
Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program

Program Description

The 2014 Florida Legislature created funding for the Honorably Discharged Graduate Assistance Program (HDGAP) as a supplemental need-based veteran educational benefit. Funds are to be used to assist in the payment of living expenses during holiday and semester breaks for active duty and honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces who served on or after September 11, 2001.

Applying for an Award

The student will demonstrate financial need by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in time to be processed error-free by the deadline specified by the institution.

Requirements to Receive Funding

The student will:

- Be an active duty or honorably discharged member of the Armed Forces who served on or after September 11, 2001;
- Be enrolled in a program of study;
- Be a Florida resident as determined by the postsecondary institution;
- Have completed an error-free Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and
- Have sufficient unmet need.

Award Procedures

Each institution must certify to OSFA by November 1st the number of students and amount requested for the program on the HDGAP Allocation Request form located online. Funds will be sent to the institution within 30 days after the deadline date. Due to limited funding, funds may be exhausted during the first semester break.

Award Disbursement

The postsecondary institution will disburse awards to eligible students each term. The award is for supplemental living expenses during holiday and semester breaks. Each student's living expense may vary; however, the maximum award amount is \$50 per day for a maximum of 20 days for the academic year. Living expenses are the cost of basic essentials to sustain life. It may include, but is not limited to, food, shelter, utilities, and personal care products. The student's award must not exceed the student's unmet need. Awards are not currently available for the summer term.

Terms of Eligibility

Awards for semester break living expenses should be reported on the DER for the term that leads up to the semester break. The student must have been enrolled in a program of study the prior term before the semester break and pre-registered for courses in a program of study the subsequent term. Example: If a student is awarded living expenses for the semester break between Term 1 and Term 2, the award should be reported on the Term 1 DER.

Updating Information

The student 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 a student'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

Email:

OSFA@fldoe.org