

Q&A: Student Success Completion Grant (SSCG)

1. QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE SSCG REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE THIS GRANT?

TO QUALIFY FOR THE SSCG, STUDENTS MUST:

- Be paid a Cal Grant B or C,
- Meet federal satisfactory academic progress (SAP),
- Be a California resident or is exempt from paying nonresident tuition under [Section 68130.5](#) or 76140,
- *Be an undergraduate student pursuing an associate degree, career technical education certificate, other community college certificate, or meet transfer requirements.*
- *This is a supplementary grant awarded after all other federal and state grants are awarded, and not an entitlement grant. Funding is limited and not all eligible students receive this grant.*

2. QUESTION: THE DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC YEAR CONFLICTS WITH SUMMER PAYMENT FOR QUARTER SCHOOLS: THEY USE SUMMER AS A HEADER, WHICH CONFLICTS WITH THE TRAILER BILL LANGUAGE DESCRIBING THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

ANSWER: Quarter Colleges may award summer payments based on the college's institutional awarding policies. Semester based colleges must pay SSCG using the trailer summer since [the academic year is defined as fall, spring, and summer for the SSCG program](#).

Citation: 88930. For purposes of this part, "academic year" means the total of two consecutive semesters or three quarters, commencing with the opening of the fall term. Each semester or quarter is approximately the same length.

Citation: 88931(c)(2) (A) If funding is available after making awards to students in the primary terms, a community college may grant additional awards to students who take a sufficient number of units during the summer term to bring their total number of academic units to 24 units or more for the academic year. The chancellor's office shall work with colleges to determine the summer grant amounts based on available funds.

3. QUESTION: ENROLLMENT. SOME SCHOOLS HAVE FRACTIONAL UNITS; HOW WOULD THEY TREAT THESE STUDENTS?

ANSWER: Schools should not round up fractional units to whole number units to make students eligible for award payment. No rounding is allowed for Pell grants nor for Cal grants.

Examples of fractional enrollment units

- 11.5 units enrolled – cannot round up to 12 to pay the grant.
- 14.5 units enrolled – cannot round up to 15 to pay the grant.

4. QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS IF THE STUDENT HAS DIFFERENT ENROLLMENT STATUSES PER TERM IN RELATION TO THE ANNUAL MAXIMUM AMOUNT?

ANSWER:

- a. If a student is attending 12+ units per semester term, they receive half the award year-based amount of the SSCG or the quarter equivalent – see tables below.
- b. If a student in less than 12 but adds units in a corresponding winter intersession/summer, may add units to pay in the primary term based on institution's awarding policies.
- c. **AFTER** awarding all eligible students during Fall and Spring, a community college may grant additional summer awards to students who take a sufficient number of units during the summer term to bring their total number of academic units to 24 units or more for the academic year.
- d. **AFTER** awarding all eligible students for the summer term, a community college may grant additional awards to students who take a sufficient number of units of 30 units or more for the academic year.

Term Based

Attendance status	Semester units and term	Quarter units and term
For students who enroll in 12 to 14.99 units	\$1,298 per primary term	\$865/866 per quarter term
For students who enroll in 15+ units	\$4,000 per primary term	\$1,333/1,334 per quarter term
Former Foster Youth students who enroll in 12+ units* and FFY who are in a DSPS program with an approved academic accommodation plan who enroll in 9+ units	\$5,250 per primary term	\$1,750 per quarter term
Students in a disabled student program who enroll in 9+ units**	\$1,298 per primary term	\$865/\$866 per quarter term

Award Year Based

Attendance status	Award Year units	Award Quarter units
For students who enroll in 24 to 29.99 units	\$2,596 per award year	\$2,596 per award year
For students who enroll in 30+ units	\$8,000 per award year	\$8,000 per award year
Former Foster Youth students who enroll in 24+ units* and FFY who are in a DSPS program with an approved academic accommodation plan who enroll in 18+ units	\$10,500 per award year	\$10,500 per award year
Students in a disabled student program who enroll in 18+ units**	\$2,596 per award year	\$2,596 per award year

Citation: [88931](#).

(A) One thousand two hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$1,298) per semester, or quarterly equivalent, for eligible students who enroll in 12, 13, or 14 units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units.

(B) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per semester, or quarterly equivalent, for eligible students who enroll in 15 units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units.

*(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), **commencing with the 2023-24 academic year**, the students meeting the applicant criteria pursuant to subdivision (b) who are current or former foster youth, as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Section 69433.6, shall be eligible for a grant amount of five thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$5,250) per semester, or quarterly equivalent, if they enroll in 12 or more units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units.

** (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), **commencing with the 2025-26 academic year**, the students meeting the applicant criteria pursuant to subdivision (b) who enroll in nine or more units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units, and are considered full time as part of a disabled student programs and services Academic Accommodation Plan, as described in Section 56022 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, shall be eligible for a grant amount of one thousand two hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$1,298) per semester, or the quarterly equivalent.

5. QUESTION: IF MAKING SUMMER PAYMENTS, IS THE CAP \$8,000? OR IS THE SUMMER AWARD ADDITIONAL TO THE ACADEMIC YEAR TOTAL FOR FALL AND SPRING?

ANSWER: The maximum award year amount is \$8,000 and \$10,500 for FYY students – this includes primary terms and intersession/summer.

Citation: 88931.

(2) (A) If funding is available after making awards to students in the primary terms, a community college may grant additional awards to students who take a sufficient number of units during the summer term to bring their total number of academic units to 24 units or more for the academic year. The chancellor's office shall work with colleges to determine the summer grant amounts based on available funds.

6. QUESTION: FOR ANNUAL AWARDS, WHAT TERM ARE THEY AWARDED AND PAID UNDER (FALL, SPRING OR SUMMER)?

ANSWER: The additional awards based on total units for the academic year should be awarded and paid in the Spring term.

7. QUESTION: CAN COLLEGES AWARD AND PAY LESS THAN ELIGIBLE AMOUNT IF THE STUDENT DOESN'T HAVE THE UNMET NEED? ARE PARTIAL AWARDS OK?

ANSWER: Yes, awards may be adjusted to meet Cost of Attendance (COA).

Citation: 88931.

(3) The grant award shall be based upon the financial need of the applicant, and shall not exceed the calculated financial need for any individual applicant. The minimum level of financial need of applicants shall be determined by the commission pursuant to Section 69432.9

8. QUESTION: IS THIS GRANT AN ENTITLEMENT?

ANSWER: No. The SSCG is a supplemental award.

Citation: 88931.

(d)(2) The grant award shall be considered a supplemental grant, and shall not supplant any other grant, fee waiver, or scholarship aid received by the student, including, but not necessarily limited to, federal grants, Cal Grant awards, institutional grants, merit-based scholarships, and athletic scholarships.

9. QUESTION: WHERE DOES THE COMPLETION GRANT FALL IN THE GRANT HIERARCHY? DOES IT COME AFTER ALL OTHER GRANTS BUT BEFORE LOANS?

ANSWER: The SSCG is a supplemental grant and comes after all other grants and scholarships but before federal work-study and loans. The payment priority for SSCG and other categorical grants is a local decision based on the institution's awarding policies.

Citation: 88931. (2) The grant award shall be considered a supplemental grant, and shall not supplant any other grant, fee waiver, or scholarship aid received by the student, including, but not necessarily limited to, federal grants, Cal Grant awards, institutional grants, merit-based scholarships, and athletic scholarships.

10. IS IT OK UNDER THIS NEW BILL TO PAY FOR PRE-REQUISITE COURSES, REQUIRED CAL WORKS COURSES, AP, AND TRANSFER CREDITS, ETC.?

ANSWER: There is nothing in the EdCode preventing award payments for these students for as long as they continue to meet federal satisfactory academic progress. Financial aid offices are encouraged to support Guided Pathways and AB 705 so that we help more students get to success/complete their education goals in 120 units or less.

11. QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU DO WITH PROGRAM AND/OR MAJOR CHANGES? ARE THESE STUDENTS STILL ELIGIBLE?

ANSWER: Students are eligible but must continue to meet federal satisfactory academic progress to maintain eligibility.

12. QUESTION: CAN BOTH CAL GRANT B AND C PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A STUDENT SUCCESS COMPLETION GRANT?

ANSWER: Yes. Students who get paid a Cal B or C and meet the other SSCG requirements may be paid an SSCG award if funds are available.

NOT ELIGIBLE:

- Students with Cal Grant B or C reserved awards
- Students with Cal Grant A reserved awards
- Students with Cal Grant A for students with dependents
- Students who receive only a Chafey award
- Students in CC Bachelor's degree programs

13. QUESTION: ARE STUDENTS PURSUING A BACHELOR'S DEGREE ELIGIBLE?

ANSWER: No. Students pursuing a Community College bachelor's degree are not eligible for the SSCG award. The SSCG is intended for students completing their AA degree, career education certificate, other community college certificate, or meet transfer requirements.

The Chancellor's Office of General Council has determined that a student in a community college BA program is not eligible for the Student Success Completion Grant under Education Code 88931 based on the student's enrollment in the BA program. Education Code section 88932, includes a reference to "an associate degree, career technical education certificate, other community college certificate, or meet transfer requirements" which gives the scheme more meaning. Most relevant to the legal analysis, is that the Legislature did not use the "degree or certificate" convention in (e)(2), or in any way reference "other degree." This must be understood as an intentional omission.

Citation: 88931.

(e)(2) It is the intent of the Legislature that a student is enrolled in a program of study and has completed an education plan identifying courses, a sequence of courses, key progress of milestones, and other requirements the student must complete to earn an associate degree, career technical education certificate, other community college certificate, or meet transfer requirements.

14. QUESTION: HOW LONG CAN A STUDENT BE PAID THE SSCG?

ANSWER: For as long as the student is attending full time*, paid a Cal Grant B or C and meeting federal SAP. Remember that Maximum Time Frame in SAP will act as a meter for this grant as well as the Cal Grant remaining eligibility.

**DSPS students who enroll in nine or more units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units, and are considered full time as part of a disabled student programs and services Academic Accommodation Plan.*

15. QUESTION: COULD WE PAY A STUDENT A SSCG at a higher amount WHO TOOK 12 UNITS FOR FALL THEN ENROLLED IN 3 UNITS FOR WINTER INTERSESSION?

ANSWER: Yes. Units attempted during the intersession and units completed in a prior term (fall) or units attempted in a future term (spring) during the award year can be used to determine eligibility for payment. For those schools who offer winter intersession courses, schools may add such units to the fall or spring term for payment under the term based or the award year based payment per the institution's awarding policies.

16. QUESTION: WHEN SHOULD WE PAY STUDENTS THE SSCG GRANT?

ANSWER: You should pay them at the earliest opportunity when students become eligible, and their Cal Grant B or C awards have been paid for the term or year.

17. QUESTION: IF A STUDENT DROPS UNITS AFTER RECEIVING PAYMENT FOR A TERM, MUST WE TAKE BACK THE PAYMENT?

ANSWER: No. The student may keep that payment; however, going forward, the student would be ineligible for payment if they failed to maintain federal SAP.

18. QUESTION: IS THERE AN APPEAL PROCESS?

ANSWER: If appeals are permitted in the institution's federal SAP policy, the determination must be included and documented in compliance with federal regulation.

19. QUESTION: IF A STUDENT IS OVER MAXIMUM UNIT TIME FRAME, COMPLETES AN APPEAL AND IS APPROVED FOR THIS SEMESTER AND IS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR PELL and CAL GRANT WITH 15 ENROLLED UNITS, WOULD THE STUDENT BE ELIGIBLE FOR SSCG FOR THIS SEMESTER?

ANSWER: Yes, in accordance with your institution's federal SAP policies.

20. QUESTION: CURRENTLY WE OFFER SOME PROGRAMS THAT ARE NOT FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBLE AT OUR INSTITUTION, SUCH AS CSU CERTIFICATE OR IGETC CERTIFICATE; CAN THE SSCG BE PAID FOR STUDENTS IN THOSE PROGRAMS?

ANSWER: You can only pay for eligible programs listed on your college's PPA (federal program participation agreement).

21. QUESTION: HOW DO WE TREAT RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS IF THE STUDENT HAS NOT BEEN PAID FOR THOSE PRIOR TERMS? DO WE PAY ON ATTEMPTED OR COMPLETED UNITS?

ANSWER: Pay retroactive SSCG based on Pell disbursement policies.

- All prior term coursework must be completed units,
- All current and future term coursework must be attempted units.

22. QUESTION: WHAT IF I RUN OUT OF MONEY?

ANSWER: Remember that the SSCG is not an entitlement grant and when the college runs out of money, you will not be able to pay additional eligible students. We will continue to ask colleges if they have unused funds for reallocation in P2 of the apportionment process (April).

23. QUESTION: WHAT TO DO IF I ANTICIPATE I WILL NOT USE ALL MY SSCG FUNDS?

ANSWER: You can return those funds during either the P1 or P2 process. We recommend you begin paying this grant as early as possible for the fall term to give you the opportunity to revisit your college data and determine if you would need additional funds or would need to return funds. For P2, the Chancellor's Office will try to accommodate all requests for additional funding, but any new allocation will be based on the amount of funds returned/released by other colleges. If no colleges

return/release funds, then there will be no new allocations of funds for colleges requesting additional funding.

24. QUESTION: HOW DO WE REPORT THE SSCG?

ANSWER: You submit annual SSCG data to MIS, starting October 1 after the end of the fiscal year.

Former Foster Youth (FFY) Section

25. QUESTION: WHAT IS THE DEFINITION FOR “CURRENT AND FORMER FOSTER YOUTH” FOR THE SSCG PROGRAM?

ANSWER: Current and former foster youth are defined as those whose dependency was established or continued on age of 13 plus one day.

26. QUESTION: IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT FOR FFY STUDENTS TO GET PAID THE SSCG GRANT?

ANSWER: There is no upper age limit for FFY students to receive this grant.

27. QUESTION: CAN THE FFY STUDENTS SELF-CERTIFIED?

ANSWER: Yes.

28. QUESTION: IS THERE A MANDATORY PRIORITY TO PAY FFY STUDENTS FIRST? DO WE PAY THE FULL ELIGIBLE AMOUNT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR?

ANSWER: There is nothing in EdCode requiring a priority policy to pay FFY students first, nor to pay the full amount for the academic year. Awarding the SSCG grant whether by term or by academic year is a local decision based on the college’s financial aid policies and procedures.

29. QUESTION: DOES A FFY STUDENT NEED TO BE ENROLLED IN 15 UNITS TO RECEIVE THE FULL AWARD AMOUNT?

ANSWER: No. FFY students need to only be enrolled in at least 12 units to be eligible for the SSCG award of \$5,250 per semester (or quarter equivalent). **Commencing with FY 2025-26, if the FFY student is also a DSPS student** and enrolls in nine or more units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units, and are considered full time as part of a disabled student programs and services Academic Accommodation Plan, these students can receive the SSCG award of \$5,250 per term.

30. QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES TO IDENTIFY AND AWARD ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE STUDENTS?

- Partner with NextUp and other foster youth programs to proactively do a financial aid audit on all students in these programs to identify those eligible for the expanded SSCG.
- Proactively inform all students who self-identify as foster youth on the FAFSA or CADAA that they may be eligible for this funding. Not all eligible students will be participating in NextUp or

other former foster youth support programs. Include detailed instructions on who to contact in the financial aid office for assistance in accessing this funding.

- Collaborate with Institutional Research to get a report of all students who self-identify on CCC Apply as a foster youth and proactively inform these students that they may also be eligible.
- Include information about the increased SSCG grant amount for foster youth on both the NextUp and financial aid websites, as well as any existing social media accounts.

31. QUESTION: IF A STUDENT NEEDS TO PROVIDE MANUAL VERIFICATION OF FOSTER YOUTH STATUS DUE TO AN ERROR WITH THE AUTOMATED MATCH, HOW DO THEY GET THIS VERIFICATION?

ANSWER: Current foster youth may contact their county social worker, probation officer or Independent Living Program (ILP or ILSP) Coordinator to receive foster youth verification, also commonly known as a “Dependency or Ward of the Court” letter. Former foster youth may contact their county child welfare agency/probation department, local Independent Living Program, or the Office of the California Foster Care Ombudsperson: 877-846-1602.

In order to ensure students receive the appropriate Cal Grant award, students should [complete the form](#) available at CSAC’s website.

32. QUESTION: DOES DEPENDENCY IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM NEED TO BE ESTABLISHED IN CALIFORNIA?

ANSWER: No, dependency may have been established by another state, however the student must be a California resident or be exempt from nonresident tuition. Students who were in foster care in another state will not be included in the automated match with the California Department of Social Services and will need to provide manual verification.

DISABLE STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES (DSPS) SECTION

33. QUESTION: WHAT IS THE MINIMUM ENROLLMENT FOR DSPS STUDENTS TO RECEIVE THE SSCG AWARD?

ANSWER: Commencing with the 2025–26 academic year, students meeting the SSCG eligibility criteria and who enroll in 9+ units per term as part of a disabled student programs and services Academic Accommodation Plan, are considered full time to receive the SSCG award of \$1,298 per term. **Commencing with FY 2025-26, if the DSPS student is also a FFY student** and enrolls in nine or more units per semester, or the quarterly equivalent number of units, and are considered full time as part of a disabled student programs and services Academic Accommodation Plan, these students can receive the SSCG award of \$5,250 per term.

34. QUESTION: IS THERE A MANDATORY PRIORITY TO PAY DSPS STUDENTS FIRST? DO WE PAY THE FULL ELIGIBLE AMOUNT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR?

ANSWER: There is nothing in EdCode requiring a priority policy to pay DSPS students first, nor to pay the full amount for the academic year. Awarding the SSCG grant whether by term or by academic year is a local decision based on the college’s financial aid policies and procedures.

35. QUESTION: HOW OFTEN SHOULD THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE GET THE APPROVED ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION PLAN FOR DSPS STUDENTS?

ANSWER: The Chancellor's Office recommends you get the Approved Academic Accommodation Plans once per academic year. This is a local decision based on the college's financial aid policies and procedures.