

Financial Assistance Awarding Policy for 2006-2007

The Office of Financial Assistance (OFA) attempts to meet 100% of each student's financial need with an awarding philosophy based on guidelines set forth for the Federal financial aid programs authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended. Once analysis of the student's financial assistance application is complete, an award can be made.

- I. Upon the completion of the file, the student is first assigned a cost of attendance based on his or her residency status (in-state or out-of-state), self-reported living situation (not with parents or with parents), and full-time enrollment status.
- II. Once the cost of attendance is determined, the expected family contribution as calculated using the Federal Methodology is deducted from the cost of attendance to determine the student's financial need for Title IV assistance.
- III. Assistance is awarded in this order as need is met: Federal Pell Grant, Scholarships and Outside assistance, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, South Carolina State Need-Based Grant, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Stafford Loans, and Federal Work-Study. Federal PLUS is not awarded up front. PLUS applications are processed as received.

A. FEDERAL PELL GRANT

Once a student has been determined eligible for Federal Pell Grant, the Federal Methodology Expected Family Contribution for 9 months and the payment schedule provided by the U.S. Department of Education are used to determine the amount of Federal Pell Grant to be awarded. Federal Pell Grants may exceed the student's need.

B. SCHOLARSHIPS AND OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

Scholarships and outside assistance that OFA is aware of at the time of awarding are deducted from the remaining need after Federal Pell Grant has been deducted.

C. FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)

If the student has a prior Bachelor's degree, FSEOG is not awarded. Historically, FSEOG funds have been fully expended or nearly fully expended with applicants for federal assistance with an EFC of 0. Given this fact and the intent of SEOG to assist the "neediest of the needy", FSEOG awards will be limited to students with an EFC of 0. The FSEOG award cannot exceed need after deduction of Federal Pell Grant and Scholarships and Outside Assistance. The maximum FSEOG award will be \$1000. The minimum initial FSEOG award will be \$200. FSEOG awards may be reduced to less than \$200 if an adjustment to aid has to be made after the initial award. FSEOG Program Budget must be considered as well.

D. S.C. NEED-BASED GRANT (SCNBG)

If the student has a prior Bachelor's degree, SCNBG is not awarded. Students who are applicants for federal assistance will be ranked by expected family contribution (EFC) and SCNBG will be awarded in order of lowest EFC to the highest EFC. Continuing students who attended full-time must have completed 24 hours in the previous Fall and Spring semesters, not including hours earned in summer school. Federal Pell Grant eligibility is not required. The SCNBG award cannot exceed need after deduction of Federal Pell Grant, Scholarships and Outside Assistance, and FSEOG. The maximum initial award of SCNBG is \$1000 unless the student is listed by CHE as being in foster care which increases the award to \$2500. SCNBG awards may be increased up to \$2000 if there is a negative balance in the SEOG account and there are NBG funds available. The minimum initial SCNBG award is \$200. SCNBG awards may be reduced to less than \$200 if an adjustment to aid has to be made after the initial award. SCNBG budget must be considered.

E. FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN

Students with a need greater than \$200 are considered to be of exceptional need. Federal Perkins Loans will be awarded to students with exceptional need and who indicate that they wish to receive a loan in this priority:

1. Continuing students who are prior recipients of Federal Perkins Loans from FMU. (Information available from FA History and current year record).
2. New freshmen that have a predicted grade point average of 2.4 or better.
3. Continuing students with a grade point average of 2.4 or better who are not prior recipients of Federal Perkins Loans.
4. Any other continuing undergraduate students who are not prior recipients of Federal Perkins Loans.
5. Any new freshman.
6. New transfer students.
7. Graduate students.

Federal Perkins Loans are awarded to meet remaining financial need after Federal Pell Grant, Scholarships and Outside Assistance, FSEOG, and SCNBG have been deducted. The maximum Federal Perkins Loan is \$4000, and the minimum initial Federal Perkins Loan is \$200. Federal Perkins awards may be reduced to less than \$200 if an adjustment to aid has to be made after the initial award. Federal Perkins Loan Program budget must be considered as well.

F. FEDERAL STAFFORD LOAN

Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan funds will be awarded to the meet the least of:

1. Remaining financial need after Federal Pell Grant, Scholarships and Outside Assistance, FSEOG, SCNBG, and Federal Perkins Loans have been deducted,

or
2. \$2625 for freshmen

\$3500 for sophomores

\$5500 for juniors and seniors.

Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan funds will be awarded to the meet the least of:

1. Cost of attendance after Federal Pell Grant, scholarships and outside assistance, FSEOG, SCNBG, Federal Perkins Loan, and Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan have been deducted,

or
2. \$2625 for dependent freshmen minus any subsidized Federal Stafford Loan eligibility,

\$3500 for dependent sophomores minus any subsidized Federal Stafford Loan eligibility,

\$5500 for dependent juniors and dependent seniors minus any subsidized Federal Stafford Loan eligibility.

\$6625 for independent freshmen minus any subsidized Federal Stafford Loan eligibility,

\$7500 for independent sophomores minus any subsidized Federal Stafford Loan eligibility,

\$10,500 or the student's cost of attendance, whichever is lower, for independent juniors and independent seniors minus any subsidized Federal Stafford Loan eligibility.

The minimum initial subsidized portion of a Federal Stafford Loan is \$200. The minimum initial unsubsidized portion of a Federal Stafford Loan is \$100. The minimum initial Federal Stafford Loan is \$500. Loan awards may be reduced to less than the minimum if an adjustment to aid has to be made after the initial award.

G. FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAM (FWS)

FWS is awarded to meet the remaining financial need after Federal Pell Grant, Scholarships and outside assistance, FSEOG, SCNBG, Federal Perkins Loans, and Federal Stafford Loans have been deducted. The maximum FWS award is \$4000, and the **minimum initial FWS award is \$500.** FWS awards may be reduced to less than \$500 or increased to more than \$4000 if an adjustment to aid has to be made after the initial award.

H. ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS GRANT

I. NATIONAL SMART GRANT