

NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The Vital Link to a Brighter Future

NORTH DAKOTA STATE STUDENT INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM (SSIG or State Grant) 2008-09

The North Dakota State Student Incentive Grant Program provides grants to undergraduate students in need of financial assistance. For 2008-09, students who are awarded a State Student Incentive Grant will be notified of an award on or before May 31, 2008.

NEED AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

The State Grant Program uses the federally approved Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as its application form. This federally approved application methodology is used to determine a family's financial need and provides equitable treatment of all applicants. It considers each family's financial circumstances including income, assets, taxes, family size, the number of family members in college, and other factors that affect a family's ability to pay for college.

All applicants are ranked according to their financial unmet need. Financial unmet need is the net difference between the educational expenses and the applicant's available funding. The applicant's available funding includes the family's (parent/student) expected contribution, the Pell Grant, and other resources (i.e., veteran benefits) the student may have available. The educational expenses include tuition, fees, books and supplies, room and board, and personal expenses.

Awards will be offered to students who exhibit the greatest financial unmet need and who meet all other eligibility requirements, within the limit of funds available.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a State Grant, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- ✓ Be a citizen or national of the United States or eligible non-citizen and a North Dakota resident.
- ✓ Be a graduate of a high school, or hold the General Equivalency Diploma (GED), and be able to meet all requirements for admission as a full-time student of an eligible institution.
- ✓ Use any grant awarded to you at an eligible institution in North Dakota. (Hereafter the term "eligible institution" means an accredited public or nonprofit private postsecondary institution in this state.)
- ✓ Enroll as a **full-time** student as defined by the eligible institution you attend and maintain full-time enrollment over the period for which a grant is awarded (24 credits or more for the academic year).
- ✓ Enroll in a program of at least one academic year as defined by the eligible institution.
- ✓ Be a first-time undergraduate student (a non-baccalaureate or graduate-degree-holding status) during the period of the award. (Any freshman through senior student is eligible to apply.) A student may not have attended college for more than 8 semesters or 12 quarters since their high school graduation.
- ✓ Not be in default on any Federal Family Education Loan Programs.
- ✓ Not owe a refund on any Title IV grants or loans.

State Capitol - 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 215, Bismarck, ND 58505-0230
Phone: 701.328.4114 • Fax: 701.328.2961
E-mail: peggy.wipf@ndus.nodak.edu • Web: www.ndus.nodak.edu

The North Dakota University System is governed by the State Board of Higher Education and includes:
Bismarck State College • Dickinson State University • Lake Region State College • Mayville State University •
Minot State University • Minot State University-Bottineau Campus • North Dakota State College of Science •
North Dakota State University • University of North Dakota • Valley City State University • Williston State College.

HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for the State Grant Program by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. This federally approved form assists financial aid officers in determining a family's ability to pay for college. It is **strongly** encouraged that you complete **ALL** four-pages. If you are a North Dakota resident, you must indicate that in Step 1 question 12. [**NOTE:** For Air Base personnel, your state of residency is ND if you are stationed on either the Minot or Grand Forks Air Force Base.]

PRIORITY DEADLINE DATE

The deadline date to submit an application in order to receive priority consideration for the State Student Incentive Grant Program is March 15, 2008. The March 15 priority date is determined by the date your Free Application for Federal Student Aid is received by the central processor and not the date your application was mailed.

You may still mail in your Free Application for Federal Student Aid after March 15, but you will only be considered for a State Grant if available funds have not already been spent.

NOTIFICATION/DISBURSEMENT

It is the goal of the State Grant Program to mail notification of award to eligible applicants by the end of May. Only State Grant awardees will be notified of the disposition of their application.

State Grants will be disbursed to students through the eligible institution they are attending. The grants will be disbursed according to the number of semesters at the eligible institution.

TRANSFER

If you are awarded a State Grant, the eligible institution you plan to attend will be notified at the same time you are notified. Should your choice of institution change subsequent to receiving an award, you may transfer your grant to any other eligible institution in North Dakota. **HOWEVER**, you should be aware that changing institutions might affect your continued eligibility for a State Grant. When you notify the State Grant Program of your intent to change institutions, we will review your eligibility and notify you if you will not be eligible for the grant upon transfer.

RENEWAL OF GRANT AWARDS

State Grant recipients may apply for renewal of a grant while earning their **first** undergraduate degree. Students may be eligible to receive a grant annually until the recipient has attended college for 8 semesters or 12 quarters, or until they have earned their first baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first. To be eligible for renewal awards, recipients must maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution.

Returning students may apply for the State Grant by completing and returning the **Renewal** Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Please be assured that if you choose to complete and return the renewal application for processing and you certify that you are a North Dakota resident and give permission to have the renewal application information released, this will be considered your application for the State Grant Program.

NOTE: When the student applies for a State Grant, the financial aid office at the eligible institution may verify the student's information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and may notify the State Grant Program of any discrepancies. Any discrepancies that may affect the student's award may be transmitted from the eligible institution to the State Grant Program, from one eligible institution to another, or from the State Grant Program to the eligible institution.
