



About Pell Grant Recalculation Date

The census date is a set by the District and typically marks the end of the add/drop period for the course. On this day, the college takes a “snapshot” of student enrollment which becomes the “official enrollment” that is used for determining a student’s Pell Grant eligibility.

Pell Grant recipients who change enrollment status (adding or dropping classes) will have their eligibility recalculated based on their enrollment status as of the course census date for each semester, typically on the last day to add/drop a class. Pell Grants are recalculated throughout the term until the course census date for the last class in the term. No further Pell Grant adjustments are made at that time, either increases or decreases. Students who drop before the course census date may be required to repay a portion of their disbursement. Students have the option to enroll in later starting classes within the same term to retain their eligibility and avoid an overpayment. It is critical that students always contact the college financial aid office before dropping any classes in the term to determine the financial impact.

Generally, the classes a student is enrolled in **AND ATTENDING** as of census date will determine the amount of financial aid grant money received (Direct Loans are not affected by the course census date). If the student is enrolled and attending less than full-time as of final course census date for the term, the Pell Grant will likely be less than what was reported in the initial award notification which was based upon full-time status. The Pell Grant is adjusted on course census date to the actual student enrollment.

For financial aid purposes, there are generally 4 enrollment levels:

- Full-time (12 or more credits)
- 3/4-time (9 -11.5 credits)
- 1/2-time (6 – 8.5 credits)
- Less than 1/2-time (0.5-5.5 credits)

What does this mean for you?

If you increase or decrease your enrollment level through the course enrollment snapshot/census date, your financial aid will be adjusted, as appropriate, to ensure that it is the appropriate amount given for your enrollment level.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you **decrease** your enrollment **after** the first class day but on or before the course census date, you aid will be decreased as well to match your enrollment (as already explained). However, you may still owe some tuition and fee charges to the school

because of the refund policy. Students in this situation will be responsible for any balance owed the Cashier's Office.

Additionally, since Pell eligibility begins on the first day of classes and later drops all their classes during the add/drop period (and before the course census date) will be considered a Return to Title IV (R2T4).

If you increase your enrollment level after the course census date, your Pell Grant will not be increased, except in the case of Direct Loans, or if you add a later starting class in the term. This means, for example, that a student who is enrolled in 10 credits as of the last course census date, and who later adds a 2 credit class, will not have their Pell Grant adjusted upward to the full-time level. Rather, the aid will remain at the 3/4-time level. However, if the student adds a 2 credit course later in the semester, and stays enrolled in all 12 units through the last course census date, the student will be paid at the full-time Pell Grant amount.

If you decrease your enrollment level after the last course census date, your Pell Grant aid will not be reduced. This means, for example, that a student who is enrolled in 15 credits as of the last course census date, and who later drops a 5 credit class, will not have his/her aid reduced to the 3/4-time level. Rather, the aid will remain at the full-time level. However, for Satisfactory Academic Progress purposes, the student will be held accountable for completing a full-time course load. If a student has Direct Loans, and drops below 6 hours, any future disbursements will be canceled per Federal regulations.

Late Start Classes If you register for late-start classes, your Federal Pell Grant for that course will be awarded and disbursed to the student on the next scheduled disbursement date after the course census date. Loan disbursements will be released after you have started classes totaling at least six credits.