California State University, Bakersfield Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships

Pell Grant

The Pell Grant program is the largest student grant program administered by the federal government. Eligibility is limited to 12-semesters / 18-quarters (i.e., 6-years) of full- time equivalent awards for students enrolled in their initial undergraduate degree program (including eligibility for students enrolled in a post-baccalaureate Teacher Credential program). Eligibility for Pell Grant is dictated by the federal government according to a formula derived by the US Department of Education and approved by Congress. Pell Grant maximum awards for full-time students may change from year to year depending on Congressional appropriations. Students may apply for Pell Grant by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year.

Please be aware that full-time students may receive Pell for up to three quarters or two semesters per academic year. Therefore, if a full-time student who elects to attend an optional summer term (which is the first term of the new academic year at CSUB), and receives Pell Grant, their Pell award for the subsequent spring term will be reduced accordingly.

The Federal Pell Grant is awarded to students based upon their level of enrollment and Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The Federal Pell Grant is considered "portable," meaning that, for a given academic year, an eligible student would receive the same Pell Grant at any university.