

Federal Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU)

Background:

In December 2011, President Obama signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2012 (Public Law 112-74). This law changed the [Federal Pell Grant Program](#) by reducing the duration of Federal Pell Grant eligibility to 12 semesters, or 600% of Lifetime Eligibility Usage (LEU), for eligible students. This change affects all students regardless of when or where they received their first Pell Grant.

The U.S. Department of Education tracks Pell Grant LEU and students will be notified by the Central Processing System (CPS), the system that processes FAFSA applications, when they have used at least 450% of their Pell Grant LEU. Notification are sent to the email address that a student provides on their FAFSA application.

How is the LEU calculated?

The LEU is calculated for each academic year cycle and is based on the student's annual award. Each full-time semester equates to 50% of the total LEU which yields a maximum percentage of 600% for 12 semesters. Once a student has used 600% of their Federal Pell eligibility, they are ineligible for further Pell Grant awards.

Sample annual calculations:

- If a student received a full-time Pell award for both the fall and spring semesters, they have used 100% of their 600% lifetime eligibility.
- If a student received a half-time award in the fall semester and a full-time award in the spring semester, they have used 75% of their lifetime eligibility.
- If a student received a half-time award for both fall and spring semesters, they have used 50% of their lifetime eligibility.

How to track Pell LEU percentages:

To track Pell Grant history and LEU percentages, students are encouraged to log in to "[My Federal Student Aid](#)" using their FSA ID. This site is updated regularly with Pell Grant award data which includes LEU percentages.

Can a Pell Grant LEU be appealed?

Pell Grant LEU calculations cannot be appealed. Federal Pell Grant limits are set by Federal law. Students who rely on Pell Grant funding must be conscientious about their lifetime limits when adding, withdrawing or dropping classes, changing majors, or who have satisfactory academic progress deficiencies.