

Lifetime Eligibility for Federal Pell Grant:

New regulations effective July 1, 2012 limits the receipt of a Pell Grant to a lifetime limit of up to 6 full-time years (600%) which is equal to 12 full-time semesters. This regulation applies to all institutions that award Federal Pell grant funds: community colleges, vocational schools, and four year public and private universities. The U.S. Department of Education will tack the limits for students' eligibility. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 provided changes to the Federal Pell grant eligibility and reduced the lifetime limit for students. The bill reduced the number of semesters a student is eligible to receive Pell funds from 18 semesters to 12 semesters.

Regardless of the Pell Grant amount (i.e. maximum or minimum Pell eligibility), if a student receives the full year amount then he/she has received 100%.

For example, if a student's Pell Grant for the year is for \$5,000 and receives \$2,500 in Fall and \$2,500 in Spring. The student has received the entire \$5,000 or 100% for the year.

Fall \$2,500 (50%)	Spring \$2,500 (50%)	= to 100% eligibility (which is 2 semesters at fulltime)
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The 600% total eligibility applies at all schools and colleges. However, once the student has earned a Bachelor's Degree, he/she is no longer eligible for a Pell Grant even if he/she has not received the entire 600% eligibility. In addition, a student must also meet and maintain satisfactory academic progress standards to remain eligible each year.

UA Rich Mountain (UARM) is required to adhere to this policy. Since UARM is a community college, we are required to take half of the 6 full-time semesters. Since this is the case, a student is eligible for 3 full-time years (300%) or 6 semesters. UARM will also have to look at previous institutions that the student attended when determining the semesters of eligibility that the student has remaining at a community college.

For example, Jane started UARM in the fall of 2011 and attended spring 2012. She was enrolled full-time both semesters. After reviewing her financial aid file, it was determined that Jane attended 2 other colleges where she received financial aid for 4 semesters. Since Jane has 2 semesters at UARM and 4 semesters from previous institutions, she would not be eligible for the

Federal Pell grant at UARM. She has reached her 300% at a community college. Jane would have to transfer to a university to be eligible for Federal Pell grant funds again.

Students that have questions about their eligibility should contact the UARM Financial Aid Office.