



Columbia College Financial Aid Office

Pell Lifetime Eligibility Fact Sheet

Columbia College ~ 11600 Columbia College Drive ~ Sonoma, CA 95370 ~ (209) 588-5105

Federal Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility

The U.S. Department of Education recently established a new regulation which reduces the duration of a student's Federal Pell Grant eligibility from 18 full-time equivalent semesters to 12 full time equivalent semesters. This provision applies to all Federal Pell Grant eligible students effective at the start of the 2012-2013 academic year.

What does this mean to you?

When processing all current (2012-2013) and future FAFSA records a student's Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) will be reviewed in order to determine a student's award. The system will be looking at the students history of all Pell Grants disbursed at all institutions, and at any time.

Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility is a Federal decision which cannot be appealed. If you rely upon this source of financial aid in order to pursue your education, you should make every attempt to complete the courses for which you have been disbursed Pell funds for. You should also understand your LEU to date and make informed decisions when scheduling your coursework and/ or changing your major.

The Columbia College Financial Aid Office will continue to process and award each student their entitled Pell Grant if the students LEU percentage is below 450%. If a student reviews their LEU and decides they would like to use the remainder at a later date rather than the current semester, they must notify the Columbia College Financial Aid Office in writing so that the account could be placed on hold. Currently, students will still receive the Board of Governor's Fee Waiver if they meet the income eligibility criteria.

The Columbia College Financial Aid Office will receive alerts only for students who have reached 450% of their LEU. At that time, if this percentage showing lifetime attempted units does not correlate with the student's academic records, the student will automatically be placed in a Disqualified status. It is the student's requirement to have all transcripts sent over to the Admissions & Records Office for evaluation to determine if Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements are being met.

Tracking Your Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) on NSLDS

You can find your Federal Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used by going to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) website: www.nsls.ed.gov . NSLDS tracks your LEU, and loan statuses & your lenders information.

The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

Accessing the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) www.nsls.ed.gov

1. Click on Financial Aid Review to access your information
2. You must read and accept the statements regarding your privacy and security.
3. You will access this database using your previously established FAFSA Personal Identification Number (PIN). If you have forgotten your PIN, go to www.pin.ed.gov
4. Once you have entered the database you will see your LEU under the heading "Grants"
To read more about the Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) and how it's calculated including examples click on the link below for a message from the U.S. Department of Education:

<http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/attachments/040612CalPGLifetimeEligUsedSAOTWPage.pdf>