

As I was getting the Pell Grant information together, I learned a little bit about the state of federal student loans, so I've included that information below as well.

Below you'll see the information that I was able to find so far, but I want to clarify one thing:

I have not yet found Paper-Based Correspondence (PBC) programs that work with the Pell Grant. The Dept. of Education (DOE) understands the importance in this avenue for higher education. I believe we will learn about them soon. I listened very carefully to a webinar with the DOE that clarified the point that PBC programs are not excluded, so hopefully I'll soon build a document with all of the correspondence courses that can receive the Pell funding.

On a recent webinar, the DOE said that clarifications will be released soon.

Please let me know what you hear / read / learn!

Education is not the filling of a pot but the lighting of a fire. — W.B. Yeats

Ubuntu, ~ sue

PELL GRANT

The Pell Grant will again be accessible for incarcerated learners on July 1, 2023!

ELIGIBILITY FOR PELL APPLICANTS:

Must be US citizen or eligible non-citizen

No previous bachelor's or above

Qualifications to enter college

Must enroll for a full program; Pell is not available for single courses.

Cannot have federal student loans in default (info about this below)

Demonstrate financial need.

No restrictions from Dept. of Ed. re: convictions or sentences: Pell Grants are available to everyone.

VERIFICATION REQUIRED:

Proof of: Identification, Household Income, High School Completion or HSED, and statement of education purpose.

PELL CAN PAY FOR: Tuition, fees, books, supplies and licensure fees.

ONE WAY TO LOOK AT THE PELL GRANT THAT ANSWERS MANY QUESTIONS:

All Pell Grant funding goes to the school; no money will go to the individual. You will not receive a check, nor will you get to spend any money. The school gets all of the money:

FAFSA INFORMATION IS BELOW

COMMON CHALLENGES

Defaulted loans

Obtaining financial information

Social Security numbers not matching name

Identity – Prison ID okay

Verification of HSED completion – unofficial prison documents are okay
Completing the FAFSA without internet access. (help required)

All Education Programs must go through a full approval process with the Department of Education. Prison Education Programs are

PELL GRANT REGULATIONS SUMMARY from the US Dept. of ED:
(As found on the Federal Register website: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-23078>)

“Prison Education Programs – The PEP regulations provide to the Department and stakeholders, including students, correctional agencies and institutions, postsecondary institutions, accrediting agencies, and related organizations, a detailed and clear framework for how to implement the new section 484(t) of the HEA, which takes effect on July 1, 2023. The Department amended the regulations in §§ 600.2, 600.7, 600.10, 600.21, 668.8, 668.32, 668.43, and 690.62, and added part 668, subpart P. Section 484(t) of the HEA sets forth PEP requirements that include: (1) a prohibition on PEPs offered by proprietary institutions; (2) definitions of a “confined or incarcerated individual” and a “prison education program;” (3) the program approval process by the Bureau of Prisons, State department of corrections, or other entity that is responsible for overseeing the correctional facility (which we refer to throughout these final regulations as the oversight entity); (4) a credit transfer requirement for PEPs; (5) a prohibition against program offerings by institutions that are subject to adverse actions by the Department, their accrediting agency, or the relevant State authorizing agency; (6) requirements that PEPs offer educational programming that satisfies professional licensure or certification, as applicable; (7) student enrollment restrictions for programs where ultimate licensure or employment would be prohibited; (8) the requirement that confined or incarcerated individuals be enrolled in an eligible PEP in order to access a Pell Grant; and (9) various Department reporting requirements for postsecondary institutions offering PEPs.”

FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

A new application, created specifically for incarcerated learners, is now available in English and Spanish. You can use DARK INK (not pencil) to fill it out. The mailing address is different from the non-incarcerated application form. Work with the higher education program administrator to complete the form; the code for the college must be on the application.

APPLICATIONS and current information, can be found here:

<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/prison-education-programs>

STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF IS BLOCKED <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief/application>

“One-time Federal Student Loan Debt Relief. Eligible borrowers can get a full or partial discharge of loans up to \$20,000.” BUT, “at this time, we are not accepting applications. “ The lawsuits against the relief program are scheduled to be heard by the Supreme Court in February.

If you have defaulted on federal loans there are options to consider:

FIRST THING TO KNOW: Student Loan Repayment pause extended to June 2023.

INCOME DRIVEN REPAYMENT PLAN <https://studentaid.gov/idr/>

“Most federal student loans are eligible for at least one income-driven repayment plan. If your income is low enough, your payment could be as low as \$0 per month. Income-driven repayment (IDR) plans can often provide a lower monthly payment. If you are already enrolled in an IDR plan, you must recertify your income each year to remain in the plan.”

FRESH START - for Federal Student Loan Borrowers in Default

<https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/default-fresh-start>

Applying for FAFSA gets the Fresh Start process going. “If your loans are eligible, you’ll temporarily regain several student aid benefits. You’ll also get the opportunity to get out of default and keep those benefits for the long term. The website says “If you’re not sure whether your loans qualify, you can call the Default Resolution Group at 1-800-621-3115 (TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing 1-877-825-9923).” They offer no mailing address.

STUDENT BORROWER PROTECTION CENTER

<https://protectborrowers.org/>

“Through innovative partnerships and projects, we are leading a nationwide effort to protect borrowers and halt widespread abuses by the student loan industry.”

Student Borrower Protection Center, 1025 Connecticut Ave NW, #717, Washington, DC 20036
202-670-3871

Happy Solstice!

Ubuntu, ~ sue

Don’t just teach your children to read. Teach them to question what they read. Teach them to question everything. - George Carlin

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. – Benjamin Franklin

Everyone you will ever meet knows something you don’t. — Bill Nye

The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change. - Carl Rogers

Any fool can know. The point is to understand. – Albert Einstein

Study without desire spoils the memory.... - Leonardo da Vinci

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all. - Aristotle