

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL ACG GRANT & SMART GRANT RECIPIENTS

When you completed the FAFSA, you indicated that you will complete a rigorous program of study in high school. Our initial review of your record indicates that if true, you may meet the criteria to receive the new Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and/or National SMART Grants. You may receive funding in future years if you continue to meet the criteria for each year as listed below. You must file a FAFSA each year and remain Pell Grant eligible to receive funds.

Your eligibility will be verified when your official high school transcript is sent to the Admissions Office upon completion of your senior year. If you do not meet the criteria, please notify our office.

ACG Grant requirements

- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- Be a Federal Pell Grant recipient for the same award year;
- Be enrolled at least half-time;
- Be a first-year or second-year undergraduate student or a student in a certificate program at a two-year or four-year degree granting institution;

First Year ACG Students – up to \$750 a year

- May not have been previously enrolled in a program of undergraduate study
- Must have graduated from a **rigorous** high school program after 1/1/06
- Rigorous program for students from Michigan includes meeting one of these requirements:

Michigan graduates (2007 and later)

1. Michigan Scholars requirements. This program, currently offered in Michigan and twenty-one other states and patterned after the recommendations of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, requires at least:

- Four credits of English;
- Three credits of Math (including Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry);
- Three credits of science (Biological Science; Physical Science; and Chemistry);
- Three credits of Social Studies (World History, Economics, American History, U.S. Government); and
- Two credits of a language other than English;
- Plus district graduation requirements

2. Michigan Merit Standard. This program requires:

- Four credits of English;
- Four credits of Math (including Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and one credit in the Senior Year);
- Three credits of Science (including Biology, Chemistry, or Physics, and one additional science credit);
- Three credits of Social Studies (including U.S. History and Geography, World History and Geography, Economics (half credit), and Civics (half credit));
- One credit of Physical Education and Health (guidelines to be developed by State Department of Education);
- One credit of visual, performing, or applied arts (guidelines to be developed by State Department of Education); and
- One on-line learning course or experience.

All U.S. graduates (2007 or later)

3. 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 one year each of at least two of the following courses: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics);
- Three years of a Social Studies; and
- One year of a foreign language.

4. 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.

Second Year ACG Students – up to \$1,300 per year

- Have graduated from a **rigorous** secondary school program of study after 1/1/05
- Have at least 3.0 GPA in an eligible program

National SMART Grant requirements – up to \$4,000 per year for Junior and Senior years

- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- Be a Federal Pell Grant recipient for the same award year;
- Third or fourth academic year in an eligible program (possible 5th year if required by degree);
- Be enrolled at least half-time;
- Majoring in an eligible major
 1. Physical, Life, or Computer Sciences, Mathematics, Technology, Engineering, or a Critical Foreign Language
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- **At least one course must be taken toward an appropriate major each semester**

Note: Academic Year requirements affect eligibility for this program.

See <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/ac-smart.html> for further details.

If you have been correctly identified as meeting the criteria for the award, please verify by signing and returning your award letter.

For SMART grant recipients, a change in major could result in the removal of your award. Please notify the Financial Aid Office PRIOR to accepting funds if you are considering changing your major.