



## Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) and Students with Intellectual Disabilities

### What is it?

The Ohio Department of Higher Education administers the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) program, which provides grant money to Ohio residents who demonstrate the highest levels of financial need (as determined by the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that should be completed) who are enrolled at Ohio public colleges or universities, Ohio private, non-profit colleges or universities, and Ohio private, for-profit institutions.

### Who is Eligible?

Statute allows for Ohio residents with an EFC (Expected Family Contribution) of 2190 or less and a maximum household income of \$96,000 that are enrolled at a public university, or a private non-profit or for-profit institution, and are in a degree, certificate, or non-degree program designed to support individuals with intellectual disabilities, to be considered for an OCOG award. The student must be receiving academic, career, technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education being prepared for gainful employment and supported by the United States Department of Education. All other OCOG eligibility must be met.

### Utilization

Students are limited to the equivalent of 10 full-time semesters or 15 full-time quarters of state, need-based grant aid (including a combination of OCOG and OIG). Students can be enrolled in less than full-time study so utilization will be prorated.

### How do I apply?

Students apply for OCOG benefits by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application deadline is October 1 of each year.

### Award Amounts

OCOG is available to use toward tuition and general fee charges. *For the purposes of the OCOG program*, general fees are defined as those assessed uniformly to all students and those that *do not allow* for a waiver to be offered to any student(s). For example, a fee charged to students to provide health care coverage would not be considered to be uniformly assessed if students can opt out. Therefore, this would not be considered a general fee and would not be factored into any OCOG eligibility scenario.

Any student receiving 100% tuition/general fees in the form of a waiver or institutional, athletic, third party, federal, or state aid is not eligible for OCOG. For students receiving any tuition/general fees -specific aid not equal to 100% of their tuition/general fees, a simple calculation should be performed to determine final OCOG eligibility. This other tuition/general fees-specific aid must be applied prior to the OCOG award. Tuition/general fees minus aid that is tuition/general fee -specific minus the Pell/EFC combo equals final OCOG eligibility (up to the respective maximum grant award).

**The OCOG award chart outlines maximum per student award amounts; however, each institution nor student will automatically receive the maximum award amount due to the interaction(s) between the Pell/EFC combo and tuition and general charges as assessed to each individual student. For the complete award chart, please visit: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/ocog/award-charts>.**

OCOg 2021-2022				
PUBLIC	Enrollment Status			
	Full-time	3/4 Time	1/2 Time	1/4 Time
Community Colleges*	0	0	0	0
Regional Campuses*	\$123	\$92	\$62	\$31
Public Main Campuses	\$2,200	\$1,650	\$1,100	\$550
PRIVATE	Enrollment Status			
	Full-time	3/4 Time	1/2 Time	1/4 Time
Private, Non-Profit	\$3,700	\$2,775	\$1,850	\$925
Private, For-Profit	\$1,400	\$1,050	\$700	\$350

**\*Awards at Community Colleges and Regional Campuses**

Statute maintains that the Chancellor may choose to calculate the average tuition and general charges for each sector in determining eligibility for an OCOG award. Based on this calculation, the 2021-2022 fixed Pell/EFC combo of \$6,495 continues to exceed the average tuition and general charges at community colleges and therefore, consistent with past practice, no OCOG awards will be available to students attending these institutions unless they otherwise qualify for foster youth status, Federal Veteran’s Education benefits, or third term OCOG. In these instances, community college students may be eligible for up to the public main campus award amount.

However, for the 2021-2022 academic year, the average tuition and general charges at university regional campuses slightly exceeds the fixed Pell/EFC combo of \$6,495. Therefore, a modified maximum OCOG award amount will be available to students attending these institutions. Regional campus students that otherwise qualify for Federal Veteran’s Education benefits or third term OCOG, in these instances only, may be eligible for up to the public main campus award amount.

The following is a link to provide a few more details regarding OCOG: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/ocog>.

Financial aid personnel should direct questions to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant Program Manager, Tamika Braswell, 614.728.8862, [tbraswell@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:tbraswell@highered.ohio.gov).