

Financial Aid Audits

Calendar Year 2021 Financial Aid Audits

During calendar year 2021, our office will audit state awards disbursed during the 2019-2020 academic year for select Ohio colleges and universities and select Pennsylvania colleges and universities.

We plan to audit the following awards: Ohio College Opportunity Grant, Ohio War Orphans Scholarship, Ohio Safety Officers College Memorial Fund, Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program, Choose Ohio First Scholarship, and Ohio National Guard Scholarship.

- All Ohio and Pennsylvania institutions with financial aid errors based on 2017-2018 audit results will be audited during the 2021 calendar year.
- Ohio and Pennsylvania institutions with zero errors found during the 2017-2018 audit results will not automatically be audited in calendar year 2021.
- Additional institutions to be audited will be chosen by random selection in order to maintain our goals of auditing a set number of institutions yearly. Every institution will be audited **at least** once every three years. This three-year time period began in calendar year 2016.

2019-2020 Review of Student Records

| All Institutions | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| % OF ANOMALIES FROM 17-18 | # OF FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS REVIEWED |
| 0% | 100 |
| 1-3% | 150 |
| Over 3% | 200 |

****If an institution has fewer aid recipients, 100% of the students will be reviewed during the audit process.***

Required Audit Materials

- ISIR
- Application for Admission or Enrollment Agreement
 - Supplemental documentation may be provided upon approval of the Financial Aid Auditor
- Academic Transcript
 - Must include student program of study
 - Additional documentation is **required** to verify credits attempted through consortium agreement or study abroad
- Student Account Statement
- Academic Catalog
- Academic Calendar
- Tuition and Fee Schedule for time of student enrollment
- Cost of attendance charts for all dependency types and housing plans
- Additional documentation may be requested as needed to determine program eligibility
- Completed HEI User Verification form

What is Reviewed- Basics

- Student personal and demographic information
- State of Ohio Residency
- Student Income (Parent income if dependent)
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Program of study
- Credits attempted and earned
- Satisfactory academic progress as indicated in campus catalog
- Last date of attendance
- Tuition and general fee charges
- Federal Aid received
- Other grants and scholarships
- Application of State Grants and Scholarships
- Credit Balances

**EACH PROGRAM HAS A DEFINED SET OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION MAY BE REQUIRED TO SUBSTATNTIATE ELIGIBILITY**

Tips for Audit Preparation

- Double check awards after drop-add period OR course withdraw
 - If a student drops, or adds a course, adjustments to funding may be necessary
- Use the OCOG calculator to determine refunds due to ODHE when a student withdraws and has a tuition adjustment
 - MOST audit findings are the result of student withdraw.
 - If tuition and general fees are adjusted, OCOG will need adjusted as well
 - USE the OCOG Calculator
- Remember that ODHE audits AY's approximately 6 months after the close of the AY.
 - Make sure that all REQUIRED audit materials are available including ISIR's
- If you have questions, ASK.
 - Do not wait until an issue arises to seek guidance.
- Attend trainings provided by ODHE or ask for personal training sessions if additional information is needed or wanted
- Have current guidance memos available when packaging students.
- Self-audit student financial aid records periodically to assure accuracy in with all funding sources.
 - Make necessary corrections prior to audit period
 - Review materials prior to sending to ODHE
- Be thorough

OCOg Exceptions

OCO² Exceptions

- Students with Intellectual Disabilities
- Foster Youth
- Treatment of Veteran Benefits
- Dual Enrollment
- Third-term OCO²

Students with Intellectual Disabilities

- Statute maintains that a student should be considered for an OCOG award who is enrolled in a “comprehensive transition and postsecondary program that is certified by the United States department of education”. For purposes of this section, a **"comprehensive transition and postsecondary program"** means a degree, certificate, or non-degree program that is designed to support persons with intellectual disabilities who are receiving academic, career, technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education in order to prepare for gainful employment as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1140.” In keeping with federal guidelines, the institution must keep supporting documentation in the event of an audit.
- **All other OCOG eligibility must be met. No OCOG awards are generally available to students attending institutions in the community college or regional campus sector. This maintains for a student that is enrolled in a degree, certificate, or non-degree program designed to support individuals with intellectual disabilities.** However, students in these programs that otherwise qualify for foster youth status, Federal Veteran’s Education benefits, or third-term OCOG, may be eligible for up to the public main campus OCOG award amount.

Foster Youth at Community Colleges

- Qualified foster youth at Ohio community colleges continue to be eligible for OCOG for 2020-2021. Statute requires that for otherwise OCOG eligible students, their living expenses are to be added to their tuition/general fees to determine their OCOG award amount
- Qualified foster youth should receive a letter from the Ohio Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program that lists their ETV award
- Could be eligible for the 2020-2021 maximum public OCOG amount of \$2,000
- To override the \$0 OCOG eligibility that will normally populate all community college students on the eligibility query, a student list must be sent to our office via the secure file transfer site, which can be found at: <https://heifx.ohiohighered.org>. The ETV letter does not need to be sent to our office but should be documented in case of an audit.
- For ease of administration, a calculator is available on our website for this purpose.

Treatment of Federal Veterans' Education Benefits

- Statute maintains allowance for a student that is receiving federal veterans' education benefits under the "All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program," 38 U.S.C. 3001 et seq., or "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program," 38 U.S.C. 3301 et seq., or any successor program, to use their OCOG award towards their housing and living expenses, in addition to their tuition/general fees. **The Chapters included in this rule are Chapters 30, 31, 33, and the Frye Scholarship.**
- The living expenses to consider are the full amount contained in each student's institutional cost of attendance. If housing costs and living expenses are not included on the student's billing statement, documentation of how the student's charges were calculated or how the average cost was arrived at must be kept. In keeping with federal guidelines, the institution must keep this documentation in the event of an audit. Note that since living expenses are included in these students' state cost of attendance, in this case, OCOG is not tuition specific and the student **may be eligible for the 2020-2021 maximum sector OCOG award amount.** For ease of administration, a calculator is available on our website for this purpose.
- To override the \$0 OCOG eligibility that will normally populate all community college students on the eligibility query, a student list must be sent to our office via the secure file transfer site, which can be found at: <https://heifx.ohiohighered.org>. All other sectors do not need to submit a student list as the eligibility query is already populated with the maximum award amounts.

Dual Enrollment at University Regional Campuses

- The combined number of credits for students that are enrolled at both the public university main campus and the public university regional campus can be counted toward determining a student's enrollment status for OCOG eligibility if EITHER (a) the majority of the credit hours (51%) are being taken at the public university main campus OR (b) the student is being charged full main campus tuition and general fee rates at the regional campus.
- For example, a student enrolled in 7 credits at the public university main campus and 5 credits at the public university regional campus would be eligible for a full-time OCOG award since they are enrolled greater than or equal to 51% at the main campus. A student enrolled in 6 credits at the public university main campus and 6 credits at the public university regional campus would be eligible for a full-time OCOG award if they are being charged main campus tuition and fees. In these cases a student attending a public university main campus can have their public university regional campus credits counted toward their OCOG enrollment status even though the university regional campus sector may not be 'OCOG eligible' under the Pell-first structure.
- For ease of administration, a calculator is available on our website for this purpose.

Third-term OCOG

- The following third-term OCOG guidance only applies to community colleges, regional campuses, and the following institutions: Allegheny Wesleyan, Central State University, God's Bible College, Grace College and Seminary, Shawnee State University, Trinity School of Nursing, Valor Christian College, and Western Governor's University.
- For students attending year-round at a public community college, regional campus, or an institution with an adjusted award amount, statute now states that an OCOG award may be distributed for the third-term of the academic year, once Pell grants have been exhausted for that year.
- This exception is **only** for students that are Pell eligible.
- All other OCOG eligibility requirements remain.
- *Note that with the continued implementation of year-round Pell grants, an institution may find less students that would qualify for third-term OCOG.*

20-21 Full-Time Award Chart for Third-Term

| *Based upon full-time (FT) enrollment status | | | | |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Institution | 1st term* | 2nd term* | 3rd Term* |
| Public | Community Colleges | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,000 |
| | Regional Campuses | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,000 |
| | Central State University Continuing Students | \$128 | \$128 | \$1,000 |
| | Central State University Tuition Guarantee Cohort 1 Students | \$328 | \$328 | \$1,000 |
| | Shawnee State University Continuing Students ** | \$746 | \$746 | \$1,000 |
| <i>** Shawnee State's tuition guarantee cohorts 1 and 2 are eligible for the full public award amounts each term.</i> | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Private, Non-Profit | Allegheny Wesleyan | \$228 | \$228 | \$1,750 |
| | God's Bible College | \$402 | \$402 | \$1,750 |
| | Grace College & Seminary | \$944 | \$944 | \$1,750 |
| | Trinity School of Nursing | \$1,512 | \$1,512 | \$1,750 |
| | Valor Christian College | \$212 | \$212 | \$1,750 |
| | Western Governor's University | \$198 | \$198 | \$1,750 |

20-21 Three-Quarter-Time Award Chart for Third-Term

| *Based upon three-quarter-time (TT) enrollment status | | | | |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Institution | 1st term* | 2nd term* | 3rd Term* |
| Public | Community Colleges | \$0 | \$0 | \$750 |
| | Regional Campuses | \$0 | \$0 | \$750 |
| | Central State University Continuing Students | \$96.00 | \$96.00 | \$750 |
| | Central State University Tuition Guarantee Cohort 1 Students | \$246.00 | \$246.00 | \$750 |
| | Shawnee State University Continuing Students** | \$559.50 | \$559.50 | \$750 |
| <i>** Shawnee State's tuition guarantee cohorts 1 and 2 are eligible for the full public award amounts each term.</i> | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Private, Non-Profit | Allegheny Wesleyan | \$171.00 | \$171.00 | \$1,312.50 |
| | God's Bible College | \$301.50 | \$301.50 | \$1,312.50 |
| | Grace College & Seminary | \$708.00 | \$708.00 | \$1,312.50 |
| | Trinity School of Nursing | \$1,134 | \$1,134.00 | \$1,312.50 |
| | Valor Christian College | \$159 | \$159.00 | \$1,312.50 |
| | Western Governor's University | \$148.50 | \$148.50 | \$1,312.50 |

20-21 Half-Time Award Chart for Third-Term

| *Based upon half-time (HT) enrollment status | | | | |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Institution | 1st term* | 2nd term* | 3rd Term* |
| Public | Community Colleges | \$0 | \$0 | \$500 |
| | Regional Campuses | \$0 | \$0 | \$500 |
| | Central State University Continuing Students | \$64 | \$64 | \$500 |
| | Central State University Tuition Guarantee Cohort 1 Students | \$164 | \$164 | \$500 |
| | Shawnee State University Continuing Students** | \$373 | \$373 | \$500 |
| <i>** Shawnee State's tuition guarantee cohorts 1 and 2 are eligible for the full public award amounts each term.</i> | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Private, Non-Profit | Allegheny Wesleyan | \$114 | \$114 | \$875 |
| | God's Bible College | \$201 | \$201 | \$875 |
| | Grace College & Seminary | \$472 | \$472 | \$875 |
| | Trinity School of Nursing | \$756 | \$756 | \$875 |
| | Valor Christian College | \$106 | \$106 | \$875 |
| | Western Governor's University | \$99 | \$99 | \$875 |

20-21 Quarter-Time Award Chart for Third-Term

| *Based upon quarter-time (QT) enrollment status | | | | |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Institution | 1st term* | 2nd term* | 3rd Term* |
| Public | Community Colleges | \$0 | \$0 | \$250 |
| | Regional Campuses | \$0 | \$0 | \$250 |
| | Central State University Continuing Students | \$32.00 | \$32.00 | \$250 |
| | Central State University Tuition Guarantee Cohort 1 Students | \$82.00 | \$82.00 | \$250 |
| | Shawnee State University Continuing Students ** | \$186.50 | \$186.50 | \$250 |
| <i>** Shawnee State's tuition guarantee cohorts 1 and 2 are eligible for the full public award amounts each term.</i> | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Private, Non-Profit | Allegheny Wesleyan | \$57.00 | \$57.00 | \$437.50 |
| | God's Bible College | \$100.50 | \$100.50 | \$437.50 |
| | Grace College & Seminary | \$236.00 | \$236.00 | \$437.50 |
| | Trinity School of Nursing | \$378 | \$378.00 | \$437.50 |
| | Valor Christian College | \$53 | \$53.00 | \$437.50 |
| | Western Governor's University | \$49.50 | \$49.50 | \$437.50 |

Other ODHE Financial Aid Programs

Choose Ohio First Scholarship

<https://www.ohiohighered.org/cof>

- State funded merit-based scholarship to recruit students into STEMM programs at universities or colleges to enhance regional educational and economic strengths and meet the needs of the state's regional economies.
- Institutions are selected through an RFP process every 3-4 years. **2020 RFP opened in September**
- To be eligible, student must be:
 - Undergraduate
 - Ohio resident
 - Full-time or part-time study
 - Majoring in a STEMM program for which institution has a COF award
 - 3.0 GPA recommendation – Support Plans for below 3.0

- Awards cover: Tuition & general fees, book vouchers, and meal plans
- Minimum student award: \$1,500 per year
- Maximum student award: \$8,112 (2020-2021) **subject to change annually (based on one-half of the highest in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees, per ORC 3333.66)*
- COF is now in the HEI system as of July. Summer COF scholarship reimbursement requests will be submitted in HEI.
- A WebEx demonstration can be found here:
<https://www.ohiohighered.org/hei/faqs-finaid> under HEI overview

GEAR UP Ohio Scholarship Program

www.ohiohighered.org/gearup

- The grant – from the U.S. Department of Education – is designed to help low-income and first-generation college students prepare for college and receive the support needed to achieve success in post-secondary education.
- Ohio was awarded a GEAR UP grant in 2014
- Funding is used to provide services to students beginning at the 7th grade.
- Funding may also be used to provide college scholarships to eligible students.

To be eligible, student must:

- Successfully participate in GEAR UP Ohio programming for one year or more
- Graduate from an eligible high school **and**
- Enroll as an undergraduate student at an eligible institution

GEAR UP Ohio Partners

| City | College Access Organization | IHE | School |
|-------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Parma | College Now Greater Cleveland | Cuyahoga Community College (West) | Green Briar Middle |
| | | | Hillside Middle |
| | | | Shiloh Middle |
| | | | Normandy High |
| | | | Parma High |
| Marion | United Way of Marion County | Ohio State University, Marion | Valley Forge High |
| | | | Grant Middle |
| Norwood | Cincinnati Youth Collaborative | University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash | Harding High |
| | | | Norwood Middle |
| Crooksville | Scholarship Central: Muskingum County Community Foundation | Zane State College | Norwood High |
| | | | Crooksville Intermediate |
| | | | Crooksville High |

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