
Access to Better Learning and Education Grant Program

[Section 1009.891, Florida Statutes](#)

Program Description

The Access to Better Learning and Education (ABLE) Grant Program provides tuition assistance to Florida undergraduate students enrolled in degree programs at eligible private Florida colleges or universities.

Applying for an Award

The student will meet the application procedures established by the participating institution. Applications may be obtained at the financial aid offices of eligible private Florida colleges and universities.

Requirements to Receive Funding

The student will:

- Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. A student's residency and citizenship status are determined by the postsecondary institution. Questions regarding such status should be directed to the financial aid office or admissions office of the institution the student plans to attend.
- Not owe a repayment or be in default under any state or federal grant, loan, or scholarship program unless satisfactory arrangements to repay have been made.
- Not have previously received a baccalaureate degree.
- Enroll for a minimum of 12 credit hours per term, or the equivalent, at an eligible Florida college or university in a baccalaureate degree program.
- Meet Florida's general eligibility requirements for receipt of state aid.
- Not be enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.

Student Award Renewal

- A renewal applicant must have earned a minimum institutional cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and earned the equivalent of 12 credit hours for each term an award was received during the academic year.
- Eligibility for renewal is determined at the end of each academic year. Credit hours earned during the previous summer can be counted toward the total number of credit hours required.
- A student should consult the postsecondary institution for additional renewal requirements which are established by the institution.

Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal GPA

- If a student does not meet the minimum institutional cumulative GPA, a probationary award may be granted.
- To be eligible for renewal the following year after probation, the student must have earned the required credits and the institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Failure to Meet the Minimum Renewal Credit Hours

- A student who does not meet the annual minimum of 12 hours per semester (or equivalent) requirement for renewal (for one or both semesters), may not receive funding the following academic year.
- To be eligible for funding in a subsequent year, the student must apply for restoration with the institution and meet the general eligibility requirements for restoration and have earned an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Student Award Restoration

- A student may be eligible for restoration if an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale is earned at the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year for which the student was ineligible.
- The student may apply for restoration with the postsecondary institution after two semesters or three quarters.

Student Award Reinstatement

A student who met the requirements for a renewal award, but did not receive an award during a full year of eligibility and wishes to reestablish use of the grant, may apply for reinstatement with the postsecondary institution in a subsequent year provided the student has earned an institutional cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale as of the end of the second semester or third quarter of the academic year preceding the year the award is sought.

Award Procedures

- The postsecondary institution will determine applicant eligibility.
- The annual award amount is set by the Legislature in the General Appropriation Act each year.

Award Disbursement

The postsecondary institution will disburse awards to eligible students each term. Awards are not currently available for the summer term.

Terms of Eligibility

- A student is eligible to receive an award for a maximum of 9 semesters or 14 quarters.
- Undergraduate students participating in college-preparatory instruction, students requiring additional time to complete the college-level communication and computation skills testing programs (CLAST), or students enrolled in a 5-year undergraduate program are eligible to receive financial aid for a maximum of 10 semesters or 15 quarters.
- Unused terms may not be used for further course funding after a student earns a baccalaureate degree.

Institutional Appeal Process

An applicant who believes financial aid has been wrongly denied has certain rights to appeal. If aid is denied for failure to meet state academic progress requirements, an applicant may appeal the denial to the institution by providing proof of illness or other emergency beyond the applicant's control. An institutional academic progress appeal is to be filed within 30 days of the denial letter or by the date established by the institution's financial aid office, whichever is later.

Updating Information

A recipient must notify OSFA of any change in name, address, or institution attended.

A student may update information by contacting Customer Service at 888-827-2004 or logging into his or her online OSFA account:

<https://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome>

Transferring from one institution to another could affect an applicant's award.

Use of an Applicant's Social Security Number/Non-discrimination Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 requires state agencies to inform applicants of the reasons for requesting their Social Security Numbers (SSN). The FDOE requests an SSN on all applications for student financial assistance in order to correctly identify applicants, match each applicant's financial aid record with the student record at the postsecondary institution the applicant attends, and help coordinate state student aid programs with federal student aid programs.

An applicant will not be denied financial assistance for failure to disclose the SSN. Without an SSN, correct identification of an applicant's record cannot be assured and may result in an error in the award amount or a delay in the award disbursement.

Pursuant to section 1000.05, Florida Statutes, state student financial assistance is provided to eligible applicants without discriminating on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status. Minority status will be considered when required by law as a condition of eligibility or selection.

Contact Information

Address:

Florida Department of Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance
State Scholarship and Grant Programs
Suite 1314
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400

Phone:

888-827-2004

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