Memo

To: Financial Aid Administrators
From: Elizabeth K. McCloud
Dept: PA State Grant & Special Programs
Date: July 2021
Re: PA State Grant Program – COVID-19 Update

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has continuously reviewed the impact of COVID-19 since the pandemic began affecting students and schools in early 2020.

More specifically, last September, the PHEAA Board of Directors exercised its authority as administrator and servicer of the PA State Grant Program to provide relief to impacted students while the Governor’s disaster declaration remained in effect. Now that the disaster declaration has ended, this memo serves to update the financial aid community on what program adjustments remain in place for the Summer 2021 term and what to expect for the 2021-22 Academic Year.

Summer 2021: The following relief measures continue to be in place for the remainder of the term.

1) **PA State Grant Program – Enrollment Mode:** Students enrolled at Non-Headquartered and Domiciled (Non-HQD) Institutions and reported as enrollment mode 3 or 4 for the Summer 2021 term will not receive an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) notification letter but will instead remain eligible for their PA State Grant award.

2) **PA State Grant Program – Academic Progress:** As was communicated earlier this summer, students who received incomplete grades for the 2020-21 Academic Year or 2021 Summer terms or who otherwise did not achieve satisfactory Academic Progress as a result of COVID-19 related impact or factors can request an exception or appeal their eligibility. The student must report the medical condition, family illness, or other extenuating circumstance that contributed to the failure. The Academic Progress Exception Form and instructions are available on PHEAA.org/forms under General Documents and Forms. Please note that a document titled SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR or SUMMER 2021 COVID-19 RELATED ACADEMIC PROGRESS EXCEPTION REQUESTS has been added to the site to provide further guidance for students who lacked credits due to a withdrawal or failure to pass courses during the 2020-21 Academic Year or Summer 2021 terms for a COVID-19 related reason.
3) **PA State Work-Study Program:** Employers may submit hours for approval if they continue to pay a student employee for the hours the student would have worked while the student is quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure or COVID-19 convalescence.

**2021-22 Award Year:** The following relief measure continues to be in place for 2021-22. No other accommodations will be provided in relation to the pandemic.

1) **PA State Grant Program – Academic Progress:** Students who received incomplete grades for the 2020-21 Academic Year or 2021 Summer terms or who otherwise did not achieve satisfactory Academic Progress as a result of COVID-19 related impact or factors can request an exception or appeal their eligibility. The student must report the medical condition, family illness, or other extenuating circumstance that contributed to the failure. The Academic Progress Exception Form and instructions are available on [PHEAA.org/forms](http://PHEAA.org/forms) under General Documents and Forms. Please note that a document titled SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR or SUMMER 2021 COVID-19 RELATED ACADEMIC PROGRESS EXCEPTION REQUESTS has been added to the site to provide further guidance for students who lacked credits due to a withdrawal or failure to pass courses during the 2020-21 Academic Year or Summer 2021 terms for a COVID-19 related reason.

If you have any questions concerning the contents of this memorandum, please contact PA State Grant and Special Programs at 1-800-443-0646, option 3, option 1 (for PA State Grants), a private number reserved for the use of financial aid administrators or email sghelp@pheaa.org.

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