

# Central Louisiana Technical Community College 2023-2024 Go Grant Packaging Policy

The Louisiana Go Grant provides a need-based component to the state's financial aid plan to support nontraditional and low to moderate income students who need additional aid to afford the cost of attending college.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

**To be eligible for a Louisiana Go Grant, a student must:**

- a. Be a Louisiana Resident;
- b. File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the current year. The FAFSA shall be the only application for GO Grant. No other application may be required;
- c. Receive a Federal Pell grant;
- d. Have remaining financial need after deducting Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and all federal/state/institutional grant or scholarship aid ("gift aid") from student's Cost of Attendance (COA);
- e. Be a student enrolled in an eligible Louisiana institution on at least half-time basis (6 Hrs.)

## **Award Amounts**

CLTCC receives an annual allocation from the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance and awards funds for the fall and spring semesters only. The Louisiana Go Grant is not awarded during the summer semester or mini semesters.

Students are not eligible to receive the Louisiana Go Grant if they are enrolled in less than 6 hours. Awards will be removed if a student is not enrolled for the award year, or if a student is no longer eligible to receive the Louisiana Go Grant.

Maximum and minimum annual award amounts for the 2023-2024 Academic Year:

- a. Minimum Annual Award \$300
- b. Maximum Annual Award \$3,000

## ***Award Calculations***

To be eligible to receive the Louisiana Go Grant, students who are Pell Eligible, Expected Family Contribution (EFC) greater than 0, and are 25 years old or older are awarded first using the following formula:

COA (Cost of Attendance)

-EFC (Expected Family Contribution)

-GIFT AID (Examples listed below)

= FINANCIAL NEED

Examples of gift aid and need-based aid include Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, TOPS, TOPS Stipends, and institutional scholarships.

After those students are awarded who are 25 and older, students under 25 will be awarded if funds are available using the same methodology. If there are still funds remaining, students who are 25 and older and have a 0 EFC will be awarded, then those students who are under 25 and have a 0 EFC will be awarded.

Funds are initially awarded by the Financial Aid Support Team (FAST) based on the above criteria. If there are funds remaining after the FAST team initially awards, then the CLTCC Financial Aid Staff will award the remaining funds based on the criteria above by the billing deadline set forth by LOSFA.

### **Packaging Policy**

**Priority of packaging will be given to those students who:**

- a. are 25 years of age or older
- b. meets the published deadline for a complete file
- c. has a financial need and balance
- d. Prior recipients of the Go Grant.

All eligible students (including transfer & re-entering students) are identified and a minimum of 5% of our annual student population is awarded Go Grant pending eligibility. The students are then reviewed for awards in order of priority. Eligibility criteria does not; automatically eliminate students receiving TOPS, nor eliminate students on the basis of any academic criteria other than Satisfactory Academic Progress for receipt of Title IV aid. Priority is given to transfer and re-entering students who self-identify as prior recipients at other institution(s)

*\*Scholarships/Grants from outside entities such as private organizations, businesses, etc. are not deducted as gift aid.*

*\*The semester/quarter/term award amounts are determined by dividing our annual maximum award (whether determined by the Go Grant eligibility calculation, the Program max or the institutionally set amount) by the number of semesters/quarters/terms during the academic year (excluding summer semesters/quarters/terms) at CLTCC.*

*\*The institution's packaging policy should be made available to students – website, handbook, etc.*

## **Renewal Requirements:**

- a. Must file a FAFSA or the Renewal FAFSA at least annually;
- b. Continue to receive the Federal Pell Grant;
- c. Have remaining financial need after deducting Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and all federal/state/institutional grant or scholarship aid (gift aid) from student's Cost of Attendance (COA);
- d. The award can be renewed for subsequent years to a maximum lifetime award that correlates to that of the Federal Pell Grant.

## **Over Award Policy**

The Louisiana Go Grant is packaged on a need basis and sometimes the student is inadvertently awarded over need allowed due to the addition of need based aid later on in the year. In order to find these inadvertent over awards, all GO Grant recipients are double-checked to determine if they still meet the eligibility requirements for the grant prior to billing.

In the event the student's total aid exceeds his financial need or the cost of attendance, any federal loan aid included in the total aid package shall be reduced, then institutional and other aid in accordance with institutional practice, then the Louisiana GO Grant, then a TOPS award, if applicable, shall be reduced by the amount of any remaining over award.

If the receipt of additional gift aid occurs during the fall semester the GO Grant award for the spring semester will be reduced. If the receipt of additional gift aid occurs during the

spring semester, no reduction is required per LOSFA guidelines. The reason for the excess award will be noted on the student file. If an over award occurs during the fall semester and the GO Grant has already been billed, a refund will be processed to LOSFA to return any funds that the student was ineligible to receive.

Go Grant eligibility is based on enrollment levels as of the 14th class day. If the student was eligible for the award on the 14th class day, no refund is due to LOSFA. Pell adjustments after the 14th class day will not impact the level of GO Grant funding. If a student withdraws from the University prior to the 14th class day and the Financial Aid office does not become aware of the withdrawal until after it has already billed for the student, then a refund will be due to LOSFA since the student did not meet the enrollment criteria to receive the grant.

Go Grant eligibility is contingent on the student receiving a Pell Grant. If a student loses their Pell Grant eligibility for a specific semester, then they will also lose their GO Grant eligibility. For instance, if a student Never Attends all of their coursework for a given semester, then they are no longer considered Pell eligible for that semester, and therefore, is ineligible for the GO Grant. In these such cases the GO Grant will be refunded to LOSFA.

**\*Residency:** Louisiana resident as of the day the FAFSA is filed and Louisiana is the student's true and fixed domicile as reported on the FAFSA. If student's state of residence on the FASFA is not reported as LA, but a dependent student claims that a non-custodial parent is a Louisiana resident, or that parents are Louisiana residents living out of state, LOSFA will determine residency based on the compilation, by the parents, of a residency affidavit.