

Florida First Generation Matching Grant Program

PURPOSE

The 2006 Florida Legislature created Section 1009.701, Florida Statutes, the First Generation Matching Grant Program. This is a need-based program that provides financial aid funds to Florida undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need and whose parents have not earned a baccalaureate degree. The First Generation Matching Grant Program is effective as of Fall 2006 term. The 2009 Florida Legislature implemented two revisions to the program as noted in Section I items 7 & 8 below.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AT HCC

I. Initial and Renewal Students must

1. *Be a first generation student as defined* as neither of the student's parents earned a degree at the baccalaureate level or higher. For students who reside or resided in a single parent household, such parent cannot have earned a degree at the baccalaureate level or higher.
2. Complete an annual Federal Application for Free Financial Aid (FAFSA) application and indicate parent(s)' highest school completed as "High School".
3. Be an eligible US citizen or eligible noncitizen.
4. Be degree-seeking undergraduate student.
5. Be classified as a Florida resident as recognized by the college's Admissions Office.
6. Meet the institutional Financial Aid Standards of Academic Progress.
7. As of 2009-2010, Expected Family Contribution (EFC) may not exceed 4617 (as required by Florida Statute Section 1009.50(2) (c)).
8. As of 2009-2010, must have financial aid need for the amount awarded (as required by Florida Statute Section 1009.50).

II. How to Apply

1. Complete the annual FAFSA application.
2. Beginning Fall 2007, students will also need to complete an HCC's Institutional Scholarship Application and request consideration for the First Generation Scholarship program.

III. Initial and Renewal Priority Selection Process

Due to limited funds, the Financial Aid Office implemented the following priorities for selecting students to receive the First Generation Matching Grant:

1. Select students who have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better and are enrolled full-time. If there are available remaining funds, the process will select students with the cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better and are enrolled 6 to 11 credit hours.
2. If remaining funds are available, the next group of students to award is students with the cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better and are enrolled full-time. If there are available remaining funds, the process will select students with the cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better and are enrolled 6 to 11 credits.

IV. Awarding Amount

Currently, eligible students will receive up to \$500 per term.

V. Appeals

Students who are on Financial Aid Standards of Progress Suspension are not eligible to receive this grant. Students may appeal utilizing the same process as other Title IV Financial Aid Programs.