

## **URGENT – Please Read – Federal Pell Grant Program – Lifetime Maximum / Duration of Eligibility**

Over the weekend the U.S. Department of Education attempted to send an email to you, as a student who is approaching or have passed your Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility. Legislation was passed on 12/23/2011, effective with the 2012-13 academic year:

***Once you have received a [Pell Grant](#) for six years (12 semesters), or the full time equivalent, you will no longer be eligible for additional Pell Grants at Chabot College or any college/university in the country, regardless of completion of program of study or Bachelors.***

- A student is eligible to receive a Pell Grant for up to six years (12 semesters) or the full time equivalent. If you have exceeded the 12-semester maximum, you will be ineligible for any additional Pell Grants beginning in 2012-13 school year. Equivalency is calculated by adding together the percentage of your Pell eligibility that you received each year to determine whether the total amount exceeds 600%. If you received FT Pell for six years (twelve semesters), you have reached your maximum lifetime amount of 600%.
  - For example, if your maximum Pell Grant award amount for the 2010-2011 school year was \$5,550, but you only receive \$2,775 because you were only enrolled for one semester, you would have used 50% of your maximum award for that year. If in the following school year, you were enrolled only three-quarter time, you would have used 75% of your maximum award for that year. Together, you would have received 125% out of the total 600% lifetime limit.
- This regulation is in effect even if you have had an appeal approved for failure to meet academic progress, it supercedes any prior offer of aid/award, and there is no appeal or exception.
- Six years (12 semesters) includes any eligibility at community college, vocational school, or four year/bachelors program.

Go to [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) to calculate your current aggregate lifetime amount received. (Call 1-800-433-3243 if you have any questions about what you see.) This amount will increase should you receive any additional Pell Grant disbursements between now and the start of the Fall semester, from Chabot or any other college/university in the country. Should you go over the 600%, and be disbursed additional Pell because of timing, you will be responsible for repayment of the amount above 600%, so it is important that you monitor this amount.

**What this means for you:** You must plan now for your future, especially if you plan to transfer to a four year college to pursue a Bachelors degree. The six year limit is a LIFETIME limit, regardless of completion of your academic goals or Bachelors degree!

Click [here](#) for summary of all federal changes.