

Pell Grant Eligibility: Side-by-Side

Provision	Prior Law	Draft House FY12 Appropriations Bill	Cost Savings FY2012 (billions)*	Cost Savings FY 2012-16 (billions)*	FY12 Omnibus (H.R. 2055) Enacted																																																																																																												
Part-time student	Less-than-full-time students are eligible	Students must attend at least half-time	\$0.129	\$0.657	Maintains prior law																																																																																																												
Minimum Pell Grant	Students who qualify for Pell Grant between 5 and 10 percent of the maximum receive an award of 10 percent	Students who qualify for Pell Grant less than ten percent of the maximum grant are not eligible for a grant	\$0.045	\$0.228	✓																																																																																																												
Maximum number of Pell Grants	18 semesters (Applies only to students who receive first Pell Grant on or after July 1, 2008)	12 semesters (Applies to all students regardless of when they received their first Pell Grant)	\$0.625	\$3.229	✓																																																																																																												
Income protection allowance for dependent students (FY12)	\$6,000	\$3,290	\$1.645	\$9.640	Maintains prior law																																																																																																												
Income protection allowance for independent students w/o dependents other than spouse (FY12)	Single students: \$9,330 Married students (both enrolled): \$9,330 Married students (one enrolled): \$14,960	Single students: \$6,620 Married students (both enrolled): \$6,620 Married students (one enrolled): \$10,620			Maintains prior law																																																																																																												
Income protection allowance for independent students w/ dependents other than a spouse (FY12)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Family Size (Including Student)</th> <th colspan="5">Number in College</th> <th rowspan="2">For each additional, subtract:</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>\$23,630</td> <td>\$19,590</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>\$4,020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>\$29,420</td> <td>\$25,400</td> <td>\$21,360</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>\$36,330</td> <td>\$32,300</td> <td>\$28,280</td> <td>\$24,230</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>\$42,870</td> <td>\$38,820</td> <td>\$34,800</td> <td>\$30,770</td> <td>\$26,750</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>\$50,130</td> <td>\$46,100</td> <td>\$42,090</td> <td>\$38,030</td> <td>\$34,020</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="7">For each additional, add \$5,660</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Family Size (Including Student)			Number in College					For each additional, subtract:	1	2	3	4	5	2	\$23,630	\$19,590				\$4,020	3	\$29,420	\$25,400	\$21,360				4	\$36,330	\$32,300	\$28,280	\$24,230			5	\$42,870	\$38,820	\$34,800	\$30,770	\$26,750		6	\$50,130	\$46,100	\$42,090	\$38,030	\$34,020		For each additional, add \$5,660							<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Family Size (Including Student)</th> <th colspan="5">Number in College</th> <th rowspan="2">For each additional, subtract:</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>\$16,780</td> <td>\$13,910</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>\$2,860</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>\$20,880</td> <td>\$18,030</td> <td>\$15,170</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>\$25,800</td> <td>\$22,930</td> <td>\$20,070</td> <td>\$17,200</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>\$30,440</td> <td>\$27,560</td> <td>\$24,710</td> <td>\$21,850</td> <td>\$18,990</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>\$35,600</td> <td>\$32,730</td> <td>\$29,880</td> <td>\$27,000</td> <td>\$24,160</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="7">For each additional, add \$4,020</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Family Size (Including Student)	Number in College					For each additional, subtract:	1	2	3	4	5	2	\$16,780	\$13,910				\$2,860	3	\$20,880	\$18,030	\$15,170				4	\$25,800	\$22,930	\$20,070	\$17,200			5	\$30,440	\$27,560	\$24,710	\$21,850	\$18,990		6	\$35,600	\$32,730	\$29,880	\$27,000	\$24,160		For each additional, add \$4,020							Maintains prior law
Family Size (Including Student)	Number in College					For each additional, subtract:																																																																																																											
	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																												
2	\$23,630	\$19,590				\$4,020																																																																																																											
3	\$29,420	\$25,400	\$21,360																																																																																																														
4	\$36,330	\$32,300	\$28,280	\$24,230																																																																																																													
5	\$42,870	\$38,820	\$34,800	\$30,770	\$26,750																																																																																																												
6	\$50,130	\$46,100	\$42,090	\$38,030	\$34,020																																																																																																												
For each additional, add \$5,660																																																																																																																	
Family Size (Including Student)	Number in College					For each additional, subtract:																																																																																																											
	1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																												
2	\$16,780	\$13,910				\$2,860																																																																																																											
3	\$20,880	\$18,030	\$15,170																																																																																																														
4	\$25,800	\$22,930	\$20,070	\$17,200																																																																																																													
5	\$30,440	\$27,560	\$24,710	\$21,850	\$18,990																																																																																																												
6	\$35,600	\$32,730	\$29,880	\$27,000	\$24,160																																																																																																												
For each additional, add \$4,020																																																																																																																	
Maximum income level to qualify for automatic zero expected family contribution	Sum of adjusted gross income for dependent students' parents or independent students with dependents other than a spouse is \$32,000 or less for FY12 (subject to annual increase linked to Consumer Price Index)	Sum of adjusted gross income for dependent students' parents or independent students with dependents other than a spouse is \$15,000 or less (subject to annual increase linked to Consumer Price Index)	\$0.315	\$1.790	✓ Reduced to \$23,000**																																																																																																												
Definition of untaxed income and benefits	Excludes additional child tax credit, welfare benefits, earned income credit, special fuel credits, foreign income excluded on federal income taxes, and untaxed Social Security benefits	Includes additional child tax credit, welfare benefits, earned income credit, special fuel credits, foreign income excluded on federal income taxes, and untaxed Social Security benefits; adds exclusion for military housing values	\$0.905	\$5.295	Maintains prior law																																																																																																												
Eligibility for students who are not high school graduates	Allows non-high school graduates to receive Pell Grants if they have: passed an exam; earned approval from the state; completed secondary education in a home school/private school recognized as such by state law; or demonstrated 6 hours of completed coursework toward a higher degree	Allows non-high school graduates to receive Pell Grants only if they have completed secondary education in a home school/private school recognized as such by state law; eliminates ability-to-benefit test for students with demonstrated capacity to benefit from higher education through testing or coursework	\$0.313	\$1.615	✓ Applies only to students who enroll on or after July 1, 2012***;																																																																																																												

Sources: New America Foundation, Congressional Budget Office

*CBO savings projections include the sum of cost reductions to the appropriation need to fund a maximum grant of \$4,860 and a reduction in spending for the mandatory/entitlement funding portion of the grant. Based on March 2011 CBO baseline.

**CBO projected FY12 savings \$0.236 billion; FY12-16 savings \$1.329 billion

***CBO projected FY12 savings \$0.125 billion; FY12-16 savings \$1.271 billion