

# Financial Aid Highlights

Financial Aid Highlights is a periodic electronic news update provided by the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships for the benefit of prospective and continuing CSUB students and parents, high school and community college counselors, faculty, and staff. The electronic publication will contain informational items pertaining to financial aid and scholarships of relevance to the CSUB community. Past issues are archived on the Financial Aid & Scholarships homepage at <http://www.csub.edu/finaid>. Additional information regarding any given topic may be obtained by calling the office at (661) 664-3016.

## National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant Program - FAH (Vol. 8, No. 6)

### Overview/Background

The Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (HERA) was signed into law by President Bush on February 8, 2006. This Act created the new National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant Program to be awarded to eligible students in their 3<sup>rd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> year of study, beginning in the 2006-2007 award year.

The maximum 3<sup>rd</sup> year SMART award is \$4,000

The maximum 4<sup>th</sup> year SMART award is \$4,000

### Eligibility

To qualify, the student must meet all of the following conditions -

- Be a U. S. citizen (Permanent resident students are not eligible for this grant)
- Be a Federal Pell Grant recipient
- Be enrolled full-time (i.e., 12 units or more) in a degree program.
- Be enrolled in the third or fourth academic year of his/her program of study (academic years are defined at CSUB for this grant as: 3<sup>rd</sup> year = 73 to 108 cumulative college earned units and 30 weeks of instruction, 4<sup>th</sup> year = 109 to 180 cumulative college earned units and 30 weeks of instruction).
- Must have earned a cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0 or greater, certified prior to the beginning of each quarter.
- Have declared and be enrolled in an eligible major (see table that follows)
- Meet standard eligibility criteria for all Federal Title IV financial aid (e.g., complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid - FAFSA, not be in default on a student loan, demonstrate financial need, maintain satisfactory academic progress, etc.).
- Be enrolled in courses that satisfy curriculum requirements for the degree objective.

### Eligible Majors

At California State University, Bakersfield, the following majors have been identified as eligible for SMART Grant consideration for 2006-07:

Science	Engineering	Language
Biology Chemistry Computer Science Geology Mathematics Natural Science Physics	None	None

### **Application Process**

The university will identify students enrolled in eligible majors, confirm that the students meet all of the other eligibility criteria, and notify students of their awards each quarter.

- The CSUB OFA&S will utilize information provided by the Office of Records to determine if a student aid applicant meets the academic requirements for either a 3rd Year or 4th Year SMART Grant.
- This will happen automatically. Students do not need to take any action.

### **Selection**

SMART Grant-eligible students who have already received their financial aid for the term will have their aid packages adjusted to reflect their eligibility for this new federal grant.

The law states that the SMART Grant, in combination with the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC), financial aid, and other resources, cannot exceed the student's Cost of Education. Therefore, in some cases, the SMART Grant may replace other financial aid, especially student and parent loan eligibility. Students will be notified of the new award and any adjustment to other aid by CSUB RunnerMail.

### **Awarding**

We will make awards and notify eligible students after Census Day each term.

For additional information about the National SMART Grant, go to the U.S. Department of Education website at <http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/competitiveness/ac-smart2.html>

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