Institute for Paralegal Studies
820 N Michigan Ave | Chicago, Ilinois 60611
p (312) 915-6820 | f (312) 915-6508
paralegal@luc.edu

Institute for Paralegal Studies Students are not eligible to receive the Pell Grant. The following two pages are from the federal handbook regarding Pell Grants and the highlighted areas explain why Paralegal Studies students at Loyola University Chicago are not eligible.

Student Eligibility

CHAPTER 1

A school must ensure that each recipient meets the eligibility requirements for the Federal Pell Grant Program. In this chapter, we discuss Pell-specific eligibility requirements.

GENERAL FSA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To receive a Pell Grant, the student must meet the general eligibility requirements for FSA aid. These requirements are discussed in detail in Chapter 3 of the *FSA Handbook: Student Eligibility (Volume 1).*

PELL SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Two Pell-specific eligibility requirements are that the student must either be an undergraduate or be enrolled in an eligible postbaccalaureate teaching credential program, and not be incarcerated in a federal or state penal institution.

Undergraduate Student

Undergraduate Student Definition and Requirement Cite
34 CFR 690.2, 34 CFR 690.6, HEA Sec 401(c)

In general, a student must be an undergraduate to receive a Pell Grant (see "Eligible Postbaccalaureate Program" for an exception). For Pell purposes, the regulations define an undergraduate as one who is enrolled in an undergraduate course of study **and** who hasn't earned a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent or a first professional degree. ("Professional degree" means a degree offered by professional programs such as pharmacy, dentistry, or veterinary medicine.)

Length of undergraduate study

An undergraduate course of study under the Pell definition is one that usually doesn't exceed 4 academic years or is a program of 4 to 5 academic years designed to lead to a baccalaureate or first professional degree. If the program is longer than 5 years (for example, a 6-year pharmacy program), then students enrolled in that program are considered undergraduate students only for the first 4 academic years of the program.

Foreign or unaccredited degree

If a student's baccalaureate or professional degree is from an unaccredited or foreign school, or isn't accepted or recognized at the school of current enrollment, this is irrelevant, and they are ineligible for Pell Grant funds. Also, if a student makes an undocumented claim of a degree on the FAFSA, they are likewise

Incorrect Reporting on FAFSA

When an undergraduate student incorrectly reports on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that he or she will be a graduate student or has a bachelor's degree, this information **must** be corrected. Because the application information shows that the student isn't an undergraduate, the Department's records will show that he or she is ineligible for Pell. If the application information isn't corrected, the school won't be able to award Pell funds from the Department for that student.

Postbaccalaureate Program Eligibility Cite

34CFR 690.6(c)

Eligible Postbaccalaureate Program and the FAFSA

Normally, a student who indicates on the FAFSA that he or she has a bachelor's degree won't be listed in the Department's records as -a Pell-eligible student, and the school won't be able to receive Pell funds for the student. However, in order to allow students who are eligible under the postbaccalaureate program provision to be paid, students who correctly report that they have a bachelor's degree but also indicate on the FAFSA that they're in a teaching credential program will be listed as Pell-eligible students. Of course, you must determine whether the student actually qualifies for the Pell under the eligible postbaccalaureate program provision.

Completing Bachelor's Requirements Without Receiving a Degree

Occasionally, a student will complete all the requirements for a bachelor's degree but will continue taking undergraduate courses without accepting the degree. The school must decide at what point it considers the student to have completed the baccalaureate course of study. If the school considers the student to have completed the baccalaureate course of study, the student is no longer eligible to receive a Pell Grant.

ineligible for Pell. However, in some cases, there may be written documentation that the baccalaureate degree from the foreign school is not equivalent to the baccalaureate degree awarded in the United States. In that event, the school in the United States may determine that the student does not have a baccalaureate degree. This documentation may include information about the type of institution and total years of education leading to the foreign degree.

Degrees below the baccalaureate level

A student who has already received an associate degree, but who enrolls in another undergraduate program, is considered an undergraduate student until he or she has completed the academic curriculum requirements for a first bachelor's degree. (This is true for **any** student who has received a certificate or diploma below the baccalaureate level.)

Eligible Postbaccalaureate Program

Certain students who have received a bachelor's degree can receive a Pell Grant when enrolled in postbaccalaureate teacher certification programs. This is a very limited exception to the requirement that a Pell Grant recipient must be an undergraduate student enrolled in an undergraduate program. Because of the restrictions that apply to this provision, only a limited number of programs exist where students will be eligible for Pell Grants.

An otherwise eligible student who has a bachelor's degree, and is enrolled in a postbaccalaureate teacher certification or licensure program, is eligible to receive a Pell Grant for the period of time necessary to complete the program only if:

- the program consists of the courses required by a state to receive a professional certification or licensing credential necessary for employment as a teacher in an elementary or secondary school in that state;
- the program does not lead to a graduate degree;
- the school offering the program does not also offer a bachelor's degree in education;
- the student is pursuing an initial teacher certification or licensing credential within a state;
- the student is enrolled at least half-time; and
- the program is a postbaccalaureate program.

Under this very limited provision, a postbaccalaureate program is defined as a program that generally requires a student to have a bachelor's degree before being admitted to the program. Accordingly, a program in which undergraduate students are routinely allowed to enroll would not meet the definition of a postbaccalaureate program