



"NYSFAAA ON BROADWAY"



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ACGs and National SMART Grants

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Agenda

- Legislation
- Negotiated rulemaking
- NRPM
 - Prior enrollment
 - Successful completion of a rigorous secondary school program
 - Academic year progression
 - Grade point average
 - Eligible majors
- General Provisions NPRM
 - Payment calculations



Legislation



Legislation: College Cost Reduction and Access Act

- Made no changes to ACG or National SMART Grant programs
- Must continue to use title IV academic year instead of grade level



2006-2007 Negotiated Rulemaking



Negotiated Rulemaking

- Federal Register notice - August 18, 2006
- 2008-9 and subsequent years
- Regional hearings
- Negotiating committee on ACG and National SMART Grants
- No consensus



Negotiated Rulemaking

Issues

- Prior enrollment
- Rigorous secondary programs
- GPA requirements
- Eligible majors
- Academic year progression
- Mandatory participation
- Certificate programs



Negotiated Rulemaking

- NPRM: August 7, 2007
- Comments: due September 6, 2007
- 52 commenters
- Final regulations: by November 1, 2007
- Effective July 1, 2008
- Early implementation



Prior Enrollment



Prior enrollment: ACG 1st year eligibility

Current §691.15(b)(1)(ii)(B)

- While in high school
 - Is not eligible if enrolled as a “regular student” in an ACG eligible program
 - May be eligible if not enrolled as a “regular student” in ACG eligible program

Proposed §691.15(b)(1)(ii)(C)

- While in high school
 - Is not eligible if enrolled as a “regular student” in an ACG eligible program **while being at or below the age of compulsory school attendance**
 - May be eligible if not enrolled as a “regular student” in ACG eligible program



Rigorous Secondary School Program of Study



Successful completion of a rigorous program

Proposed

**§691.15(b)(1)(ii)(A) and
§691.15(b)(1)(iii)(A)**

- Clarifies that, in addition to completing the rigorous program of study, a student must receive a high school diploma or, for a home-schooled student, certification of completion of a secondary school education provided by the student's parent or guardian

Current

§691.15(b)(2)(i)

- An institution must document a student's completion of a rigorous secondary school program of study using documentation from the appropriate cognizant authority provided by that authority or by the student



Successful completion of a rigorous program (proposed §691.15(b)(2)(i))

- Institution must document a student's successful completion of a rigorous secondary school program of study using documentation provided by the student or cognizant authority



Recognition of a rigorous program

Current §691.16

- The Secretary recognizes at least one rigorous secondary school program of study established by an SEA or LEA in each state

Proposed §691.16(b)(2)

- Allows SEAs and LEAs to request recognition of rigorous secondary school programs of study for school years beyond the immediate next school year



Recognition of a rigorous program

Current §691.16

- The Secretary also recognizes additional secondary school programs of study as rigorous, including certain advanced and honors programs established by States and in existence for the 2004-2005 or 2005-2006 school year

Proposed §691.16(d)(1)

- Provides for continued recognition of advanced or honors secondary school programs of study by the Secretary for school years subsequent to the 2005-2006 school year



Academic Year Progression



Academic year progression

Basics

Current §691.6(a), (b), and (c)

- A student's progression is based on the student's attendance in all ACG and National SMART Grant eligible programs at all institutions.
- A student may not receive more than two ACG Scheduled Awards and two National SMART Grant Scheduled Awards.

Proposed §691.6(a), (b), and (c)

- A student's progression is based on the student's attendance in all ACG and National SMART Grant eligible programs **only at the institution in which the the student is currently enrolled.**
- A student may not receive more than two ACG Scheduled Awards and two National SMART Grant Scheduled Awards **during the student's undergraduate education.**



Academic year progression

Exact accounting (proposed 691.6(e)(1))

- As with a student's credit or clock hours, must determine a student's progression in the weeks of instructional time of an academic year through an exact accounting of those weeks of instructional time
- Are some exceptions
- Is in line with current regulations, but are changes to the exceptions



Academic year progression

Transfer students (proposed §691.6(d)(3))

- For a transfer student, the institution to which the student transferred **must** count both
 - The number of credit or clock hours earned by the student at prior institutions that are accepted for the student’s ACG or National SMART Grant eligible program, and
 - An estimated number of weeks of instructional time completed by the student.
- Current requirement is a “may” in lieu of an exact accounting.



Academic year progression

Transfer students

(proposed §691.6(d)(3)(ii))

- To determine weeks of instructional time, must use specified formula:
$$\frac{(\text{hours accepted} * \text{weeks of i. t. in ac. yr})}{\text{hours in ac. yr.}}$$
- Subject to prohibition under §691.6(d)(2) for hours without weeks



Academic year progression

Alternative methods

(proposed §691.6 (e), (f), (g), and (h))

- Three alternative methods for determining the weeks of instructional time for a student's academic year progression that assure general compliance with the academic year requirements
- Replacement of current §691.6 (d) on treatment of summer terms
- Also replacement to transitional guidance



Academic year progression

Alternative methods

(proposed §691.6 (e), (f), (g), and (h))

- Only programs with traditional academic calendars, i.e., programs using Formula 1 or 2 to calculate payments
- Eligible programs without traditional academic calendars, must always do an exact accounting



Academic year progression

Alternative methods

(proposed §691.6 (e), (f), (g), and (h))

- **Methods**

- Count weeks of instructional time based on the number of terms the student has attended
- Attribute weeks of instructional time to the credit hours earned by the student
- Use the student's grade level as a basis for determining weeks of instructional time completed



Academic year progression

Credits-earned and grade-level alternatives: exclusions (proposed §691.6 (g) and (h))

- In determining weeks of instructional time, must exclude consideration of weeks subject to proposed §691.6(d)(2)



Academic year progression

Alternatives: apply to all students
(proposed §691.6(e)(3))

- An alternative method of determining weeks of instructional applies to all students enrolled in the eligible program (proposed §691.6(e)(2)(ii)).



Academic year progression

Alternatives: exact accounting
(proposed §691.6(e)(2)(iii))

- Upon a student's request, an institution must provide an exact accounting the student's academic year progression in all eligible programs at that institution including any qualifying credit hours accepted on transfer in an ACG or National SMART Grant eligible program.
- An institution may initiate an exact accounting for a student.



Academic year progression

Alternatives: exact accounting
(proposed §691.6(e)(3))

- After an exact accounting, an institution may not use any of the alternative methods in proposed §691.6(f), (g), and (h) for determining that student's academic year standing.



Academic year progression

Hours without weeks

(proposed § 691.6(d)(2))

No weeks of instructional time for hours in a student's eligible program from:

- Hours from Advanced Placement (AP) programs, International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, testing out, life experience, or other similar competency measures
- Hours earned while not enrolled as a regular student in an ACG or National SMART Grant eligible program
- Hours for coursework that is not at the postsecondary level, such as remedial coursework



Academic year progression

Hours without weeks (proposed §691.6(d)(2))

- Prohibition on weeks of instructional time for credit or clock hours applies to:
 - Exact accounting
 - Transfer credits
 - Credits-earned and grade level alternatives
- While hours count towards the academic year, no weeks of instructional time are associated with these hours.



Academic year progression

Hours without weeks: exception (proposed §691.6(d)(2)(ii))

- An institution must assign weeks of instructional time to determine National SMART Grant eligibility for periods in which a student was enrolled in an ACG eligible program prior to declaring, or certifying his or her intent to declare, a National SMART Grant eligible major.



Academic year progression

Determining Academic Year Progression ACG/NSG NPRM*				
Payment Formula Used for Eligible Program	Academic Year Based on Actual Weeks of Instructional Time and Hours <u>at Institution</u>	May use <u>Alternatives for Weeks of Instructional Time</u>	<u>Must</u> Assume Weeks Based on Accepted Hours for Transfer Students	Must Determine Actual Academic Year Standing if Student Requests <u>for Attendance at Institution</u>
Formula 1 <u>or 2</u>	YES	<u>YES</u>	YES	YES
Formula 3, but eligible to use Formula 1	YES	<u>NO</u>	YES	<u>N/A</u>
Formulas 2, 3, and 4	YES	NO	YES	<u>N/A</u>

* Red underlined highlights are changes from current regulations and DCL GEN-06-18.



Grade Point Average



GPA Numeric Equivalent

Current §691.15(b)(1)(iii)(D) and (c)(3)

- Have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent

Proposed §691.15(b)(1)(iii)(D) and (c)(3)

- Have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, **or numeric equivalent**
- Does not mean institution can determine its own equivalency of a grading scale or simply use an equivalent measure



Numeric equivalent (proposed §691.15(g))

- Institutions measuring academic progress using alternatives to standard numeric grading procedures must develop and apply an academically defensible equivalency policy.
- Equivalency policies must be:
 - In writing;
 - Available to students upon request; and
 - Consistent with an institution's other standards for academic and other Title IV purposes such as graduate school applications, scholarship eligibility, and insurance certification.



Numeric equivalent (proposed §691.15(g))

- The policy must include clear differentiations of student performance to support a determination that a student has performed, in his or her ACG or National SMART Grant program, at a level commensurate with at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale



Current §691.15(d)(1)

- For student who completed 1st academic year in ACG eligible program at prior institution(s), institution to which the student transfers must calculate GPA using grades for courses accepted from any prior institution toward student's ACG-eligible program.

Proposed §691.15(f)(1)(i)

- For a student who **transfers hours of at least one academic year but less than two**, institution to which the student transfers must calculate GPA using grades for courses accepted from any prior institution toward student's ACG-eligible program.



Current §691.15(d)(1)

- For a student who completes first academic year after transferring, institution uses its own policy on how transfer credits are counted to determine whether grades for transfer credits are included in GPA at school to which student transferred.

Proposed §691.15(f)(1)(i)

- For a student who transfers in hours comprising less than one academic year, the institution uses grades for all coursework accepted by the current institution into the eligible program and grades for coursework earned at the current institution.



National SMRAT Grant transfers

Current §691.15(d)

- For 1st payment period must use student's grades for courses accepted into the student's National SMART Grant eligible program
- If no credits accepted, must consider student ineligible for 1st payment period

Proposed §691.15(f)(2)

- Use one of two methods:
 - Method # 1: transfer grades not incorporated
 - Method # 2: transfer grades incorporated
- If no credits accepted, must consider student ineligible for 1st payment period



National SMRAT Grant transfers (proposed §691.15(f)(2)(i)(A))

Method 1

- Use GPA based on grades earned in courses accepted into National SMART Grant eligible program for 1st payment period if academic policy does **not** incorporate grades from courses accepted
- Use GPA based on institutional policy for subsequent payment periods



National SMRAT Grant transfers (proposed §691.15(f)(2)(i)(B))

Method 2

- Use GPA based on grades earned in courses accepted into National SMART Grant eligible program for 1st payment period if academic policy does incorporate grades from courses accepted
- Use GPA based on institutional policy for subsequent payment periods that would include grades for transfer courses



Eligible Majors



Documenting major

Current §691.15(c)(2)

- Student must formally declare an eligible major in accordance with institutional academic requirements
- If institutional procedures do not allow formal major declaration in time to qualify for a National SMART Grant, the student must demonstrate intent to declare an eligible major as documented by the institution and then formally declare an eligible major as soon he/she is able
- Student must enroll in courses necessary to complete the degree program and fulfill the eligible program requirements

Proposed §691.15(d)(1) and §691.15(e)

- Clarifies how must document a student's eligible major, and progress in the eligible program and major, by requiring:
 - Documentation of the declared major, or in the case of a student's intent to declare a major, a written declaration of intent provided by the student timely enough for the institution to determine that it still correctly reflects the student's stated intent
 - Written documentation showing that the student is completing coursework at an appropriate pace in the student's declared eligible major or intended eligible major



Determination of eligible major

Current §691.17(a)

- For each award year, the Secretary identifies eligible majors in the physical, life, or computer sciences; mathematics; technology; engineering; and, after consulting with the Director of National Intelligence, critical foreign languages

Proposed §691.17(d) and §691.2(d)

- Adds a process by which institutions of higher education can request that additional majors be added to the Department's list of eligible majors for National SMART Grants
- The proposed additional eligible major would be identified by its Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code
- Adds a definition of CIP code as it pertains to the National SMART Grant Program to current **§691.2(d)**



Eligible major Additional majors

- Dear Colleague letter GEN-07-06
- Additional majors for the 2007-2008 award year
- No deleted majors



Eligible major

Additional majors

- Added for the 2007-2008 Award Year
 - 01.1001 Food Science
 - 01.1002 Food Technology and Processing
 - 03.0104 Environmental Science
 - 03.0301 Fishing and Fisheries Sciences and Management
 - 03.0502 Forest Sciences and Biology
 - 03.0509 Wood Science and Wood Products/Pulp and Paper Technology
 - 03.0601 Wildlife and Wildlands Science and Management
 - 30.1001 Biopsychology
 - 30.1901 Nutrition Sciences
 - 42.1101 Physiological Psychology/Psychobiology⁴⁵



Payment Calculations



Payment Calculations

- Proposed revisions in General Provisions NPRM
- Payment period definition
- Programs eligible for Formula 1
- Payment period calculations for Formulas 4 and 5A
- Payment calculations the same as for Federal Pell Grants



Payment Calculations

- Added educational programs eligible for Formula 1
- Is no change for traditional calendar programs currently eligible to use Formula 1, i.e., programs with two semesters or trimesters, or three quarters, in fall through spring, with at least 12 hours as full-time for all terms in award year



Payment Calculations

- Adds programs eligible for Formula 1 where—
 - Any two semesters or trimesters, or three quarters is at least 30 weeks of instructional time;
 - Program starts in cohorts of students, e.g., monthly;
 - Program is offered exclusively in semesters, trimesters, or quarters; and
 - Students are not enrolled in two or more overlapping terms



Payment Calculations

- Revised Formula 4 payment calculations (Formula 5A also)
- No change in the eligibility for Formula 4: credit hour programs without terms and clock-hour programs
- Lesser of two fractions based on the academic year measures



Payment Calculations

Formula 4

Scheduled Award * the lesser of –

Hours in the payment period
Hours in the academic year

OR

*weeks in the payment period
*weeks in the academic year

*Weeks of instructional time



Questions?

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