** option below:

<input type="checkbox"/> I was born female and not required to register.	<input type="checkbox"/> I was born male and am EXEMPT from registration because: (please briefly explain why you are exempt in the box below.)
<input type="checkbox"/> I was born male and am under the age of 18 and not currently required to register.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>
<input type="checkbox"/> I was born male and am REGISTERED with the Selective Service.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I was born male and am over the age of 18. I am not registered with Selective Service and I am not exempt from registration with Selective Service.	

I, _____, hereby certify that the Selective Service status statement provided above is true and accurate.

Student ID: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete and return to the Financial Aid Office at your institution of higher education.

Selective Service Statement of Registration Status

As of 09/28/2021

Awarding

Priority Awarding ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.260](#))

If allocated funds are insufficient to award all eligible students, below is the priority for awarding funds:

- Precedence goes to Renewal Year students over Initial Year students.
- Once all eligible RY students have been awarded, precedence goes to eligible IY applicants who do not exceed the priority Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
 - At the time the award is made, highest priority goes to those who demonstrate the greatest financial need, defined as cost of attendance minus the calculated EFC ([TAC, Section 22.1\(14\)](#)).

ALERT: Priority Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The priority EFC set by the THECB should serve as a method for prioritizing initial year awards for eligible students and is not an eligibility requirement to receive an award. The calculated priority EFC for 2023-24 is \$6,464.

Summer Awarding

All basic eligibility requirements remain the same for summer terms, including the student's minimum enrollment status. Since summer terms vary in length and in the number of hours a student can enroll, summer terms or modules can be combined to establish the student's enrollment hours for eligibility purposes.

Semester Maximum ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.261](#))

Students receiving a TEOG award cannot exceed the **semester** maximum amount. Students may be issued a total of three awards (fall, spring, and summer) in an academic year. Proration is not required for this program, but institutions have discretion in determining the grant amount, up to the semester maximum.

2023-24 Award Maximums		
Students may be issued a total of three awards (fall, spring, and summer) in an academic year.		
Institution Type	Year Max	Semester Max (fall, spring & summer)
Public State Colleges	\$5,055	\$1,685
Public Technical Institutes	\$11,820	\$3,940
Public Community Colleges	\$5,358	\$1,786

Covering Tuition and Fees ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.261](#))



Updated ALERT: Statutory TEOG Changes

House Bill (HB) 8, Section 16, was passed during the 88th legislative session which amended TEC, Section 56.407(g). The bill **removed** existing text that restricts an institution from using Pell grant funds, to cover any difference in the amount of TEOG and the actual amount of tuition and required fees being charged at the institution. While the amendment is effective as of Sept. 1, 2023, the change in law applies beginning with TEOG awards for the **fall 2024 semester**.

Institutions are required to cover the cost of tuition and required fees that exceed the TEOG award amount using other non-loan funds from federal, state, institutional, or outside sources.

A “required fee,” for the purpose of administering the TEOG Program, includes mandatory fees (required by statute), discretionary fees (authorized by statute, imposed by the governing board of an institution), or fees that an institution charges to a student as a condition of enrollment at the institution or in a specific course.

Note: Institutions are required to match funds for all TEOG recipients, regardless of whether the student is charged in-district or out-of-district tuition and fees.

Over Awards ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.11](#))

If an award has been disbursed and a student receives other assistance that exceeds the student’s financial need, the institution is **not** required to adjust the award unless the sum of the excess award disbursement is greater than \$300.

Award Adjustments ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.11](#))

Institutions may be required to make award adjustments in the following circumstances:

- Student officially withdraws from enrollment.
 - The institution must use the general refund policy to determine the amount of financial aid to be reduced.
 - A refund is not owed to the program if a student drops or withdraws after the end of an institution’s refund period.
- Student’s disbursement exceeds their eligibility amount.
 - The institution must recalculate eligibility amount.

Note: If funds are available after an award has been adjusted, they can be re-awarded to other eligible students at the institution. If the funds cannot be re-awarded, they must be returned to the THECB based on the [Timely Distribution of Funds](#) requirements.

Processing Funds

Each biennium (the two-year state budget period), funds not requested in the first year will be carried forward by the THECB on behalf of the institution for use in the second year. Any funds not requested in the second year of the biennium become available for redistribution as determined by the THECB.

Institutions can **begin submitting** requests for funding on **August 15, 2023**. The THECB will **begin processing** funds after **September 1, 2023**. Institutions have through **August 1, 2024**, to request program funds. An official notification will be sent to institutions in the summer to provide instructions on how to request funds for FY 2024.

Timely Distribution of Funds ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.2](#))

Institutions **must** follow these requirements when processing program funds:

- Institutions have **3** business days after receiving the funds to apply the funds to a student's account.
- Institutions have **6** business days after receiving the funds to return undisbursed funds.
- Institutions have **45** calendar days from the date a student becomes ineligible to return disbursed funds.
- Institutions have **120** calendar days to return funds after a student has notified the institution of a decision to cancel the award.

Late Disbursements ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.11](#))

Funds that are disbursed after the end of a student's period of enrollment must only be used to pay the student's outstanding balance for the period of enrollment or to make a payment on an outstanding loan received during that period of enrollment. The institution must document the reason for a student's late disbursement. All late disbursements must be processed before the end of the state's fiscal year, unless granted an extension by the THECB. Under no circumstances should funds be released directly to the student in this situation.

Authority to Transfer ([TAC, Title 19, Section 22.11](#))

Institutions participating in a combination of either Texas College Work-Study (TCWS) or Work-Study Student Mentorship Program (WSMP) and TEXAS Grant may transfer up to **25%** of the institution's total annual program allocation or **\$60,000** (whichever is less) between programs within the relevant fiscal year. This threshold applies to the program from which the funds are transferred.

Transfer requests are submitted by the institution to the THECB using an online Authority to Transfer form. An official notification will be sent to institutions during the award year. Institutions requesting a transfer of funds must submit a request by **July 1, 2024**.

Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can Pell Grant be considered federal non-loan matching funds if the TEOG award amount is not enough to cover the cost of tuition and required fees?

No. Institutions must use any non-loan programs from federal, state, institutional, or outside sources, but Pell Grant is excluded as a matching source based on statute and program rule (for example, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) or Texas Public Educational Grant (TPEG) could be used).

2. Can a student enrolled only in Continuing Education Units (CEUs) be eligible for a TEOG award?

No. To be eligible for TEOG funds, a student must be enrolled in courses that lead to an associate degree or certificate program.

3. Do institutions count dual credit or early college credit hours when determining TEOG renewal eligibility?

Yes. Dual credit hours or early college credit hours are counted when determining eligibility for a renewal award if they are accepted by the receiving institution and are applied toward the student's current program of study. Dual credit hours or early college credit hours are not counted when determining eligibility for an **initial award** as an entering undergraduate.

4. How long does an institution have to return TEOG funds after determining a student is ineligible?

An institution must return funds to the THECB within 45 calendar days of a student becoming ineligible for the funding, except when the funds can be disbursed to a different eligible student (for whom funds have not yet been requested) within the 45-day period.

Note: If funds are disbursed after the end of a student's period of enrollment, the funds must be used to pay the student's outstanding balance at the institution or to make a payment on an outstanding student loan for that period. Under no circumstances are funds to be released to the student.

5. Are institutions required to prorate awards?

No. Institutions are not required to prorate awards. In November 2020, TAC provisions pertaining to proration were removed. Institutions have the flexibility to determine grant amounts and can prorate awards (up to the semester maximum) if the student meets all eligibility criteria.

Appendix 2: Quick References

CONTACT FINANCIAL AID SERVICES	
By phone: (844) 792-2640	
Contact us by completing an online inquiry form and select “Financial Aid Question” as the Contact Reason.	
PROGRAM RULES AND STATUTES	
Texas Program Statutes	Texas Education Code TEC, Title 3, Chapter 56, Subchapter P [PDF]
Texas Program Rules	Texas Administrative Code TAC, Title 19, Chapter 22, Subchapter A [PDF] TAC, Title 19, Chapter 22, Subchapter M [PDF]
WEBSITES, PORTALS, AND GUIDES	
General program information for institutions	Student Financial Aid Programs Information Webpage
General college enrollment and financial aid information for students	College for All Texans
Secure file transfer and processing portal	MOVEit DMZ Portal MOVEit DMZ User Access Guide [PDF]
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS	
Form for adding, updating, or removing a user's access for state financial aid web portals	User Access Form [PDF]
Instructions for returning funds electronically	Electronic Funds Transfer Information [PDF]