

Experimental Dual Enrollment Pell Grant Initiative – Summary and FAQ list

Summary

Hagerstown Community College was selected for an experimental Pell Grant initiative. HCC was one of 44 colleges and universities in the country to be selected for the experimental program. It allows public high school students whose schools have a dual enrollment agreement with HCC to apply for the Pell Grant. Normally, students have to graduate high school before being able to apply. Eligibility (based on parent information if a student is considered dependent for financial aid) is based on variables such as Adjusted Gross Income, household size, and asset information.

The Pell Grant does not need to be repaid as long as students are attending and completing their courses. If a student is eligible, the Pell Grant will be applied directly to a student's account.

The experimental program started in the Fall of 2016. Hagerstown Community College will be notified by the Department of Education when the experimental program will conclude. The Department of Education notifies the college on a yearly basis on the availability of funding. **The college has received an allocation for the 2020-2021 school year. We recommend completing the FAFSA as soon possible. The college receives a limited amount of dual enrollment Pell funding each year.**

As the 2021-2022 school year gets closer, please contact the HCC Student Financial Aid Office to check if the program will be available for 2021-2022.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Was Hagerstown Community College selected for an experimental dual enrollment Pell Grant initiative that allows public high school students to apply for and if eligible, receive a Pell Grant while still in high school?

Yes, Hagerstown Community College was one of 44 institutions in the country to be selected. Students must be attending a public high school, which has a dual enrollment agreement with HCC.

2. What is a Pell Grant?

Money that is awarded to students (based on parent information if the student is dependent) to help afford college. The Federal Pell Grant does not need to be repaid as long as students are attending and completing their courses. Eligibility is based on factors such as Adjusted Gross Income, number of people in the household, and asset information.

3. How does a student apply?

By completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. HCC's school code is 002074. Pell eligibility for Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Summer 2021 is based on the 2020-2021 FAFSA and uses 2018 tax information. Please contact the HCC Student Financial Aid Office if there has been a significant change of income since 2018.

HCC receives a limited amount of dual enrollment Pell funding each year.

4. Is there anything else that I need to do other than completing a FAFSA?

Yes, you need to declare a program of study. Students must be pursuing an eligible program of study. (planning on completing the program).

The Pell Grant only applies to courses that count as required courses in your Title IV eligible program. Also, you need to include your Social Security Number on your HCC Admissions Application or bring a copy of your social security card to the Admissions Office. To be a dually enrolled student, you must have at least a 2.5 GPA.

5. After submitting the FAFSA, what should I do?

Check your U.S. Postal Mail. If you receive a letter in the mail from HCC's Student Financial Aid Office, you need to submit any requested documentation.

6. After I submit any requested information and/or additional documentation, how I do know if I need to complete any other paperwork?

The Student Financial Aid Office will send an email to your HCC student email account if additional information is needed. Please check your HCC student email account.

7. How do I know if I have been awarded the Pell Grant?

The Student Financial Aid Office will send notification to the email address listed on the FAFSA. Also, students can check their Self Service account for the exact award amount. Pell Grant eligibility is based on enrollment status.

8. Are private and home school students eligible to participate in this dual enrollment experimental program?

No, only public high school students whose high schools have a dual enrollment agreement with Hagerstown Community College are eligible to apply. Private and home school students must wait until after graduating high school to apply for the traditional Pell Grant. For other scholarship opportunities, please visit <https://www.hagerstowncc.edu/financial-aid>

9. Does the dual enrollment Pell Grant apply to developmental courses?

No, the dual enrollment Pell Grant does not apply to developmental / remedial courses. The dual enrollment Pell Grant program only applies to college level courses. After students earn a high school diploma or its equivalent, students can apply for the traditional Pell Grant. Developmental courses can still be applicable for the traditional Pell Grant after a student graduates high school.

10. What is Satisfactory Academic Progress?

Satisfactory Academic Progress means that students are maintaining their GPA and completing their courses. To remain eligible, students must earn at least a 2.0 GPA and at least a 67% completion rate.

11. What if I complete the FAFSA and any required paperwork that the Student Financial Aid Office requests, but I am not eligible for the Pell Grant?

Several other opportunities exist. Students can apply for the Essence Supplemental Scholarship and scholarships through the HCC Foundation. Each scholarship has different eligibility criteria, requirements, and application dates. Please visit <https://www.hagerstowncc.edu/financial-aid> for additional information. HCC has a payment plan as well.

12. Does the dual enrollment Pell Grant apply to the Lifetime Eligibility Used?

Yes, Pell Grants received under the experimental program will count toward a student's lifetime eligibility limit. As long as a student continues to be eligible for the Pell Grant each year (based on parent information if considered dependent for financial aid), a student has a lifetime limit of 600% or six years of attending full-time (fall and spring) as an undergraduate student. For instance, if a student is awarded a Pell Grant based on taking six dually enrolled credits during 11th grade and another six dually enrolled credits during 12th grade, the student would have used up half of one full-time year of eligibility. The student would have five and a half full time years of Pell Grant eligibility remaining for undergraduate work assuming continued eligibility based on financial information. Eligibility is based on the FAFSA each year (based on parent information if the student is considered dependent for financial aid).

13. What if my parent/guardian has a specific FAFSA or account question?

Please complete a FERPA (Authorization to Release Information) form. Forms can be printed at <https://www.hagerstowncc.edu>. Type in FERPA in the search box.

14. What if there has been a significant change in my family's income from one tax year to the next year?

Please contact the Student Financial Aid Office. You may be eligible to apply for an income reduction. Forms can be printed at <https://www.hagerstowncc.edu/financial-aid/forms>

15. What if I have additional questions about the dual enrollment Pell Grant?

Please call the HCC Student Financial Aid Office at 240-500-2473 or email at finaid@hagerstowncc.edu