

# Federal Student Grant Programs

The federal government provides grant funds for students attending colleges, career schools, and universities. Grants, unlike loans, are sources of free money and do not have to be repaid.\* The major federal student grant programs are briefly described below.

| Federal Grant Program                                                              | Program Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Annual Award (subject to change)                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Federal Pell Grant</b>                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded to undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need and who have not earned a bachelor's or graduate degree; in some cases, students enrolled in a postbaccalaureate teacher certification program may receive a Federal Pell Grant</li> <li>Federal Pell Grant lifetime eligibility is limited to 12 semesters or the equivalent</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Up to \$5,920 for the 2017–18 award year                                                                      |
| <b>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded to undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need and who have not earned a bachelor's or graduate degree</li> <li>Federal Pell Grant recipients receive priority</li> <li>Not all schools participate in the FSEOG program</li> <li>Funds depend on availability at the school; applications must be received by the school's deadline</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Up to \$4,000                                                                                                 |
| <b>Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or graduate students who are or will be taking course work necessary to become elementary or secondary school teachers</li> <li>Must agree to serve, for a minimum of four years (within eight years of completing one's academic program), as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a school or educational service agency that serves low-income students</li> <li>Must attend a participating school and meet certain academic achievement requirements</li> <li>Failure to complete the teaching service commitment will result in the grant being converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid</li> </ul> | 2016–17 grants: Up to \$3,724 for grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2016, and before Oct. 1, 2017    |
| <b>Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant</b>                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For students whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of performing military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11</li> <li>Must be ineligible for a Federal Pell Grant due to having less financial need than is required to receive Federal Pell Grant funds</li> <li>Must have been younger than 24 years old or enrolled at least part-time at a college or career school at the time of the parent's or guardian's death</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                     | 2016–17 grants: Up to \$5,413.77 for grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2016, and before Oct. 1, 2017 |

\*Occasionally a student may have to pay back part or all of a grant if, for example, he or she withdraws from school before finishing an enrollment period, such as a semester.

Looking for more sources of free money? Try [StudentAid.gov/scholarships](http://StudentAid.gov/scholarships) for tips on where to look and for a link to a free scholarship search tool. For more information on grants, visit [StudentAid.gov/grants](http://StudentAid.gov/grants). Find this fact sheet at [StudentAid.gov/resources#grant-programs](http://StudentAid.gov/resources#grant-programs).

## Have questions? Contact or visit the following:

- [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov)
- a school's financial aid office
- [studentaid@ed.gov](mailto:studentaid@ed.gov)
- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll free
- TTY for the hearing impaired: 1-800-730-8913