

Workforce Pell Grant (WPG) Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
-----------------	---------------

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Is the Workforce Pell Grant Program an opt-in or opt-out program for institutions?	The Workforce Pell Grant Program is entirely voluntary for institutions to participate in. Institutions must complete the Eligibility Certification Form during the designated submission period to confirm program eligibility.
What is the difference between a traditional Pell Grant and the Workforce Pell Grant?	The Workforce Pell Grant expands federal Pell Grant eligibility to short-term workforce training programs that lead to high-demand careers. These programs are designed to help students quickly gain skills aligned with workforce needs. Students who have received traditional Pell Grant funding may qualify for the WPG but cannot receive both simultaneously and must stay within the lifetime eligibility limit of 600%, or 12 semesters (6 years).
Do traditional Title IV rules still apply to Workforce Pell Grants?	Standard federal financial aid regulations are expected to apply, including Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4), Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU), FAFSA completion requirements, and other federal compliance rules.
Will learners who possess a bachelor's degree and are considering a career change be eligible for the Workforce Pell Grant?	The Workforce Pell Grant is designed to support post-bachelor's degree students, individuals transitioning to new careers, working adults, and those seeking workforce training without pursuing a formal degree.
Are Continuing Education (CE) or non-credit workforce programs eligible for Workforce Pell Grants, and do programs and students need to meet accreditor approval and FAFSA eligibility requirements?	Continuing Education or non-credit programs can qualify for the Workforce Pell Grant if the institution has a formal process that guarantees students can earn academic credit toward a certificate or degree after completing the program. While the program itself does not have to be accredited, the institution must be accredited by an agency

	recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, and students need to fill out the FAFSA and meet Pell Grant eligibility requirements. Please refer to the WPG Program Guidelines to learn more.
Is the Workforce Pell Grant available for students that require rotation or clinical work experience in their graduate or professional programs?	Graduate-level programs are not eligible for Workforce Pell Grants, as WPG grants are intended for short-term, career-focused training programs that offer industry-recognized credentials, rather than graduate-level degrees or advanced professional education.
Is a program that is offered online and taught entirely by a third party eligible?	No. Although online courses can be eligible, a program must be taught at least 75% by the offering institution, unless it is a related instruction component for a Registered Apprenticeship program, in which case at least 50% must be taught by the offering institution.
Does a program need to meet BOTH the 150 to 599 clock hours AND the duration of 8 to 14 weeks to fulfill the requirement?	Yes. The program must be at least 8 weeks and less than 15 weeks (8-14 weeks) in length AND consist of at least 150 but less than 600 clock hours of instruction (150-599).
If an existing program fails to meet any of the criteria and adjustments are made to bring it into compliance, will the time the program was active prior to these changes count towards the one-year runtime?	In most cases, if adjustments are made to a program to ensure eligibility, the program must then operate in the modified format for at least one year before becoming a certified Workforce Pell Grant program.
How should the 70% completion rate be measured? Will it apply to all students in the program, or only to those who receive a Workforce Pell Grant?	The 70% completion rate is measured by the percentage of students who finish the program within 150% of the normal completion time. This applies to all students, not just those receiving a Workforce Pell Grant. Exceptions are made for students who passed away, have a medical condition preventing work, became incarcerated, or served over 30 days of active military duty, as they are not counted in the completion and placement rates.
Can the programs be offered as dual credit programs?	No. Dual credit program would not be eligible because the students must be Pell-eligible students (must have a high school degree or equivalent).
What documentation must institutions provide to demonstrate that their program meets the requirements for portability, stackability, and credit articulation.	Documentation includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) letters of support from employer partners confirming that the specific skills and competencies the program provides meet the employer's current hiring needs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written documentation demonstrating a student’s ability to receive academic credit for an earned credential that counts toward the progressive attainment of a certificate or degree, which may include a degree map and/or articulation agreements. Please refer to the WPG Program Guidelines to learn more.
<p>What reporting requirements will institutions have under the Workforce Pell Grant program regarding workforce outcomes? Are they responsible for tracking employment and wages?</p>	<p>While the state is responsible for creating data systems that support calculating job placement outcomes, institutions must report the necessary information to confirm that the program meets the 70% placement requirement. Please refer to the WPG Data Submission Template to learn more about what information must be submitted.</p>
<p>Will the list of in-demand, high-wage, high-skill occupations, as determined by the Governor, be provided to the institutions? How often will this list be reviewed and revised?</p>	<p>The list of eligible occupations and associated CIP codes will be available to institutions and can be found here: WPG Eligible Occupations and Programs. Institutions are responsible for cross-referencing their programs against this list. Future review of this methodology will occur at least once every two years and be conducted concurrently with the development and modification of Texas’s WIOA state plan.</p>
<p>How are the amounts awarded for the Workforce Pell Grant determined, and how does the proration calculation affect eligibility amounts?</p>	<p>The amounts awarded are based on a student's financial need (SAI) and are calculated using a formula that considers the length of the program in weeks and clock hours. Since these programs are shorter than a traditional academic year, students will receive a portion of the full Pell Grant amount.</p>
<p>What are the guidelines for disbursing funds and managing tuition and fees?</p>	<p>Workforce Pell Grant rules for funds and tuition are similar to traditional Pell Grants. The funds are applied to students' accounts for direct costs, and any leftover money is given to students for living expenses. The total amount charged for tuition and fees to a Workforce Pell Grant recipient may not exceed the recipient's value-added earnings one year after completing the program.</p>

* Updated 6/3/26