

**TITLE 610. STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 25. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS  
SUBCHAPTER 7. OKLAHOMA TUITION AID GRANT PROGRAM**

**610:25-7-1. Program purpose [AMENDED]**

(a) The purpose of the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program is to provide need-based grant assistance to eligible Oklahoma resident students and to serve the state's most needy students in a fair and equitable fashion using funds made available pursuant to the Oklahoma Higher Education Tuition Aid Act ~~and in conjunction with the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program administered by the U.S. Department of Education.~~

(b) The Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program was established to assist Oklahoma college students with demonstrated financial need to meet the cost of attendance at postsecondary institutions in Oklahoma through reimbursement of a portion of their costs of attendance. ~~Congress amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide incentive grants to states for the implementation or expansion of state grant programs. Accordingly, the purpose of the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program (LEAP) is to provide matching funds to encourage operation of state grant programs to improve student access and choice in higher education. States pay all administrative costs and match federal allotment dollars from non-federal resources. Funds not used by one state may be reallocated to others in proportion to their higher education enrollments.~~

**610:25-7-2. Legislative authority [REVOKED]**

~~(a) Federal. Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program is authorized under Title IV, Part A, Subpart 3 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as added by P.L. 92-318, and amended by P.L. 94-482, P.L. 95-43, P.L. 95-566, P.L. 95-96, P.L. 96-374, P.L. 97-35, and P.L. 105-244.~~

~~(b) State. The 1971 Oklahoma Legislature enacted Senate Bill No. 191 authorizing the establishment of a Tuition Aid Grant Program to be administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Senate Bill No. 400 of the 1982 Legislature amended O.S. 1981, Title 70, Sections 626.1 through 626.10 related to tuition aid grants. Senate Bill No. 770 of the 1990 Legislature amended O.S. 1981, Title 70, Section 626.2 related to tuition aid grants and Section 626.7 related to student eligibility qualifications and amount of grant. House Bill No. 1075 of the 1995 Legislature amended O.S. 1991, Title 70, Section 626.6 related to student eligibility qualifications. Senate Bill No. 196 of the 1999 Legislature amended O.S. 1991, Title 70, Sections 626.4 and 626.7 related to student eligibility requirements and the awarding of grants.~~

**610:25-7-6. Eligibility; amount of grant; application procedures and deadlines; disbursement of funds [AMENDED]**

(a) *A college tuition aid grant shall may be awarded annually to each eligible, qualified full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a curriculum leading to a degree or certificate in an institution of collegiate grade or postsecondary institution providing a program of training to prepare students for employment in a recognized occupation in Oklahoma approved or accredited by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or appropriate postsecondary agency in accordance with the following [70 O.S. § 626.7]:*

(1) Eligibility.

(A) Each full-time or part-time resident student's financial eligibility will be based on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculated for federal Title IV student financial aid eligibility. A resident student is one who meets the current Policy on Residence Status of Enrolled Students in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. ~~Full-time and part-time status will be defined in accordance with the current definition for full-time or half-time enrollment status for federal Title IV student financial aid eligibility.~~

(B) *The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall determine by rules and regulations the maximum number of semesters a student may be eligible for grants. [70 O.S. § 626.7]* An otherwise eligible undergraduate student can continue to receive awards as long as they are eligible

for funding from the federal Pell grant program. Graduate students can receive a maximum of eight full-time disbursements.

(C) *No student shall be eligible for grants unless he maintains such minimum standards of academic performance as are required by the institution in which the student is enrolled.* [70 O.S. § 626.7] The minimum standards of academic performance shall be those required by the institution for federal Title IV financial aid recipients.

(D) Students who are incarcerated are not eligible to receive tuition aid grants. Incarceration will be defined in accordance with the current definition for federal Pell grant eligibility.

(E) Students must be enrolled in a postsecondary institution eligible to participate in the federal Title IV student financial aid programs.

(F) Students must meet all general eligibility requirements for recipients of federal Title IV student financial aid. The school of attendance will report each student's completed application status through a reporting system provided by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

(G) *In the event a student for any reason ceases to continue to be enrolled during the course of an academic year, the student shall cease to be eligible for tuition aid.* [70 O.S. § 626.7]

(2) Amount of grant.

(A) *The amount of tuition aid grant to any student under this act [70 O.S. § 626.1 et seq.] for any semester shall represent a percentage not greater than seventy-five percent (75%) of the ~~previous year's~~ tuition and enrollment fees normally charged to residents of the State of Oklahoma by the institution of attendance.* [70 O.S. § 626.7] ~~The tuition and enrollment fees used in calculating the award will be based on standards as follows: full-time undergraduate—30 credit hours per academic year; part-time undergraduate and graduate—12 credit hours per academic year; full-time graduate—18 credit hours per academic year; full-time career technology—at least 900 clock hours; and part-time career technology—at least 450 clock hours. If the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education determine that funds are available to offer awards for summer enrollments, institutions will be notified. At the time of the notification, summer award amounts will be announced.~~

(B) *The percentage of aid awarded shall be based on a need analysis system that is consistent with federal student financial aid regulations.* [70 O.S. § 626.7] ~~The percentage of aid awarded shall be based on the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculated for federal Title IV student financial aid eligibility. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education will issue an annual award payment schedule identifying the maximum eligible EFC and identifying the percentage of aid to be awarded according to EFC ranges.~~

(C) *The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall determine by rules the annual maximum award based on an annual assessment of funds availability. ~~The State Regents shall not increase the annual maximum award amount unless funding is sufficient to serve at least the same number of students as the previous academic year.~~* [70 O.S. § 626.7]

(D) The minimum amount of grant to be awarded is \$200 per academic year or \$100 per semester or other enrollment period.

(E) The award must be included in the student's financial aid package managed by the institution. If the inclusion of the tuition aid grant award results in the student receiving more financial assistance than is needed to meet their cost of education as determined by the institution, the institution will resolve the over-award in accordance with federal Title IV student financial aid regulations. The institution may reduce or revoke the award if necessary to resolve the over-award.

(3) *Application procedures and deadlines. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may adopt rules and regulations, prescribe and provide appropriate forms for application and employ such persons, contract for such services and make such additional expenditures as may be necessary or appropriate for effectuating the provisions of this act.* [70 O.S. § 626.7]

(A) Students will apply for tuition aid grant award consideration by completing the federal student financial aid application. A separate application may be provided for students eligible for state financial aid under 70 O.S. § 3242. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education will receive application data from the federal Title IV student financial aid application system for those students

who indicate their legal state of residence is Oklahoma. Applications with at least one eligible Oklahoma institution selected by the student will be processed for tuition aid grant award consideration.

(B) ~~If necessary, the~~ The application receipt deadline will be reflected in the application document provided annually by the federal Title IV student financial aid application system.

(4) Disbursement of funds.

(A) Funds will be disbursed to students after the institution confirms enrollment status and eligibility in each ~~the fall and spring semesters~~ semester or other enrollment period. ~~For standard fall and spring semester enrollment, one half of the award will be disbursed in the fall semester, and one half of the award will be disbursed in the spring semester. For non-standard enrollment, disbursements will be made consistent with federal Pell Grant regulations.~~

(B) Funds for eligible students will be delivered to the institution for disbursement to students in accordance with the institution's student financial aid disbursement policies.

(b) The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are hereby authorized to determine priorities for participation in this tuition aid program ~~by full-time, part-time, undergraduate and graduate students~~ based on factors including, but not limited to, full-time or part-time enrollment status, undergraduate or graduate enrollment status, unmet financial need, continuous enrollment, nearness to completion of a degree or certificate, state employment needs, eligibility for other state or institutional student financial aid and available state funding. [70 O.S. § 626.8]