



## ACG – Student Letter

*2009-10 Academic Year*

RE: Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

Dear Potential ACG Student:

The Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) will provide up to \$750 for the first year of undergraduate study for students enrolled at least part-time, who are U.S citizens or eligible non-citizens, eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, and who had successfully completed a **rigorous high school program of study**, as determined by the state and recognized by the Secretary of Education. Second year students must also have maintained a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 during their first year of college, and are eligible for up to \$1,300 for their second year of study.

This program is available for the 2009-10 school year for first-year students who graduated from high school after January 1, 2009 and for second year students who graduated from high school between January 1, 2008 and January 1, 2009. The ACG award is in addition to the student's Pell Grant award.

- A. If you are receiving this letter, Chabot College has received an electronic copy of your 2009-10 FAFSA and has been notified by the Department of Education of your potential eligibility.
  - If you have not already completed your financial aid file with our office, you must do so immediately! Find out what documents you may need to submit to our office by clicking on the link to CLASS Web Financial Aid from our website: [www.chabotcollege.edu/finaid](http://www.chabotcollege.edu/finaid). Then go on to Step B.
  - If you have already completed your financial aid file with our office, and have received a Pell Grant (or at least an award letter stating that you will), then go to Step B.
- B. Take the enclosed Validation form to the High School where you graduated, and request that they complete and return to us. This “official” document must be received by our office in an envelope sealed by the high school. We’ve included a letter to your high school to help explain what is needed.
- C. The Chabot Financial Aid Office will review all required criteria to determine your eligibility for the ACG, and award if appropriate. Disbursement to eligible students will occur on a rolling basis, as we determine eligible students.

This program is still new, with changes from the Department of Education already for the 2009-10 academic year. We appreciate your patience and assistance while determining your eligibility, and wish you the best of luck in your educational endeavors here at Chabot College and beyond.

To learn more about the new Academic Competitive Grant (ACG), and the new Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant (for college Juniors and Seniors), please check out the Department of Education’s Student Portal at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Kathryn Linzmeyer  
Financial Aid Director



## ACG – High School Letter

*2009-10 Academic Year*

RE: Academic Competitive Grant  
Validation of “Rigorous Course of Study”  
2009-10 Academic Year

High School Counselors & Administrators:

The high school student who is presenting the attached Academic Competitiveness Grant Validation Form may be eligible for additional grant money for his/her college studies. On February 8, 2006, President Bush signed legislation that created the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG). This grant is intended to provide additional money for full-time college students who completed a ‘rigorous course of study’ during their high school years.

Community College Financial Aid Offices can verify all of the eligibility requirements except one. Please verify whether or not the student has passed one of the “rigorous course of study” requirements for your school. If you are a California High School, the requirements are included on the back of the form. (Out-of-state high schools should refer to the Department of Education’s website at <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs06.html> .)

**We need your assistance to determine the eligibility of our students so they can obtain the funds they need and deserve to complete their college education.** Please complete the Validation forms you receive by indicating at which high school and which requirement was met, sign and date the document and affix your high school seal. Please return the form directly to the **Chabot College** Financial Aid Office. (If you provide directly to the student, please provide in sealed envelope.)

I look forward to working with you to assist our mutual students. Please call me with any questions you have as we move forward with implementation of the program.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Linzmeyer  
Financial Aid Director



Recent high school graduates (after January 1 of the year in which they will enter college) may be eligible for up to \$750 for their first year of college and \$1300 for their second year, in addition to their Pell Grant. They must have established financial and academic eligibility for Pell Grant based on completed financial aid file, attend college at least half-time and must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (the college will verify these criteria). The student must also have completed an eligible rigorous course of study while in high school.

The high school must validate whether the student meets one of the following options for eligibility for a student from California. (Out of state high schools may find their approved rigorous course of study requirements at the following URL: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs06.html>):

- **Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.** This program requires a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and a minimum passing score on the exams for those classes. Students must score 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.
- **The California Golden State Seal Merit Diploma**
- **A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative.** This program of study requires passing grades in the following:
  - Four years of English;
  - Three years of Math (including Algebra I and a higher level course such as Algebra II, Geometry, or Data Analysis and Statistics);
  - Three years of science (including at least two courses from biology, chemistry or physics);
  - Three years of social studies; and
  - One year of a foreign language.
- **California A-G Requirements.** This program is available to students who complete the normal course requirements for the A-G requirements for admission to the UC or CSU, or complete a modified version of the A-G requirements for admission to the UC and CSU, in which a year-long, career technical education course that meets or exceeds the rigorous academic content standards approved by the State Board of Education may substitute for one of the courses that counts toward completion of the "G" requirement.
  - A. **History/Social Science:** 2 years required. Two years of history/social science selected from world history, cultures and geography; U.S. history; or, a combination of U.S. History, American government/civics, and economics equal to one year; and
  - B. **English:** 4 years required. Four years of college-preparatory English that includes frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature. *No more than one year of ESL-type courses can be used to meet this requirement;* and
  - C. **Mathematics:** 3 years required. Three years of college-preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement; and
  - D. **Laboratory Science:** 2 years required. Two years of laboratory science chosen from biology, chemistry, physics, or physical science. Advanced laboratory science classes that have biology, chemistry or physics as prerequisites and offer substantial additional material may be used to fulfill this requirement. Two years of an approved integrated science program may be used to fulfill this requirement; and
  - E. **Language other than English:** 2 years required. Two years of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture; and
  - F. **Visual and Performing Arts:** 1 year required. A single yearlong approved arts course from a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art. Courses used to fulfill this requirement must satisfy the five State standards for artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, and connections, relations and application; and
  - G. **College Preparatory Electives:** 1 year required. One year, in addition to those required in "A-F" above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts (non-introductory level courses), history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and language other than English (a third year in the language used for the "E" requirement or two years of another language).