

## Second Chance Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions (updated 07/07/2022)

### From Potential Students:

- **I took some classes at a college a few years ago and want to finish my degree. Do I qualify for this grant?**
  - Yes. Students who stopped out of (withdrew from) an Ohio [public university](#) (main campus OR branch campus) or [community college](#) are eligible for the Second Chance Grant if they meet the criteria below:
    - You are a current resident of the state of Ohio
    - Your last date of attendance was between one and five years ago
    - You have not yet earned a bachelor's degree from ANY college or university
    - You were in good academic standing with no disciplinary issues when you stopped out
    - You complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) and accept any need-based state or federal grants to which you are entitled
    - You are not a recipient of any of the following Ohio scholarships: [Choose Ohio First](#), [Ohio Safety Officers College Memorial Fund](#), [War Orphans and Severely Disabled Veteran's Scholarship Program](#), [Ohio National Guard Scholarship](#)
- **I earned a certificate when I went to a community college before. Do I qualify for the grant?**
  - Yes. Students who earned a certificate or an industry certification but have not earned a degree are eligible for the Second Chance Grant provided they meet all other qualifications for the grant. Students MUST be pursuing a credential or degree beyond what they currently possess, so if you have already possess a certificate, you will need to be pursuing a degree (associate or bachelor's).
- **I have an associate degree. Do I qualify for the grant?**
  - Yes. Students who have earned an associate degree are eligible for the Second Chance Grant if they meet all of the other eligibility criteria and are pursuing a bachelor's degree. The Second Chance Grant may not be used to earn a second associate degree or a certificate or certification if a recipient already has an associate degree.
- **I tried college before and I'm not interested in earning a degree, but I do want to earn a certification to get a better job with better pay. Can this grant be used for a certification?**
  - Yes. Students who have some college credit but do not yet have a degree and are now seeking a non-degree certification or certificate are eligible for the Second Chance Grant program.
- **I'm interested in the grant, but I don't want to restart my college career until next fall. Will the grant be available then?**
  - The Second Chance Grant is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis until all available funds have been distributed. There is no guarantee that funding will still be available in future academic terms.
- **Do I have to go back to the school that I left to use this grant?**
  - No. While you can use the Second Chance Grant at your previous institution, you don't have to. You can use the grant at any qualifying school regardless of which Ohio public university or community college that you attended previously.
- **At which schools can the Second Chance Grant be used?**

- The Second Chance Grant can be used at nearly any school that is approved to operate in Ohio. These include:
  - [State university main and regional campuses](#)
  - [Community colleges, state community colleges, and technical colleges](#)
  - [Ohio Technical Centers](#)
  - [Private, non-profit colleges and universities](#)
  - [Private, for-profit colleges and universities](#)
  - [Career colleges and schools](#)
- If you have a question about whether a school in which you are interested qualifies for participation in the Second Chance Grant program, contact that school's financial aid office or email the Ohio Department of Higher Education at [secondchancegrant@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:secondchancegrant@highered.ohio.gov).
- **What is Cost of Attendance (COA)?**
  - Cost of Attendance is the amount of money it will cost for a student to attend a college or university. COA is typically calculated as an estimate of the cost of tuition and fees, room and board (or living expenses), books, supplies, transportation, allowance for child or dependent care, and other miscellaneous costs.
- **What does it mean when it says, "Second Chance grants shall be applied against the student's cost of attendance (COA) after all need-based federal and state grants have been applied?"**
  - To receive a Second Chance Grant, a student must apply for federal and state financial aid using the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). If the student qualifies for any need-based grants ([Federal Pell Grants](#), [Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants](#), or [Ohio College Opportunity Grants](#)), the student will need to accept those grants. The amount of those grants is subtracted from the student's COA, and the Second Chance Grant (up to \$2,000) is applied to the remainder.
- **What if the remainder of my COA is less than the \$2,000 of the Second Chance Grant? For example, what if the remainder of my COA is only \$1,500 after accepting federal and state need-based grants?**
  - In this case, the Second Chance Grant would be applied to the remaining \$1,500, completely covering the COA for this term. The remaining \$500 would roll over to the next term that the student is enrolled. If the student leaves after this term (graduates or withdraws from the college or university), the college or university will return the remaining \$500 to the Ohio Department of Higher Education.
- **How do I apply for the Second Chance Grant?**
  - Students don't apply for the second Chance Grant, themselves. The financial aid office of the school that you will be attending will submit an application for you. Make sure to speak to a financial aid representative at your prospective school about the Second Chance Grant program.
- **I'm still a bit confused. Who can I contact with questions?**
  - If you know which institution you are thinking of attending, you can contact that institution's financial aid department for more information. You can also contact the Ohio Department of Higher Education by emailing [secondchancegrant@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:secondchancegrant@highered.ohio.gov).

## From Institutions:

- **Why must institutions pre-register, and what is involved in the pre-registration process?**
  - The pre-registration process is a simple web-based form that provides ODHE with some necessary information:
    - For institutions that are not already involved in the HEI system, the pre-registration process allows ODHE to enter your institution into the system, which is necessary for payment of the grants. ODHE will also verify that a pre-registered institution has a state OAKS supplier ID. If an institution does not have an OAKS supplier ID, ODHE will work with the institution in establishing one.
    - The pre-registration process establishes the designated institutional employee who will have access to the online application portal.
    - The pre-registration process requires the institution to note its census date, which is necessary for payment of the grant.
    - The pre-registration process requests a rough estimate of the number of grant awards that the institution anticipates utilizing. This allows ODHE to better plan how funds are likely to be distributed in order to avoid making offers beyond the allocated \$3 million.
- **I don't know that we will have any qualified students. Should my institution pre-register?**
  - There is no downside to pre-registering your institution. Pre-registration does not engender a commitment on your institution's part, and you can estimate the number of awards at zero. The advantage is that you are prepared if you do have a qualified student enroll.
- **How long will pre-registration be open and available?**
  - Pre-registration will be available as long as the program is operating and funds are available.
- **When will the online application portal be available and how long will it be active?**
  - The online application portal is actively under construction and is anticipated to be available on November 1, 2021. The online application portal will be available as long as the program is operating and funds are available.
- **When should my institution begin marketing this program given that the online application portal will not be available until November 1?**
  - ODHE recommends marketing the Second Chance Grant program as soon as possible. There is some work required on the part of the institution to verify that the student qualifies (including ensuring that the student completes the FAFSA). ODHE anticipates that there may be a significant "batch" of applications on November 1 when the online portal opens.
- **What should our institution make sure to communicate when marketing the program to students?**
  - It is important to let qualifying students know that there is a limited pool of funds. As such, it is possible that not all qualifying students will be able to receive a grant.
- **How does the first-come, first-serve nature of the program operate?**

- Once the online application portal is available, the designated institutional employee will be able to add qualified students to the portal **who have been admitted to the institution**. Each application will be date/time-stamped to indicate when it has been completed. Upon receipt of a completed application, ODHE will reserve a \$2,000 award for that student. Please note that only completed applications will result in an award reservation.
- This process will continue until such time that 1,500 awards have been reserved.
- The institution will verify the qualified student's enrollment through the online application portal within 10 working days of the institution's census date. Upon receipt of enrollment verification, ODHE will pay the award(s) through the HEI payment system.
- **Are there limits on what credentials or degrees Second Chance grantees may be pursuing?**
  - Second Chance grantees must be pursuing a bachelor's degree, associate degree, undergraduate certificate, or certification. There are no restrictions on a particular major or program. Students who already possess a degree or credential **MUST** be pursuing a degree or credential beyond that which they already possess in order to qualify for a Second Chance Grant.
    - Students possessing an associate degree must be pursuing a bachelor's degree.
    - Students possessing a certificate must be pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree.
    - Students possessing a certification must be pursuing a certificate, associate degree, or bachelor's degree.
- **I notice that institutions receiving grant funds agree to provide additional data on grantees. What are the data reporting requirements for the Second Chance Grant?**
  - ODHE anticipates that institutions will be asked to report on grantees each term that they are enrolled. A report will be sent to each institution that receives an award each term. While it is possible that there may be some additional data necessary, it is expected that the initial reporting required will be the following fields (per grantee):
    - Student Identifier
    - Term and Year
    - Cost of Attendance for the Term
    - Amount of State/Federal Need-Based Grants Awarded
    - Amount of Second Chance Grant Used for the Term (if any)
    - Current Program of Study
    - Previous Institution
    - Most Recent Previous Enrollment Date
    - Program of Study at Previous Institution
    - Credential or Degree earned at Previous Institution (if any)
  - After the grantee's initial term, it is expected that reporting required will be the following fields (per grantee):
    - Term and Year
    - Amount of Second Chance Grant Used for the Term (if any)
    - Current Registration Status
    - Credits Earned Since Enrollment (if any)
    - Credential or Degree Earned Since Enrollment (if any)

- **The list of qualifying institutions appears exhaustive; are there any additional considerations required for an institution to qualify for this program?**
  - In order to encourage potential students to earn a degree or certificate, the Second Chance Grant Program was designed to be inclusive of a wide variety of post-secondary institutions approved to operate in the State of Ohio. To qualify to receive Second Chance Grant funds, the institution must be eligible to participate in Title IV student financial aid programs.
- **Other than information on the website, how is the ODHE promoting this program across the state?**
  - While ODHE is engaged in some marketing of the program through press releases, social media and the website, it is our hope that individual institutions will market the program to potential students.
- **Does the student need to be a new re-enrollment to the institution, or can the funds be applied to a student who is currently in a program?**
  - The student does need to be a new enrollee at the institution as of January 1. Current students are not eligible for the Second Chance Grant Program.
- **The institution I represent is eligible to participate in Title IV student financial aid programs, but several of our programs do not qualify for financial aid due to length. Is a FAFSA still required for these students seeking a Second Chance Grant in these shorter programs?**
  - Yes, the FAFSA is still required even if a program is not Title IV eligible.
- **The institution I represent is eligible to participate in Title IV student financial aid programs, but is not actively participating in Title IV financial aid programs. Are enrollees to my institution eligible for a Second Chance Grant, and would they need to fill out a FAFSA?**
  - An institution is eligible to participate in the Second Chance Grant program as long as it is Title IV eligible (and meets all requirements as a qualifying institution, even if it is not active in Title IV Financial Aid programs. Any potential Second Chance Grantee would still need to fill out the FAFSA.
- **Should regional campuses apply as separate institutions, or does the University apply as one institution?**
  - Universities should apply as one institution. A single designated individual will need to process all applications for both main and regional campuses.
- **It seems clear that a student who possess a certification can pursue a certificate if they did not receive any certificate previously. For example, a student who has a phlebotomy certification (qualified through work experience) could pursue an EKG certificate as long as they didn't earn a phlebotomy certificate (or any other certification) previously. Is this correct?**
  - This is correct. The intention is to incentivize an upward track in terms of educational attainment, ideally stimulating a life-long learning approach to education.
- **What is meant by "Census Date?"**
  - The census date is the point in an academic program or term when a student's enrollment is verified for financial aid purposes. Institutions participating in the Second Chance Grant Program will verify applicants' enrollment through the online application

portal within two weeks of the census date. Institutions will need to indicate a census date for each application submitted via the online portal. Please note that this census date is for the individual applicant and should reflect that applicant's first term (semester or quarter) of attendance. For most students this will be the start of a traditional academic term, but if a student will be taking their **first** course(s) in an alternate term (such as courses that begin in the second half of the semester), the census date recorded should be for that alternate term.

- For institutions that do not use a traditional academic term (semesters or quarters), census date (for financial aid purposes) is calculated as the point in which 20% of the course/program has been completed. Please see the table below for more detail.
- Note: the census date may be after the point in which a student will be able to withdraw for a full (100%) refund.

Step #	Explanation	Example
1	Determine how many days there are between the Start Date and the End Date, by subtracting the Start Date from the End Date.	Start Date: February 1, 2021 End Date: May 11, 2021 End Date - Start Date = <b>99 days</b>
2	How many days does this cover on a calendar? (One more day than shown in Step 1 because you have to include the Start Date as well).	<b>100 days</b>
3	In order to reflect the correct number of days, the formula adds one day to the difference in Step 1.	11/05/2021 - 1/02/2021 + 1 = <b>100 days</b>
4	Then find the number of day that is 20% of the way through the unit.	20% of 100 days = 20th day
5	Determine the Census Day (taking into account workdays).	Day 1 = February 1, 2021 <b>Census Day = February 21, 2021</b> - but as this is a Sunday, it is changed to February 22, 2021, a Monday.