

# Federal Student Grant Programs

The federal government provides grant funds for students attending colleges, career schools, and universities. Grants, unlike loans, are sources of free money and do not have to be repaid.\* The major federal student grant programs are briefly described below.

| Federal Grant Program  | Program Details   | Annual Award (subject to change)  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Federal Pell Grant</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded to undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need and who have not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree; in some cases, students enrolled in a postbaccalaureate teacher certification program may receive a Federal Pell Grant</li> <li>A student who meets certain requirements might be eligible for a larger Pell Grant if his or her parent died as result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan or in the line of duty as a public safety officer</li> <li>Pell Grant lifetime eligibility is limited to 12 semesters or the equivalent</li> </ul>   | Up to \$6,195 for the 2019–20 award year  |
| <b>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awarded to undergraduate students who have exceptional financial need and who have not earned a bachelor's or graduate degree</li> <li>Federal Pell Grant recipients receive priority</li> <li>Not all schools participate in this program</li> <li>Funds depend on availability at the school; check for the school's deadline</li> </ul>   | Up to \$4,000 a year  |
| <b>Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or graduate students who are enrolled in programs designed to prepare them to teach in a high-need field at the elementary or secondary school level</li> <li>Must agree to serve for a minimum of four years (within eight years of completing or ceasing enrollment in the program for which the student received the grant funds) as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a school or educational service agency that serves low-income students</li> <li>Must attend a participating school and meet certain academic achievement requirements</li> <li>Failure to complete the teaching service commitment will result in the grant being converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid</li> </ul> | Up to \$3,764 for grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2019, and before Oct. 1, 2020    |
| <b>Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For students whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of performing military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after the events of 9/11</li> <li>Must be ineligible for a Pell Grant due to having less financial need than is required to receive Federal Pell Grant funds</li> <li>Must have been younger than 24 years old or enrolled at least part-time at a college or career school at the time of the parent's or guardian's death</li> </ul>  | Up to \$5,829.50 for grants first disbursed on or after Oct. 1, 2019, and before Oct. 1, 2020 |

\*Occasionally a student may have to pay back part or all of a grant if, for example, he or she withdraws from school early or doesn't fulfill the requirements of the TEACH Grant service obligation.

Looking for more sources of free money? Try [StudentAid.gov/scholarships](https://studentaid.gov/scholarships) for tips on where to look and for a link to a free scholarship search tool. For more information on grants, visit [StudentAid.gov/grants](https://studentaid.gov/grants). Find this fact sheet at [StudentAid.gov/resources#grant-programs](https://studentaid.gov/resources#grant-programs).

## Have questions? Contact or visit the following:

- [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- a school's financial aid office
- [studentaid@ed.gov](mailto:studentaid@ed.gov)
- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
- TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-730-8913