

COASTAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Year-Round Pell Procedures (effective May 2010)

Key Concepts and Definitions

Academic Year – For purposes of federal financial aid programs at Coastal Carolina Community College, an academic year is a period of time, defined as 32 weeks, during which a full-time student is expected to complete a minimum of 24 credit hours. Annual federal grant limits are tied to the completion of an *academic year*.

Academic Year Progression – Academic year progression is designated as an eligibility requirement by which a minimum of one credit hour within the payment period must be attributable to the student's next academic year.

Award Year – An award year refers to a specific enrollment period. The “normal” award year at Coastal is the fall and spring semesters. An *award year* runs from July 1 through the following June 30.

Cross-Over Payment Period – A cross-over payment period is any period that includes both June 30 and July 1. For the purposes of federal financial aid programs, this period must be assigned to a specific financial aid award year, either the year just ending or the year just beginning.

Coastal offers several summer sessions of different lengths with different start dates. For the purposes of the Federal Pell Grant program, these separate sessions are combined into one *cross-over payment period*.

Introduction

Effective 2009-10, students may receive two Pell Grant awards (four semesters) per academic year provided they meet eligibility requirements. 2009-10 will be a transitional year; after that, Pell Grant awards will be paid out of the award year that provides the student with the most Pell eligibility and academic year progression will be an eligibility requirement. For transfer students who were receiving Pell at their previous schools, Coastal will assume completion of the same percentage of the academic year as the percentage of Pell received (rounding down if necessary). Cases will be evaluated individually, and requirements may be waived in special circumstances.

Beginning with the 2009-10 academic year, students are eligible for up to two scheduled Pell Grant awards (200%), or four semesters, per award year of Pell funding. This is twice the amount for which students have previously been eligible.

For Summer 2010

Coastal Carolina Community College will pay Pell Grant awards out of the 2009-10 award year during the transition period. If students use their first scheduled award (100%) and enroll in a minimum of 6 credit hours, they may be eligible for a second scheduled award.

Example: If a student receives a full-time award in the fall 2009 and spring 2010 semesters and enrolls in 6 credit hours or more in summer 2010, he/she would be eligible to receive Pell grant funding for summer from the 2009-10 award year, provided otherwise eligible.

For the summer 2010 semester only, no consideration will be given to 2010-11 student eligibility requirements or to academic year progression requirements. In future years, Pell Grant awards will be paid out of the award year that provides the student with the most Pell Grant eligibility. In addition, future regulations will include an academic year progression requirement.

For Summer 2011

For the summer of 2011, Coastal will consider the term to be a “cross-over” payment period and will pay Pell Grant awards out of the 2010-11 or 2011-12 award year, whichever provides the student with the most Pell Grant eligibility. Students must have a valid Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) on file for the award year used to determine Pell Grant eligibility. If a student uses his/her first scheduled award (100%) and enrolls in a minimum of 6 credit hours, he/she may be eligible for a second scheduled award. However, the student must also meet other eligibility requirements and must have completed 24 credit hours or be enrolled in credit hours attributable to his/her second scheduled award.

Example: A student receiving a full-time award in fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters who enrolls in six credit hours or more in the summer would be eligible to receive Pell funding for summer from either the 2010-11 **or** the 2011-12 award year (whichever provides the most Pell Grant eligibility), if otherwise eligible. The student would also have to have completed 24 credit hours during the previous award year or be enrolled in credit hours totaling **at least 25 hours** when combined with other hours completed during the award year. (If a student completed 9 credit hours in fall 2010 and 9 credit hours in spring 2011, he or she would have to be enrolled in at least 7 credit hours for summer 2011).

These rules will remain after summer 2011 and will be applied using the appropriate academic year, according to federal regulations.

Transfer Students

Beginning 2010-11, Pell Grant awards for eligible transfer students will be determined as follows: If a student received 100% of the first scheduled Pell award at his/her previous school, Coastal will assume the student completed the first academic year. If the student received less than 100% of the first scheduled award, Coastal will assume the student completed the same percentage of the academic year as the percentage of Pell received, rounding down if necessary.

Example: A student’s previous school disbursed \$2,007 of a \$5,350 Pell award. Coastal assumes the student completed the same percentage of the academic year as the percentage of Pell received. Based on Coastal’s definition of an academic year as 24 credit hours: $\$2,007 \text{ times } 24 \text{ divided by } \$5,350 = 9 \text{ credits assumed earned}$. The student is given 9 credit hours toward completion of the first academic year.

Special Circumstances

Coastal’s Financial Aid administrator may waive the requirement that a student complete the academic year for a second scheduled award if the administrator determines that the student was unable to complete the first academic year due to “circumstances beyond the student’s control.” Such circumstances may include but are not limited to withdrawal due to a verifiable illness, or inability to complete a program of study because required classes were not offered. Such determinations will be made and documented on a case-by-case basis. “Circumstances beyond a student’s control” **do not** include those such as withdrawal to avoid a particular grade, failure to register for a required class to avoid a particular instructor, or inability to register because classes have filled.