

## State Grant Training for Financial Aid Administrators

Presented by Meghan Flores, Shannon Olson and Shawn Reynolds October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Agenda

## **Trainings will be Recorded**

## MN State Grant 9am – 12pm Welcome

- Application and Correction Process
- Screening Program Eligibility Requirements
- Verification and Professional Judgment

### \*\*Break\*\*

- State Grant Award Formula
- Award Adjustments and Disbursements
- Award Recalculation and Refunds
- Funds Management
- State Grant Reporting Requirements and Output Reports
- Questions

\*\*Lunch Break\*\*

Clock Hour – State Grant Manager Overview 1pm – 2:00pm

Post-Secondary Childcare Grant 2pm – 4pm



## Welcome

Meghan Flores: State Financial Aid Programs - Manager Shannon Olson: MN State Grant – State Grant File, Payments, Refunds, etc Shawn Reynolds: MN State Grant and MN Dream Act

## Housekeeping

- Update your Name to First Last (Name of College / University)
- Please use Chat function to ask any questions



# OHE Financial Aid Division

- Meghan Flores, State Financial Aid Manager: Manages Team and Programs below Meghan.flores@state.mn.us (651) 355-0610
  - Adam Johnson: Fostering Independence Grant, MN Indian Scholarship Program, MNAid adam.johnson@state.mn.us (651) 355-0617
  - Brenda Larter: Work-study, Postsecondary Child Care Grant, Public Safety Officer's Survivor Grant, Summer Academic Enrichment,). brenda.larter@state.mn.us (651) 355-0612
  - Jennifer Skluzacek: Tuition Reciprocity applications, enrollment data collection, eligibility reports, jennifer.skluzacek@state.mn.us (651)355-0614
  - Shannon Olson: MNAid Questions, SG eligibility questions, SG batch processing, SG fund advances, MN Dream Act payments <u>Shannon.l.olson@state.mn.us</u> (651) 355-0611
  - Shawn Reynolds: MN State Grant, MN Dream Act, MNAid Questions <a href="mailto:shawn.Reynolds@state.mn.us">shawn.Reynolds@state.mn.us</a>, 651.355.0615
  - Tara Winchester: MN Future Together Grant, Student Teacher Grants <u>tara.winchester@state.mn.us</u> 651.355.0616
  - **OHE Calling Queue:** 651.642.0567 Option 2



## Office of Higher Education Websites



## OHE.State.MN.US

High School & Campus Resources

Collecting Data from Minnesota Postsecondary Institutions

Campus Financial Aid
 Administrator Resources

Financial Aid Estimator for Aid Administrators

Fostering Independence Grant Program

Future Together Grant Program

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Grant Program

Minnesota Dream Act Program

Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program

Minnesota State Grant Program

Minnesota State Work Study Program

Postsecondary Child Care

## Campus Financial Aid Administrator Resources

The Office of Higher Education administers several state student financial aid programs as well as other higher education related programs. Those programs include grants, scholarships, loans, loan repayment programs, and work opportunities for postsecondary education students, borrowers, and others. For each program, you will find program criteria, statutes and agency rules governing the program, and guidance used to administer the program within the State Financial Aid Manual.

For current information on state financial aid program spending and trends, visit **Financial Aid Data**.

### State Financial Aid Program Contacts.

Adam Johnson Email: <u>Adam,johnson@state.mn.us</u>	Fostering Independence Grant
Jo Grebinowski Email: <mark>Jo.grebinowski@state.mn.us</mark> Phone: (651) 355-0614	Tuition Reciprocity
Megan Fitzgibbon Email: <u>Megan.fitzgibbon@state.mn.us</u> Phone: (651) 355-0606	State Financial Aid Manager
Meghan Flores Email: <u>Meghan.flores@state.mn.us</u> Phone: (651) 355-0610	State Financial Aid Manager



## New MNAid System









- Greater Minnesota Internship Tax Credit Program 🖢 (186 k)
- Indian Scholarship Program (291 k)
- Minnesota State Grant Program (4.9 MB)
- MN Reconnect Scholarship <sup>1</sup>
- MN GI Bill Program (Only effective until 2018-2019) (299 k)
- State Work Study Program (535 k)
- Postsecondary Child Care Grant Program <sup>1</sup>
- Public Safety Officer Survivor Grant Program (452 k)
- SELF Loan Program<sup>®</sup> 1
- Student Teacher Grants 🐿
- Tribal College Supplemental Grant Assistance 🛎

### State Financial Aid Manuals - Prior Years

- 2015-2016 Financial Aid Manual (9.2 MB)
- 2014-2015 Financial Aid Manual (8.2 MB)
- 2013-2014 Financial Aid Manual (7.4 MB)
- 2012-2013 Financial Aid Manual (7.5 MB)
- 2011-2012 Financial Aid Manual 1 (5.1 MB)
- 2010-2011 Financial Aid Manual (10.7 MB)
- 2009-2010 Financial Aid Manual 😉 (5.9 MB)
- 2008-2009 Financial Aid Manual 🛎 (5.6 MB)
- 2007-2008 Financial Aid Manual (4.9 MB)

### **OHE Audit Guides and Policies**

• 2020-2021 OHE Audit Guide (accessible) 1



# Application Process





## **Application Process**

• Submit Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) to the Central Processing Center (CPS)

## Generally - October 1<sup>st</sup> each year – \*2024-2025 Available December 2024\*

- FAFSA on the WEB (FOTW) at <u>www.studentaid.gov</u>
  - FAFSA on the WEB requires a valid federal school code
- 2023-2024 FAFSA (July 1, 2023 June 30, 2024)
- 2024-2025 FAFSA (July 1, 2024 June 30, 2025)



## **Application Assistance**

- Application and Verification Guide (AVG) of the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Handbook
  - Download at: <u>www.fsapartners.ed.gov</u>
- FSA Training Center <u>www.fsatraining.ed.gov</u>
- Call federal financial aid hotline at (800) 433-3243 or get help on-line at: <u>www.studentaid.gov</u>
- Call State Grant Unit at (651) 642-0567 #2 or (800) 657-3866 #1



## MN Dream Act Application Process

- Undocumented students meeting criteria in MN Dream Act cannot use FAFSA
- OHE annually creates a MN Dream Act Application for these students
  - Modeled after FAFSA on the Web
  - 2024-2025 application available Dec 2023
  - Questions are in English and Spanish
  - Uses Prior Year (PPY)
  - Uses Student MNAid username / password
  - 100% verification w/ 1040s

www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct





## \*\*State Grant Application Deadline\*\*

- \*\*Beginning for 2023-2024 year, application deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup> of the financial aid year applied (i.e. 06/30/24 for 23-24 year)
  - Matches the Federal Pell Grant deadline
  - Deadline applies only to ORIGINAL application:
    - Must be received by CPS by June 30 of the financial aid year applied.
    - Deadline for corrections: Date listed in Federal Register each year of when CPS will stop processing corrections.
  - Missing deadline for one term won't affect subsequent terms (if deadline met for those terms) No Longer Applicable



## Application Deadlines

- The Office of Higher Education (OHE) will reject term payment submitted by school if student didn't meet application deadline –
  - No Longer Applicable, since students will be unable to submit ISIR after 06/30 deadline.
- If school combines "mini-terms" into one term, term start date is first day of first "mini-term" No Longer Applicable with 06/30 deadline
- State auditors will review term start dates, application receipt dates during audits – still relevant for prior to 23-24



## **Application Deadlines**

- For clock hour schools and schools with multiple start dates for term, FAFSA application receipt date (or MN Dream Act application submission date) must be within 30 days of date <u>student's</u> term or payment period starts
  - No longer applicable as new application deadline 06/30



## **Application Deadlines**

- New Application deadline of 06/30 also applies to MN Dream Act financial aid application
  - Applies to initial application and not supporting documentation (100% verification for MN Dream Act applicants)



## Application FAFSA Output

- School must use ISIR/SAR to screen for State Grant eligibility
  - ISIR will provide a lot of eligibility information (EFC, Residency, Academic History, etc)
- If school not on Title IV programs, school must use student's Student Aid Report (SAR) beginning in 24-25 FAFSA Submission Summary or download from State Grant Manager
  - Private schools not participating in the Federal Pell Grant program must have students read and sign a disclosure statement – appendix 23 of State Grant Manual
  - Informs student s/he won't be eligible for Federal Pell Grant at that particular school
- OHE does eligibility screening centrally for MN Dream Act applicants
- ISIR might not have all the information you need to establish MN Residency



## Application State Questionnaire

- School must collect and / or review supplemental data to determine MN State Grant Eligibility to collect information not on FAFSA
  - School may use MN State Grant Student Eligibility form designed by OHE (Appendix 2 of manual) or incorporate questions into institutional form(s)
  - This form collected by school and NOT submitted with FAFSA
  - MN State Grant Student Eligibility form not required if school has sufficient information from other sources (*i.e. 2022 HS Graduate, Dependent student parents state of legal residence MN*).
  - Be aware that NSLDS and State Grant Historical databases are not comprehensive sources of previous postsecondary attendance.
- Form must only be completed when student first starts
  - School responsible for resolving any conflicting information thereafter
- Not required for MN Dream Act applicants, since questions built into the application itself
- Effective 2013-2014, schools have choice of using FOTW state interface for this purpose OFFICE OF HER EDUCATION

# Grant Student Eligibility Questionnaire- App 2

FINANCIAL AID MANUAL	NUMBER Section III	page App 2
SECTION	DATE	
State Grant Program	July 2016	

### MN STATE GRANT PROGRAM STUDENT ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE AID YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name:	Social Security Number:
Name and address (city and state) of your high school and year you received your diploma. (Write N/A if you didn't graduate.)	Your address when you received your high school diploma. (Write N/A if you didn't graduate.)
Did you eam a G.E.D.?	Parents' address at time you completed your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):
YesNo If "yes," in which state? If "yes," date earned://_	

Please list all the states (or countries) in which you have resided, your dates of residence and your reason for residing (e.g., college, employment, military service, place of birth, etc.) in each state. Please circle any of the following reasons for residing in Minnesota if they apply to you, your spouse or your parent(s):

- active federal military service in Minnesota
- you are a spouse or dependent of a veteran who is a Minnesota resident
- active member of Minnesota National Guard residing in Minnesota
- active member of the reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces who resides and whose duty station is located in Minnesota.
- relocation to Minnesota from presidential disaster area within 12 months of disaster declaration
- immediate relocation to Minnesota as a refugee from another country



## MN Online Student Eligibility Questionnaire

# Student must click on MN link on FOTW confirmation page to be redirected to the OHE online questionnaire website.



MN interface link

# MN On-Line Student Eligibility Questionnaire

- When MN resident student submits the original FOTW, confirmation page will show link/message to access state financial aid application
  - Student must list MN as state of legal residence on FOTW to see link on FOTW confirmation page
  - Student will receive message on screen about interface when entering 'MN' for state of legal residence
  - Must be student's original FOTW, not correction
- 67% of MN students presented the link completed it using FOTW state interface
  - OHE will have secure web site for students to access if they miss the FOTW link (another 31% complete it this way)



# MN On-Line Student Eligibility Questionnaire

- OHE loads ISIR records each night
- Will cross reference on-line questionnaire database to determine if student has successfully completed questionnaire
- Will push out email to student with unique link to on-line questionnaire if:
  - Student not screened out (see App 24 SG manual); AND
  - No on-line questionnaire on file OR
  - Incomplete questionnaire on file
- Will push out existing on-line questionnaire to any new colleges listed on ISIR



# MN On-Line Student Eligibility Questionnaire

- If student loses email with unique link to on-line state questionnaire, student can log-in with SSN, name and DOB (as they are on FAFSA) at this site: <u>Student Portal - Login (guarantorsolutions.com</u>)
  - Can only access if:
    - OHE has loaded student's ISIR record
      - Takes 5 days from original FOTW submission
    - Student has not already successfully completed a questionnaire



## Participating Schools- Report View Results

### 4. Click on State Grant Questionnaire Report.

Activity Reports	Management Reports	Exception Reports	Rosters
110 Studenter	2010		
Hold Report			
Last State Gr	ant File		
NASSGAP Rep	oort		
Payment Bate	h Details		
School Baland	e Report		
School Totals	Report		
School Users	Report		
State Grant F	ile Output Report		
State Grant F	ile Reconciliation Repo	ort	
State Grant Q	uestionnaire Report		•

Your institution will be preselected. Enter your desired date range, then click Generate Report. Open the Excel document from the Downloads in your browser.





#### 6. Review the report. The screen shot below omits the name and SSN of the students.



## Participating Schools- Individual View Results

### Viewing Questionnaire Data on Individual Student Records

1. Click on Quick View.



2. Enter the student's SSN and click Go.



3. Click on the State Grant Questionnaire Data.

- Existing Grants/Scholarships State Grant 2023 - 2024 State Grant 2022 - 2023 Transaction History Payment History FAFSA Data State Grant Questionnaire Data

### 4. The following screen will display the results of their eligibility questionnaire.

1/4/2023	Create Date:	2023	Academic Year:
Yes	Attend College After High School:		High School Flag:
No	NING CENTER Withdraw Due To Illness:	WHITE BEAR AREA LEARNING CEN	High School Name:
	Withdraw Due To Illness Date:	WHITE BEAR LAKE	High School City:
No	Withdraw Due To Military:	MN	High School State:
	Withdraw Due To Military Date:	MN	State at High School Graduation:
	Physical MN:		GED State:
No	Reciprocity:		GED Date:
Yes	SELF:	Confirmed	Residency Status:
Yes	Successfully Completed:	No	Transcripts Required:

If the student listed additional states of residence and post-secondary education, it will display at the bottom.

No Residency Information found.			
Attended	Start Date	End Date	Enrollment
Anoka Technical College	08/22/2023	01/23/2023	Full-time



## Program Eligibility Requirements



OFFICE OF

# **Eligibility Screening**

- School is responsible for verifying students meet all State Grant program eligibility requirements
- School financially liable for disbursements to ineligible students



# U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen

## • For terms starting after July 1, 2013:

- No longer a requirement for students to be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- However, students must be lawfully present to meet one of the state residency criteria (except MN Dream Act)
  - "Lawfully present" means:
    - Citizen or eligible non-citizen
    - Undocumented students granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), TPS, VISA holders, Political Asylum pending



## Minnesota Resident M.S.136A.101, Subd. 8

- Meet ONE of the following criteria:
  - Student who graduated from MN high school while <u>residing</u> in MN (must be physically attending college in MN if residing in another state\*); OR
  - Student who earned GED in MN after <u>residing</u> in MN for one year; OR
  - Dependent student whose parents <u>resided</u> in MN when FAFSA completed; OR
  - Student who <u>resided</u> in MN for 12 consecutive months without being enrolled for 6 or more credits in any term

\*Restriction on distance education applies ONLY if graduating from a MN high school is the ONLY way a student can establish MN residency



## Continued- Minnesota Resident M.S.136A.101, Subd. 8

- A member (or spouse or dependent of) of the armed forces of the U.S. stationed in MN on active federal military service as defined in MS 190.05, Subd. 5c; or
- A spouse or dependent of a veteran who meets the residency requirement; or
- A person (or spouse of) who relocated to MN from an area that is declared a presidential disaster area within the preceding 12 months, if the disaster interrupted the person's postsecondary education; or
- A person defined as a refugee under US Code, Title 8, section 1101 (a)(42) who upon arrival in the US, moved to MN and has continued to reside in MN; or



## Continued- Minnesota Resident M.S.136A.101, Subd. 8

- Effective August 1, 2015, the following individuals are also considered MN residents:
  - An active member (or spouse or dependent of) of the state's National Guard who resides in MN
  - An active member (or a spouse or dependent of) of the reserve component of the U.S. armed forces whose duty station is located in Minnesota and who resides in Minnesota
  - Template letter for verifying active membership in MN National Guard or Reserves (Appendix 26)



## Minnesota Resident MN Dream Act M.S. 135A.043

## A person eligible for resident tuition rates under 135A.043 AKA the MN Dream Act

## **Requirements:**

- Attend a MN high school for at least 3 years
- Graduate from a MN high school or earn a GED in MN
- If male, complied with Selective Service registration requirements
- Apply for lawful immigration status if a federal process becomes available (does not refer to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals/DACA)
  - This requirement not yet enforced, since federal process does not yet exist





## Minnesota Resident Agency Policy

- Student who resided in MN for 12 consecutive months without being enrolled for 6 or more credits in any term
  - Does not have to be initial year student lived in MN
  - Residency established this way is lost if student later leaves MN for more than 1 year (unless for college, military, missionary service and still file taxes in MN)
  - Does not apply to GED recipients, do not lose residency if move out of MN greater than year





## Minnesota Resident Agency Rules

- Independent student who originally met residency requirement as dependent because parents resided in MN when FAFSA completed grandfathered once independent *if continues to live in MN* (4830.0100 Subp. 10E)
- Families not penalized for leaving MN to attend college or serve in military or missionary service if still paying taxes in MN (4830.0400 Subp. 2a.)



## MN Resident

- Graduated from MN high school, lives in Eau Claire, WI and drives to classes at Century College in MN.
  Yes- if attending in person. No, if was distance education & only way to meet residency requirement was graduating from MN HS.
- Graduated from MN high school, lives in MN, taking only distance education classes from MN college.
  Yes- living in MN, so mode of delivery doesn't matter
- First moved to MN on June 1, 2011. Attended U of M full-time from January 23, 2012 to December 31, 2012. Moved from MN on November 1, 2013, to work in another state. Returned to MN on June 14, 2015 and attended U of M full-time during 14-15 aid year. Is this student a resident for 15-16? No
- Dependent student first moved to MN after high school graduation in Colorado. Parents divorced. Mother stayed in CO, but father moved to MN. Mother's income provided on FAFSA. No
  - Same example, what if father's information was provided on the FAFSA? Yes, if father indicated MN Resident on FAFSA
- <u>CommonDefinitions.pdf (ohe.state.mn.us/pdf/FAManual/CommonDefinitions.pdf)</u>
  Very Helpful Resource pages 10- 15



## Additional Requirements

- Student must be 17 years old OR a H.S. graduate/GED recipient
  - No state ability-to-benefit requirement
  - Cannot award State Grant to student in high school
- Student cannot receive MN State Grant AND receive tuition reciprocity benefits from neighboring state
  - Affects only public colleges in MN
  - Will be more beneficial for student to turn down reciprocity if attending MN campus that no longer charges non-resident rates



# Enrollment in Eligible School

- Must be enrolled for 3 or more credits/6 clock hours per week @ a clock hour school
- In program leading to diploma, certificate or degree
  - Minimum program length is 8 weeks long and 300 clock hours or 12 credits
- No requirement that student be accepted in program at <u>each</u> MN school, just <u>one</u> eligible MN school


#### State adopts Title IV Satisfactory Academic Progress policy

- Qualitative Component
  - GPA requirements
- Quantitative Component
  - Timely completion of program
- SAP Policy must be at least as strict or stricter as the policy the institution applies to students not receiving *Title IV* aid
- On-line tutorial at: FSA Training Center (ed.gov)



- Qualitative GPA component
  - Like Title IV policy, student must have GPA of 2.0 or academic standing consistent with school's graduation requirements at end of 2<sup>nd</sup> academic year and thereafter
    - This means GPA can be below 2.0 if school's graduation requirements have a lower GPA standard
    - "Academic year" means school's definition of academic year for federal financial aid programs
      - Typically, two semesters or three quarters



### **Quantitative - Timely Completion Component**

- School must define <u>maximum time frame</u> for program completion
  - At minimum, cannot exceed 150% of published program length
  - For example, 6 academic years to complete 4 year program (4 X 1.5 = 6)
  - School can have stricter policy than 150%
- To determine percentage of courses student must complete to meet timely completion component, divide program length by 150% of program length
  - Example: 4 years divided 6 years = 67%
  - Clock hour schools should set policy based on scheduled hours completed within a given timeframe



### **Frequency of SAP Evaluations**

- Must include evaluation at the end of each payment period for programs of one year or less
- For all other programs, at least an annual review to correspond with the end of a payment period
- Clock-hour schools may use federal payment periods to check SAP



## Satisfactory Academic Progress Definitions

- **Financial Aid Warning:** A status a school assigns to a student who is failing to make satisfactory academic progress. The school reinstates eligibility for aid for one payment period and may do so without a student appeal. This status may only be used by schools that check SAP at the end of each payment period
- **Termination, Loss of Eligibility, Suspension** Determined that student is not making Satisfactory Academic Progress, resulting in loss of Title IV eligibility.
- **Appeal:** A process by which a student who is not meeting SAP standards petitions the school for reconsideration for Title IV eligibility.
- Financial Aid Probation: A status a school assigns to a student who is failing to make satisfactory academic progress and who successfully appeals. Eligibility for aid may be reinstated for one payment period.
- Academic Plan: If determined, based on the appeal, that the student will require more than one payment period to meet progress standards, you place him on probation and develop an academic plan for the student. You must review the student's progress at the end of one payment period.
- - FSA Handbook 21-22 Chapter 1 School Determined Requirements



### Undergraduate Program

- Student must be in undergraduate program and not have bachelor's degree
  - Bachelor's degrees earned at foreign schools still count as bachelor's degrees
  - Student can take graduate level classes as long as student enrolled in <u>undergraduate</u> program



### Amount of Post-Secondary Education

- Student ineligible once enrolled for the equivalent of 8 full-time semesters of postsecondary education \*\* Changes for 2024-2025\*\*
  - Schools must request and review academic transcripts for students who indicated at least 3 or more years of postsecondary education on the State Grant Student Eligibility Questionnaire
    - Includes attendance at current campus
  - NSLDS student loan history on SAR/ISIR is another possible resource of previous attendance
  - OHE MNAid System only tracks units of State Grant PAID



- Separate transcript from each school <u>-does not need to be official transcript</u>
- School can make good faith effort to assign units when transcript lacks information needed to make accurate determination
  - Course work not separated by term, no start or end date, no credits shown for any course work
  - If course shows grade of 'W' with no attempted credits, use assumed value of 4 credits (unless all other classes show otherwise)
- Written statement from student reconstructing history when transcript can't be obtained due to school closure, destruction of records, civil war, etc.

FDUCATION

### Can't use if school holding transcript due to unpaid bill

However, FERPA and MN Data Practices Act allow student to inspect education records Voluntary waiver of SG & CCG form if can not obtain transcript (Appendix 25) -

### \*New MN Transcript Access Law\* -

#### College must not refuse to provide a transcript if:

- Debt owed is less than \$250
- Student has entered into and, per by the college, is in compliance with a payment plan
- The transcript request is made by a prospective employer
- The schools has sent the debt to Department of Revenue or to a collection Agency

Remember that reviewing Academic Transcripts is a MN State Grant Requirement – not always a Requirement of Federal Student Aid



- ALL course work counts **EXCEPT**:
  - \*\*\*Developmental Education or below college-level coursework taken on or after 07/01/2021.
  - Term during which student withdrew for active military service after December 31, 2002
  - Term during which student withdrew due to serious health condition for themselves or family. Appeals directly to the college / university and notifies MN OHE.
  - Courses taken during high school under the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO);
  - CLEP/AP course work (tests out of class w/o attending);
  - 'FN' grade at MinnState campus (failed never attended)



### • ALL course work counts **EXCEPT**:

- Programs under 8 weeks in duration (or under 300 clock hours- Nursing Assistant);
- Course work not offered by a post-secondary school (e.g., Red Cross training, Military Training) even if a college later grants college credit for the training;
- Course work or training assigned –CEUs (continuing education units);
- Courses the student audited;
- Course work at Minnesota schools not participating in the State Grant Program and from which no course work transferred to the current school. Historical list of State Grant schools on OHE web site <u>http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=1406</u>



### Be sure to include:

- Unaccredited or non-transferable course work
- Course work completed outside the U.S. or in other states,
- Course work taken at a post-secondary school during military service (as opposed to military training)
- Courses with grades of "F," "NC," "W," "I", "FW" (unless student withdrew for active military service after 12/31/2002 or serious health condition for the student or while providing care for a family member that limited student's ability to complete)



### Be sure to include:

- Remedial course work credit equivalencies, taken prior to 07/01/2021.
- Independent study courses
- Course work taken during a term for which the student was not eligible for a State Grant (e.g., missed application deadline, not eligible at student's enrollment level, etc.)

Use Appendix 7 of State Grant Manual or Transcript Review Spreadsheet to review transcripts and record units [hand out copy of spreadsheet and sample case]



### Units of Postsecondary Education (Units Shown for Full-Time Enrollment)

Quarter System			Units per Acad Year	Semeste	r System		
8	8	8	= 24 =	12	12		
8	8	8	= 24 =	12	12		
8	8	8	= 24 =	12	12		
8	8	8	= 24 =	12	12		
Cutoff if current college is on quarter system = 94.4			96 units = 8 FT semesters	Cutoff if current college is on semester system = 93.6			
Student ineligible if units EXCEED cutoff. If units are at or under the cutoff, student can continue to be paid State Grant for any enrollment level until units cutoff is exceeded.							

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### Units are Based on Term Enrollment Level (Full-Time Definition Changed from 12 to 15 Credits July 1, 1992)

Pre-July 1,	1992 Cou	rse Work	Post-July	1, 1992 C	ourse Work
	QTR	SEM		QTR	SEM
12+ credits	8	12	15+ credits	8	12
9-11 credits				7.5	11.2
6-8 credits 4 6			13 credits	6.9	10.4
1-5 credits	bank*	bank*	12 credits	6.4	9.6
1-5 credits	Dalik	Dank	11 credits	5.9	8.8
			10 credits	5.3	8.0
*total credits in			9 credits	4.8	7.2
12 to determine time quarters of			8 credits	4.3	6.4
time quarters c	n semester	3	7 credits	3.7	5.6
Example:			6 credits	3.2	4.8
18 Qtr credits /	12 - 1 5 E	C quartors	5 credits	2.7	4.0
1.5 X 8 units =		quarters	4 credits	2.1	3.2
			3 credits	1.6	2.4
			2 credits	1.1	1.6
			1 credit	.5	.8



### Transcript Review Tool



OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### Reviewing Clock Hour Transcripts

- To determine the amount of post-secondary education at a progressive clock hour school (other than your school):
  - Divide total number of clock hours in program by number of weeks in program to get average hours per week
    - Determine enrollment level based on average hours per week
  - Divide number of weeks in program by 12 to get approximate number of quarters in program
  - Determine units of post-secondary education by multiplying the number of quarters in program by the units for enrollment status
- Assume continuous enrollment without breaks unless the transcript states otherwise (approved Leave of Absence (LOA))
- If total clock hours do not appear on a cosmetology transcript, assume these total hours: Cosmetology = 1,550 hours, Barbering = 1,500 hours, Esthetician = 600 hours, and Nail Tech = 350 hours



### Reviewing Clock Hour Transcripts

#### Example:

- Period of Enrollment was 9/1/89 to 8/26/90 = 51 weeks
- Total Hours Completed = 1550
- Average Hours Per Week = 1550/51 = 30
- Assumed Enrollment Status = full-time
- Number of Quarters in Period = 51/12 = 4.25
- Number of PSE Units = 4.25 x 8 units = 34 units Enter the info above in the transcript review tool



### Limit on Post-Secondary Education

- Student ineligible once enrolled for the equivalent of 8 full-time semesters of postsecondary education
- \*\* Changes coming in 24-25\*\*
- Moving from Terms of Attendance to Terms of Receipt (i.e State Grant Paid)
- Limit is moving to equivalent of 8 Full-time Semesters to 12 Full-time Semesters (6 years)
- How do we communicate this to students? For example, students who are ineligible for MN State Grant for 2023-2024, but will be eligible for MN State Grant for 2024-2025



### Federal Student Loan Default

- Students in default of federal loan not eligible for State Grant
- When FAFSA processed, interface run with NSLDS database
  Students in default have indicator on SAR or ISIR
- Fresh Start Program for Defaulted Loans
- Regaining eligibility extended retroactively to current aid year for State Grant



# Default on SELF Loan

- Student not eligible if defaulted on SELF loan
  - Does NOT affect eligibility for federal aid
- If loan not in collections, eligibility regained by paying off loan or making 4 to 6 monthly payments
  - Eligibility retroactively extended to beginning of current aid year
- If loan is in collections, must fully repay to regain eligibility
- Regular interface run between SELF and State Grant databases at OHE
  - OHE notifies schools via State Grant on-line hold report, which can be viewed via MNAid Hold Reports and Student Quick View



## Child Support Hold

- Student not eligible if 30+ days in arrears on child support obligation
- Student regains eligibility by paying off past due amount or complying with monthly payment plan approved by caseworker
  - Eligibility retroactively extended to beginning of current aid year
- Weekly interface run between Department of Human Services (DHS) and State Grant database at OHE
  - OHE notifies schools of holds via the MNAid online hold report.
- Students should be referred to county



# **Eligibility Notification**

- Student loses eligibility as of month/year student placed on hold (regardless of when school notified)
- School liable for overpayment if school paid AFTER receiving notification student on hold
- OHE notifies school via MNAid within the Hold Report and the student Quick View



# Eligibility Screening Tools

- FAFSA output ISIR or SAR
- SG Student Eligibility Questionnaire
- Documentation at school (transcripts, admissions forms, etc.)
- MNAid System
- MN Hold and >72 Unit Report
- Appendix 6 of manual has a full list of all State Grant eligibility requirements in a chart format



# MNAid Eligibility Screening

#### • State Grant On-Line Hold Report

- OHE downloads ISIRs each night
- Data written to school's on-line hold report each night if:
  - Student has new hold/warning or released hold; and
  - School listed on ISIR or DDS record previously submitted by school
- School notified via email if data added/revised
- School can print comprehensive report or alter date range to select only new/revised records



# MNAid Eligibility Screening

- Hold data displayed on report:
  - Child support arrears
  - SELF loan default
  - Units of State Grant PAID through current year
  - Previous State Grant Overpayment (rare)
  - Continuously monitor the hold reports- students can have a hold, have it removed and go back on hold within the same aid year



### MNAid System

- MNAid System Login (guarantorsolutions.com)
- School's designate financial aid staff members who need access to the MNAid system. Those staff members are assigned a username, password, and a designated role within the MNAid system.



### MNAid System

- Student Quick View can be used to determine:
  - Holds (child support arrears, SELF default, federal loan default, State Grant overpayment)
  - Units of State Grant payments (just payments, not attendance)
  - Awards and payments for current year

 School must be listed as college on student's current ISIR in order for school to access State Grant database



# Student Look-up - Holds Review – Total Units

SSN Quick View	Dependency Status	Independent	Federal EFC	\$0.00
	Formula Type	SNT: independent with dep other than	Student Contribution	\$0.00
SSN	Formula Type	a spouse	Parent Contribution	n/a
	Family Size	3	SELF Default Holds	Add
- Existing Grants/Scholarships	Comment Code(s)	149 351 001 118 073 006	Child Support Holds	Add
State Grant 2022 - 2023	Reject Code(s)		k .	
State Grant 2021 - 2022 State Grant 2020 - 2021	Assumption Code(s)	n/a		
State Grant 2019 - 2020 State Grant 2018 - 2019				
Transaction History				
Payment History				
FAFSA Data				

Total Units 36.0000 Total Cumulative Award \$3,582.00



### Student Look-up - Payment and Unit History

SSN Quick View
SSN GO
+
<b>W</b>
- Existing Grants/Scholarships
State Grant 2022 - 2023
State Grant 2021 - 2022
State Grant 2020 - 2021
State Grant 2019 - 2020
State Grant 2018 - 2019
Transaction History
Payment History
FAFSA Data

Academic Year 2021 - 2022								
Date	Batch Number	Program	Institution	Term	Туре	Units Paid	Amount	
2022/01/31		State Grant	ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY	Spring	Payment	11.2	\$2942.00	
2021/09/08		State Grant	ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY	Fall	Payment	12.0	\$3376.00	

Academic Year 2020 - 2021								
				G				
Date	Batch Number	Program	Institution	Term	Туре	Units Paid	Amount	
2021/03/03		State Grant	ST. PAUL COLLEG	Spring	Payment	9.6	\$81.00	
2020/09/09		State Grant	ST. PAUL COLLEG	Fall	Payment	8.8	\$594.00	

Academic Year 2019 - 2020
---------------------------

Date	Batch Number	Program	Institution	Term	Туре	Units Paid	Amount
2020/07/22		State Grant	ST. PAUL COLLEGE	Summer2	Payment	6.4	\$506.00
2020/01/29		State Grant	ST. PAUL COLLEGE	Spring	Payment	5.6	\$247.00



### MNAid Holds Report





### Student Look-up and Holds Review

#### Date printed: 9/23/2022 12:30:38 PM

Page 1 of 1

Minnesota Office of Higher Education Hold Report MN College

Academic Year: 2022-2023

SSN	Name	Graduate Student	SG File/ISIR	Federal Default/ Overpayment	SELF Hold Active	SELF Hold Start Date	SELF Hold End Date	SELF Notification Date	Child Support Active	Child Support Hold Start Date	Child Support Hold End Date	Child Support Notification Date	Last Transaction Date
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									07/25/2022
XXXX-XXX-XXXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y					Y	06/12/2010			01/26/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									05/17/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y					Y	12/12/2015			02/02/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	N					Y	08/13/2022		09/19/2022	09/19/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y					Y	01/14/2017			07/29/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									01/03/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	N					Y	08/13/2022		09/19/2022	09/19/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									08/04/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									05/09/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y					Y	03/10/2018			05/31/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y	<b>\$</b>								09/07/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y	Υ.								09/19/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									06/28/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									08/30/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									07/15/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									03/16/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	Y									06/30/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	N					Y	09/10/2022		09/19/2022	09/19/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Last name, First Name	N	ISIR	N					Y	08/13/2022		09/19/2022	09/19/2022



### > 72 Units Report Reports

MN AID	Home Reports X	
Search		MNAID Report Options
Reports	Activity Reports Management Reports Exception Reports Rosters	
Update Student SSN		Report of students
File Requests	Hold Report Last State Grant File	on the FAFSA or ha
Send Email	NASSGAP Report	
Student User Management	Payment Batch Details School Balance Report	
Help	School Totals Report	
State Grant	School Users Report State Grant File Output Report	
Fostering Independence Grant	State Grant File Reconciliation Report	
System Administration	Units Greater Than 72	<b>~</b>
Quick View		
	Academic Year: 2022-2023	
	School:	
	Include Hyphens From SSNs:	



### > 72 Units Report Reports

Date printed: 3/15/2023 9:30:40 AM

Page 1 of 1

#### Minnesota Office of Higher Education Units Greater Than 72 Report

#### NORMANDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 007954

Academic Year: 2022-2023

SSN	Name	Graduate Student	SG File/ISIR	Units	Last ISIR Date	Date > 72
XXX-XX-XXXX	Test Last Name, Test First Name	N	SG File	79.2	06/03/2022	01/19/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Test Last Name, Test First Name	N	SG File	72.8	03/21/2022	09/02/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Test Last Name, Test First Name	N	SG File	76.8	09/01/2022	01/09/2023
XXX-XX-XXXX	Test Last Name, Test First Name	N	ISIR	93.6	08/25/2022	01/10/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Test Last Name, Test First Name	N	SG File	84.8	11/22/2021	06/01/2022
XXX-XX-XXXX	Test Last Name, Test First Name	N	SG File	95.2	08/22/2022	05/28/2020
XXX-XX-XXXX	Test Last Name, Test First Name	N	ISIR	72.8	06/28/2022	01/23/2023
XXX-XX-XXXX	Test Last Name, Test First Name	N	SG File	80.8	09/08/2022	02/03/2021



### Verification





### Verification

- Must verify certain items reported on FAFSA if selected for verification
- Text of student's SAR will indicate if application was selected for verification, as will Verification Flag = Y shown under 'For Financial Aid Office Use Only'
  - SAR will also have asterisk following the EFC if selected for verification
- ISIR record will indicate if the application was selected for verification
- OHE will perform verification for ALL MN Dream Act state financial aid applicants (100% verification)


# Verification

School must use federal guidelines and forms for verification (even if not participating in federal aid programs)

2023-2024 Federal Student Aid Handbook in PDF Format | Knowledge Center

### V-1 Standard Verification Group

- Adjusted gross income (AGI), U.S. income tax paid, Education credits
- Household size, Number in college
- Income earned from work
- Untaxed portions of IRA distributions, Untaxed portions of Pension, IRA deductions and payments
- Tax-exempt interest income

### **V-4 Custom Verification Group**

• Identity/statement of educational purpose

School liable for any overpayments if verification not performed

Must resolve Comment Codes ("C" Codes) on ISIR – prior to disbursing funds. "C" codes indicate that there are
problems the student or school must resolve.

HER EDUCATION

Examples: SSN / Identify mismatch, Defaulted Loans, Overpayments,

# Conflicting Information

- School also responsible for resolving any conflicting information on student's financial aid application and other documentation collected by the school. Must have adequate internal system to identify conflicting information regardless of source and regardless of whether the student was selected for verification.
- Sources of Conflicting Information
  - Internal FA Office / Other Offices within Institution
  - External Scholarship, DOE website, etc



# Conflicting Information Examples

- Example 1: Student reported not having a high school diploma, but reports having a high school diploma on FAFSA.
- Example 2: Student reports being married as of 03/01/2019 on the FAFSA, but during verification you find that he/she filed as head of household on her 2020 taxes.
- Example 3: Student reported not filing taxes, but reported having earnings above the minimum threshold required to file taxes.
- Example 4: Dependent siblings attending the same college, family size of 4, two in college with same parents, but different parent income for each sibling.



# Professional Judgement





# Professional Judgment

- Schools must use Title IV guidelines for professional judgment
  - Federal Student Aid Handbook Application and Verification Guide <u>Special</u> <u>Cases | 2022-2023 Federal Student Aid Handbook</u> is a resource
- Adjustments must be based on unusual circumstances that can be adequately documented, preferably by someone outside the family
- Adjustments must be done on a case-by-case basis and not applied to a broad class of students



# Professional Judgement

- Common examples include:
- Significant change in income from past tax year based on unemployment, underemployment, death, divorce, military service or natural disaster
- Unusually high medical expenses
- Nursing home expenses
- Elementary or secondary school tuition
- Significant college costs for dependent student's parent attending college
- Dependency override
- Family should contact financial aid administrator to discuss unusual circumstances



# Professional Judgement

- Dependency override allows dependent student to apply as independent
  - Examples: Left parental household due to abuse, inability to locate parents
- Dependency override should not be done merely because:
  - Parents unwilling to complete FAFSA
  - Student lives independently of parents after graduating from high school
- Aid administrators can use professional judgment to adjust the cost of attendance used for state campus-based programs, such as State Work Study, but NOT State Grant budget

EDUCATION

# Professional Judgment

- Aid administrators cannot use professional judgment to override a State Grant Program eligibility requirement (e.g., application deadline, <u>residency</u>, citizenship, etc.).
- Can adjust **financial data elements** to end up with different EFC but cannot make bottom-line change to EFC
- OHE will perform professional judgment adjustments for undocumented students completing the MN Dream Act application



### State Grant Enrollment Levels





### State Grant Enrollment Levels

	Average		% of Full-Time
Credits	<b>Clock Hours</b>		<b>Enrollment State Grant</b>
Per Term	Per Week	Level	Budget Used
15+	30+	Level 15	100%
14	28-29	Level 14	93.3%
13	26-27	Level 13	86.7%
12	24-25	Level 12	80.0%
11	22-23	Level 11	73.3%
10	20-21	Level 10	66.7%
9	18-19	Level 9	60.0%
8	16-17	Level 8	53.3%
7	14-15	Level 7	46.7%
6	12-13	Level 6	40.0%
5	10-11	Level 5	33.3%
4	8-9	Level 4	26.7%
3	6-7	Level 3	20.0%



### State Grant Award





# Design for Shared Responsibility 2022-2023 Annual Award Calculation

Average Tuition & Mandatory Fees\* (30 sem/45 qtr credits)

- + Living and Misc Expense Allowance (LME)\*\* (\$11,418)
- = State Grant Budget
- 50% Assigned Student Responsibility
- Annual 9-month FM PC (dependent) X .79
- Annual FM EFC X .71 (independent with deps) or Annual FM EFC X .35 (independent w/o deps)
- Pell Grant Award\*\*\*
- = State Grant Annual Award (minimum \$100)

\*Subject to tuition & fee caps: \$16,654 for 4-yr program; \$6,580 for 2-yr or less program

\*\*LME \$0 for those in correctional facility

\*\*\*From 2022-2023 Federal Pell Grant Disbursement Schedule. Amount based on student's EFC. Amount subtracted even if student not actually receiving Pell.



### State Grant Award Notice

- School must calculate the student's State Grant award on campus and notify student
  - OHE performs this function for MN Dream Act applicants; however, schools should incorporate the award into their campus financial aid award letter as well.
- Award notice should indicate that State Grant will vary based on enrollment level
- Shared Responsibility formula is used to calculate award
- Shared Responsibility formula is described in text of State Grant Manual and Appendices 8 and 9



### MN Dream Act State Grant Student Award Screen

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION		
N AID	Home Certification(Dream Act) x IND-0514(DREAMACT) x	
ate Grant	UPDATE A	PPLICATION TRANSFER STUDENT
ream Act		
stering Independence Grant	O Document Review Information	
stem Administration		
iick View	Residency Information	
SSN GO	O School Information	
MNAID ID GO	Family Information	
SSN:	Student Tax information	
Existing Grants/Scholarships Dream Act 2022 - 2023	O Parent Tax Information	
ransaction History ayment History AFSA Data Io Questionnaire Data	Award Amounts Information  Institution: PINE TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	
	Total Credits	Amount
	3	\$861.00
	4	\$1,150.00
	5	\$1,434.00
	6	\$1,722.00
	7	\$2,011.00
	8	\$2,295.00
	9	\$2,583.00
	10	\$2,872.00
	11	\$3,156.00
	12	\$3,444.00
	13	\$3,733.00
	15	\$3,755.00
	14	\$4,017.00



# MN Dream Act Enrollment Certification

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION MINNESOTA AID				🕒 Hi, Shawn 🝷
MN AID	Home	Certification(Dream Act) 🗙		
State Grant				
Dream Act				ertification M ACT
Award Rules				ar: 2022-2023
School Profile			Please select the Institution	005535 - PINE TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Payment History			rease select the institution	
Certification			Please select Academic Term	Spring 🗸
Request Reinstatement			CERTIFICAT	ION ROSTER
Reinstate Awards			CENTRAL	
Request Payments				
Process Funds Manually				
Generate Emails			Ν	
Email File Requests			$\searrow$	
Fostering Independence Grant				
System Administration				
Quick View				



# MN Dream Act Enrollment Certification

HIGHER EDUCATIO	N.						🕒 Hi, Shawn
MN AD	Home Certifica	fon(Dream Act) 🗙					
State Grant			005535-	PINE TECHNICAL AND CO	MMUNITY COLLEGE		
Dream Act				2022-2023 Spring Certific	ation Roster		
Award Rules				Dream Act			
School Profile							
Payment History		Filter			NPPG	RESET	
Certification							
Request Reinstatement							
Reinstate Awards	Certify	Name -	55N	Total Credits	Devidu Oredita	Award Amount	Additional Options
Request Payments	Pending     Ves	TEST IND I TEST IND		15+ V	0	\$4,305.00	
Process Funds Manuality	O No	TEAT INDITION IND				<i>94,000.00</i>	
Generate Emails	T						
Email File Requests	I Certify that th	e listed students are encolled for at least	three hours for the servester in	dicated and are maintaining satisfacto	ry academic progress as defined by t	No institution.	
Fostering Independence Grant							
System Administration				CANCEL	SAVE		
Quick View							



Т

## Award for Non-Standard Term

- "Non-standard" term means semester less than 15 weeks or quarter less than 10 weeks
- Award for non-standard term is same as award for standard term
  - No adjustments required for shorter term length



# Award for Full Fiscal Year

- Student may receive State Grant for up to 4 full-time quarters or 3 full-time semesters during a fiscal year
  - This translates into 60 quarter credits or 45 semester credits in a fiscal year
- Term with 15 or more credits only counts as 15 credits
- If student transfers to another school, the new school must limit payment to stay within these credit limits



# Fiscal Year Award Limitation for Transfer Student

### **Example of Transfer Student**

- Student completes 17 semester credits at School A
- Student transfers to School B, which is on the quarter system
- School B must translate 15 semester credits to 22.5 quarter credits (15 X 1.5)

(17 credits only counted as 15)

• School B can only award the student for the remaining 37.5 quarter credits of eligibility for the aid year



### Award for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter or 3<sup>rd</sup> Semester

 State Grant award for student's 4th quarter or 3rd semester within fiscal year is calculated in the same manner as for other terms



# Attending Multiple Schools

- Student can receive separate State Grants at multiple MN schools during the same term based on the cost and credits at each school attended
- Can't receive payment for more than 15 credits per term
  - School that reports payment that exceeds 15 credits will have payment rejected by OHE
  - School must recalculate payment for enrollment level of remaining credits. Example:
    - School A pays for 12 credits and has payment accepted
    - School B pays for 6 credits and has payment rejected
    - School B must recalculate State Grant to Level 3 instead of Level 6



# Attending Multiple Schools

- When calculating awards at separate schools for the same term:
  - Each school must use the average tuition and mandatory fees, appropriate tuition and fee maximum, and LME for the student's enrollment level at that school
- Example of the award calculation for a student attending two schools for the same term can be found as Example 7 in Appendix 9 of State Grant manual



# Combining Credits at 'Home School'

- One eligible MN school may act as the 'home school' and base student's award on the costs for combined credits at both schools
- A consortium agreement is not required as long as both schools are eligible MN schools
  - However, home school must monitor student's enrollment at other school to determine if student withdraws or is making satisfactory progress



# Combining Credits at 'Home School'

- "Home school" must add the average tuition and fees charged at both schools for up to 15 credits per term
  - Home school can use its own tuition and fees if the other school is within the same system (MNState, U of M, Private 4-year, Private 2-year)
  - The lesser of the tuition and fees or the applicable tuition and fee maximum for <u>the student's</u> <u>degree program</u> must be used in the award calculation
- LME used in State Grant award calculation cannot exceed the full-time LME for 15 credits
- Example award calculation can be found as Example 8 in Appendix 9 of the State Grant manual
  - Multiple school award calculation spreadsheet available at: www.ohe.state.mn.us



# Attending Multiple Schools

- A student cannot receive a State Grant at an ineligible school unless the school has a consortium agreement with an eligible MN school and the student is accepted into a degree, certificate or diploma program at the eligible MN school
  - The eligible MN school must act as the 'home school' and award the State Grant



# Crossover Term Award Overlaps fiscal years (starts before and ends after July 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Award may be funded from either aid year
  - Decision on which aid year's FAFSA to use can differ on student-by-student basis
  - Must match aid year selected for Federal Pell Grant
  - Considerations:
    - Which year's FAFSA might yield the highest State Grant award?
    - Has the student met the application deadline for both years?
    - Has the student already been awarded for 3 FT semesters or 4 FT quarters for the current aid year?
- Laws, regs and policies for aid year selected apply



### Disbursement





### Initial Funds Advances

- Initial State Grant File is uploaded School will need to review State Grant File Output Report to verify award amounts, OHE happy to assist with questions or concerns.
- Schools cannot receive funds more than 14 days before term start date and it takes approximately two days for the funds to be pushed out via EFT.
- Be sure to closeout previous aid year, Advances held if school missed close out deadline for prior year or not meeting monthly reporting requirements



### State Grant Funds Request

**Request funds using the MNAid System** -<u>Login (guarantorsolutions.com)</u>





## State Grant Funds Request

**Request funds using the MNAid System** -Login (guarantorsolutions.com)

Funds request process will limit advances to the Total Awards minus Total Advances for the term.

Term	Term Start Date	Advances	Awards	Payments	Balance	Requested Amount	
Summer1	7/2/2021	\$82,730	\$163,225	\$130,772	\$-48,042	\$0	Request
Fall	9/1/2021	\$289,742	\$289,844	\$218,033	\$71,709	\$0	Request
Spring	3/1/2022	\$88,805	\$200,209	\$73,387	\$15,418	\$0	Request
Summer2	5/1/2022	\$0	\$82,321	\$0	\$0	\$0	Request





## State Grant Funds Request

#### **Request funds using the MNAid System** -Login (guarantorsolutions.com)



Requested Amount
8,000
\$0
\$0
20,000

8. Click Submit Request.





### How Funds Disbursed

- State Grant funds must be maintained in separate account or in a manner that allows auditors to adequately track funds
- Interest earnings must be used to offset State Grant administrative costs
- Schools can disburse State Grant funds to students using any of the following methods:
  - by check directly to the student
  - by check mailed to the student
  - applying funds to the student's account
  - transferring funds via EFT



### MN Dream Act State Grant Funds

- Schools Certify Student Enrollment within MNAid
  - Be sure enrollment is set, any schools wait until after their drop/add period to certify
- Certification leads to OHE sending separate State Grant funds via EFT for MN Dream Act recipients
  - OHE will email school when funds are sent
  - These recipients not included in State Grant files
- Payment roster can be generated by school in MNAid
- School can return refunds at end of term using OHE Refund Return Form



### MN Dream Act State Grant Payment Roster

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION MINNESOTA AID				
MN AID	Home Certifica	ation(Dream Act) 🗙 IND-0514(E	DREAMACT) X Reports X	
Search			MNAID R	port Options
Reports	Activity Reports	Management Reports Excep	otion Reports Rosters	
Update Student SSN	Certification	Dankar		All students at 1
File Requests	Payment Ros			a status of "Paic
Send Email	Ready To Pay	Roster		
Student User Management				
Help		Academic Year:	2022-2023	
State Grant	$\searrow$			
Dream Act		Program:	Dream Act	
Fostering Independence Grant		School:	002338-00 BETHEL UNIVERSITY	
System Administration		Term:	Spring	
Quick View			Jan 19	
		Display:	Alphabetical By Last Name Numerical By SSN	
			<ul> <li>Numerical By SSN</li> <li>Chronological By Paid Date</li> </ul>	
			Include Only Students With Adjustments	;
			□ Include Hyphens From SSNs:	



# When Funds are Disbursed

- School may not disburse funds to a student until the student is registered for a term
  - If disbursing prior to term start, disbursement date is considered to be the first day of the term
- If student does not attend, funds must be returned
- If school posts State Grant payment with own funds prior to beginning of fiscal year
  - <u>Liable for any overpayments related to changes in eligibility</u> requirements, enrollment level, etc.



### Disbursement Date

- If funds disbursed after term starts, disbursement date is:
  - date funds are applied to student's account or applied to tuition charges; or
  - for funds mailed to student or transferred via EFT, date of check or EFT transaction,
  - for funds disbursed directly to student via check, date student picks up the check
- State Grant payment must always be based on student's enrollment status <u>AS OF THE DATE OF DISBURSEMENT</u>


## Late or Retroactive Disbursement

- Can pay late in term or retroactively for completed term (even if student not currently enrolled) if student:
  - met the application deadline for the term in question
  - currently meets all other program eligibility requirements
- Payment must be based on student's enrollment status for term as of the date of disbursement
  - Classes with passing grades or grades of "F," "NC," or "I" CAN be included when determining enrollment status as of the end of the term
  - Classes with grades of "W," "FW" or "FN" CANNOT be counted



## Student Authorization

- School must obtain written authorization from student allowing school to disburse State Grant funds via EFT or to hold excess funds on student's account
  - School cannot require student to authorize these activities
- Authorization is provided for one academic year and can be used for future years if school notifies student and offers opportunity to rescind authorization



## Student Authorization

- Unless otherwise authorized by student, any excess state financial aid funds on student's account beyond institutional charges must be disbursed to student within 14 days of the later of:
  - the date the balance occurs; or
  - the first day of classes for the term/period; or
  - the date the student rescinds authorization
- This includes State Grant payments posted with institutional funds
- School must document all disbursements for auditing purposes (for further instructions, see "Method of Disbursement to Students" in the State Grant manual)



## Award Recalculation and Refunds





## Award Recalculation

- State Grant must always be recalculated if student drops/withdraws from credits without having attended
  - For example, recalculate Level 15 award to Level 12 if student drops 3 credit class without attending
  - For example, Level 12 State Grant disbursed for two combined summer sessions of 6 credits each recalculated to Level 6 if student doesn't attend second summer session



## Award Recalculation

- Withdrawals backdated to beginning of term treated as if student never attended
- Entire State Grant must be refunded if student drops/withdraws from all classes without attending



# Withdrawing/Adding Credits After Beginning Attendance (First effective 2013-2014 aid year)

- No state award adjustments required after student has begun attendance in all classes
- School can have written policy to adjust awards through a certain date
  - E.g. end of drop/add period, end of term, etc.
- School can have different policy for different programs
  - E.g. day school vs weekend college
- Policy must be used for all state financial aid programs requiring adjustments
  - Adjustment end date does NOT have to match end date used for Federal Pell Grant program

EDUCATION

## Withdrawing/Adding Credits After Beginning Attendance

 If school has policy opting for award adjustments, they must be done regardless of whether award increases or decreases if they occur <u>before</u> adjustment end date

Action	Result	Adjustment
Add credit(s)	Increases award	Disburse additional State Grant funds to student
Add credit(s)	Decreases award	No adjustment of State Grant award unless Pell Grant actually increased
Withdraw credit(s)	Increases award	No adjustment of State Grant award unless Pell Grant actually decreased
Withdraw credit(s)	Decreases award	Perform partial withdrawal refund for State Grant using OHE Refund Calculation Worksheet

ER EDUCATION

## Partial Withdrawal Resulting in Decreased State Grant Award

- If student withdraws from attended class *after* State Grant disbursement:
  - School must complete appropriate OHE Refund Calculation Worksheet (Appendix 13 of State Grant Manual or spreadsheet)
  - The lesser of the amount of the refund of institutional charges or the difference between the original and revised State Grant is refunded
  - School not required to complete OHE Refund Calculation Worksheet/Spreadsheet if no refund of institutional charges
    - School must at least review case and make notation in student's file



# Withdrawing/Adding Credits After Beginning Attendance

- When first awarding/disbursing funds AFTER the adjustment end date, award must be based on enrollment level as of the date of disbursement
  - No further adjustments after that point
- If student has withdrawn class removed from transcript, treat as if student was never enrolled and perform award recalculation
- School can have a policy to add credits after state award adjustment end date if:
  - Credits would have normally been added during drop/add period and failure to originally add credits was beyond student's control; or
  - Interim credits were registered after fall term award adjustment end date and will be allocated to fall term



## Award Adjustments

- If a student first withdraws from and then adds credits *after* beginning attendance and *before* award adjustment end date:
- First do partial withdrawal refund for withdrawn class
- Compare revised award for new net enrollment level (don't include Ws) with previous disbursement retained by student
  - If new award is less than what was retained from original disbursement, there is not an overpayment
  - If new award is higher than what was retained from original disbursement, disburse additional funds to student
  - Consult Appendices 26 and 27 in State Grant manual for more detailed instructions



## Refund for Total Withdrawal

- If student totally withdraws from school after attending classes, school must complete the appropriate OHE Refund Calculation Worksheet or Spreadsheet
  - Not required if no refund of institutional charges, but school must review and make notation in student's file. MN OHE adopts Dept. of Education definition of Institutional Charges.
- Different worksheet/spreadsheet based on how school charges (upfront for entire program or by term)
  - Line A: Amount of cash or financial aid applied to original institutional charges (capped at the amount of original institutional charges)
  - Line B: Subtract amount of original institutional charges school is allowed to retain according to its refund policy
  - Line C: Gross refund (if zero or negative, STOP!)
  - Line D: Subtract institutional share of any required refund due to Title IV programs
  - Line E: Net refund (distributed proportionally among non-Title IV aid programs except State Work Study)



## Refund for Total Withdrawal

- If school charges for entire program at onset of program:
  - Line A represents all financial aid and cash received to date for the entire program
  - This includes funds disbursed to the student for living costs UNLESS they exceed the amount of total program charges
- School charges \$15,000 for cosmetology program at onset of program
- Program normally takes 5 payment periods to complete
- School disburses excess financial aid to student each payment period as though school charged by the payment period (e.g., \$3,000 charges associated with each period)
- All funds received by school to date for program are included on Line A up to \$15,000



## Award Adjustments

 In some cases, both an award recalculation and withdrawal refund calculation must be performed

- Example: Student is paid a State Grant for 12 credits at the beginning of summer semester (6 credits per summer session). Student withdraws during first summer session and does not enroll for second summer session.
  - First *recalculate* Level 12 State Grant to Level 6 because student never attended classes in second summer session
  - Perform withdrawal refund calculation for Level 6 State Grant



## State Grant Refunds

- For main State Grant activity, schools do not return individual student refunds to the OHE throughout school year
  - Refunds deposited into the school's State Grant fund on campus
  - Excess funds returned to OHE in lump sum at end of year
- For MN Dream Act State Grant recipients, schools perform award adjustments and/or refunds
  - Individual student refund amounts returned with payment roster at end of term



## Reporting Requirements





## Reporting Requirements

- Schools are required by law to report State Grant data to OHE on monthly basis throughout the school year
- The data record submitted for each student is described under the State Grant File Format
  - Upload files to OHE using <u>Application Selection (guarantorsolutions.com</u>)
  - Schools using an automated FTP process can continue to FTP files to OHE
- OHE uses FAFSA Transaction Number reported by calculate awards



## Reporting Requirements

Schools should only report data for students who:

- have completed their financial aid applications,
- have a SAR/ISIR that is not rejected,
- plan to enroll at the school for the school year being processed,
- meet all of the State Grant Program eligibility requirements, and
- have been through the State Grant formula to determine whether they are a recipient or <u>no-need applicant</u>
- are not MN Dream Act recipients



## State Grant File

- Beginning 2022-2023 year, schools report the FAFSA Transaction number that State Grant was paid on, instead or reporting ISIR data.
  - Title IV cost of attendance (actual tuition and fees, books, equipment, room and board, transportation, miscellaneous personal expenses)
  - Less than half-time Title IV cost of attendance
    - Has effect on less than half-time Pell Grant award
    - Consists of full-time tuition & fees, books, equipment, and transportation (no room and board or misc expenses)



## State Grant File

## • Term Enrollment Status

- Reported as full-time (15 credits) for terms of standard academic year (fall through spring terms) unless school knows otherwise
- Should be updated later if changes
- Should reflect the student's enrollment status as of the date of disbursement



## State Grant File

## Term Tuition and Fee Maximums

- 2 = Student in 2-year or less degree program
- 4 = Student in 4-year degree program
- Term Award and Payment Fields
  - If student is not enrolled (or not eligible) for term, term award and payment should be reported as zeroes
- Term Disbursement Date Fields
  - Used to determine if student was paid before or after being placed on hold



## Uploading SG File

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION MINNESOTA AID	
MN AID	Home 013505-00, ACADEMY COLLEGE File Upload(State Grant) 🗙
State Grant	Upload State Grant File
Award Rules	013505-00, ACADEMY COLLEGE Academic Year: 2022 - 2023
School Profile	
Payment History	File Choose File No file chosen
File Upload	The State Grant file is used to electronically award students at your school (click here to view the file
Funds Request	I certify that the students who are indicated as eligible for payment of a State Grant in the attached file, have completed
Funds Request Approval	including citizenship and academic progress, as specified in the program guidelin
Process Funds Manually	
Fostering Independence Grant	UPLOAD
System Administration	
Quick View	

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## Reviewing Upload Files

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION MINNESOTA AID								6	
MN AID	Home Reports 🗙	File Requests 🗙							
Search				File Re	equests				
Reports									
Update Student SSN			Select Institution	005535-00, PINE TE	CHNICAL AND COMMUNITY C				
File Requests									
Send Email	REFRESH								
Student User Management									
Help			<ul> <li>It may take a f</li> </ul>	few minutes for the file	to be processed and ready for download				
State Grant	SELECT A ROW TO VIEW FILE RESULTS AND ERRORS								
Fostering Independence Grant									
System Administration	Show Prior Academ								
Quick View	File Type	t↓ Request Date		11 User Name	t⊥ Aid Program	î↓ ACYear	†↓	Download	
	Upload State Grant File	01-01-2023	The File has completed successfully,	CONV	State Grant	2022-2023		_	
	Upload State Grant File	10-04-2022	The File has completed successfully.		State Grant	2022-2023			
	Upload State Grant File	08-25-2022	The File has completed successfully.		State Grant	2022-2023			



## State Grant Output Reports





## State Grant Output Reports

• The school should review the reports and correct any errors prior to submission of its next monthly batch

## • Key Reports and Items to Review:

- State Grant Output Report
  - Roster of Rejected Awards/Payments
  - All Warnings and Errors
  - Roster of Accepted Payments
- Reconciliation Report
  - Accounting totals for batch



## State Grant Output Report

• Output reports available after State Grant File Successfully Uploaded and are available (check for pop-up blocker)





			Date printed	: 10/12/2022 10:54	1:23 AM			
	Minnesota (	Office of Higher Edu	cation					
		Grant File Output Report emic Year: 2022-2023 State Grant College						
Roster of F SSN	Rejected Awards and Paymen	nts Dateof Birth	Summer1 Credits	Summer1 Award	Summer1 Payment	Fall Credits	Fall Award	Fall Payment V
XXXXXXXXXX	Last name, First Name		00	\$0.00	\$0.00	17	\$1,266.00	\$1,266.00
xxxxxxxxx	Last name, First Name		00	\$0.00	\$0.00	14	\$0.00	\$0.00

<u>.</u>

- Rejected Awards and Payments
  - Warning Award and Payments
    - Accepted Payments

	<b>Rejected Awards_Payments</b>	Award Warnings	Accepted Payments	File Processing Info	+	
--	---------------------------------	----------------	-------------------	----------------------	---	--



## **Common Errors**

- Date of Birth Invalid/Student DOB does not match MNAid DOB
  - If the DOB reported by the school matches the current year ISIR or the ISIR transaction the school is paying from, OHE will correct the DOB in MNAid and the reject will clear with the school's next file
  - If the DOB reported by the school does not match the current year ISIR DOB, the school must work with the student to determine correct DOB.





Common Errors (Continued)

- SSN Not Found
  - SSN was mistakenly used by another student, OHE will correct
  - Student is not in MNAid School must review
- FAFSA/Transaction Not Found
  - Most often, the ISIR has not been loaded into MNAid yet.
- Federal Reject (followed by additional message)
  - ISIR is rejected
  - Occasionally, student information reported does not match MNAid



**Common Errors (Continued)** 

- Award/Payment Too High
  - Review enrollment vs award/payment
  - Could be a timing issue
- SELF Default/Child Support Hold Before Fall Disbursement
  - Review student profile in MNAid/Hold report
- Multiple Payments > 15 Credits
  - Using Quick View, review student's current year Existing Grants



# When in doubt, reach out!

Please, help me!



## State Grant Reconciliation Report

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION MINNESOTA AID	4	
MN AID	Home Reports 🗙	
Search		MNAID Report Options
Reports	Activity Reports Management Reports Exception Reports Rosters	
Update Student SSN		Reconciliation fo
File Requests	FIG Student Data Hold Report	
Send Email	Last State Grant File	
Student User Management	NASSGAP Report           Payment Batch Details	
Help	School Balance Report	
State Grant	School Totals Report School Users Report	
Fostering Independence Grant	State Grant File Output Report	
System Administration	State Grant File Reconciliation Report	<b>~</b>
Quick View		
	Academic Year: 2022-2023	

Program:

State Grant



## State Grant Reconciliation Report

### Minnesota Office of Higher Education

State Grant Payment File Reconciliation Report

Academic Year: 2022-2023 State Grant

### Reconciliation Report

09/30/2022	
10/03/2022	
10/03/2022	
OHE	School
1238	1239
\$1,972,465.00	\$1,972,465.00
OHE	School
\$-1,525,000.00	
\$1,969,022.00	
\$444,022.00	\$-1,972,465.00
	\$3,443.00
	\$-3,443.00
	\$444,022.00
	0HE 10/03/2022 10/03/2022 0HE 1238 \$1,972,465.00 0HE \$-1,525,000.00 \$1,969,022.00

### Advance Details

Trans Date	Term	Amount
8/24/2022	Fall	(\$1,525,000.00)
Totals		(\$1,525,000.00)



## End of Year Process





## End of Year Process

- Schools must close out State Grant by August 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, which means they've submitted an error free State Grant File and have returned any excess State Grant Funds to OHE.
- Communicate with OHE, very busy time for schools, closing out one year and disbursing for another year, OHE is happy to help.
- Failure to meet close-out deadline will hold fund advances for the next aid year



## Post-Closure Refunds

- Return any post-closure refunds to OHE using Refund Return Form <u>RefundReturnForm.docx (live.com)</u>
- School does NOT need to re-open batch activity



## Refund Return Form

### MN Office of Higher Education Refund Return Form

For Returning End of Year Balances or Returning Individual Student Refunds

### Returning End of Year Balance or Interim Excess

(for use with ID Grant, Postsecondary Child Care Grant, State Grant, State Work Study)						
Aid Year	Amount of Refund					
	\$					
	\$					
	\$					
	\$					
	\$					

(for use with ID Grant, Indian Scholarship, MN Reconnect Scholarship, Postsecondary Child Care Grant, State Grant/Dream Act, State Work Study, Teacher Candidate Grant)

Student's Name	SSN	Program	Amount	Term	Aid Year	Reason Code	At Disbursement Enrollment Level	Current Enrollment Level
	XXX-XX-		\$					
	XXX-XX-		\$					
	XXX-XX-		\$					
	XXX-XX-		\$					
	XXX-XX-		\$					
	XXX-XX-		\$					
	XXX-XX-		\$					
	XXX-XX-		\$					
	XXX-XX-		\$					

- Reason NE = not enrolled for term/withdrawal before disbursement Codes:
  - W = total withdrawal from school after disbursement
  - PW = withdrew from class but still enrolled
  - CH = changed enrollment level, refunding full difference in awards
  - OT = other (provide explanation above)

Return refund with form to: Minnesota Office of Higher Education Administrative Services Division PO Box 64449 St. Paul, MN 55164-0449

6

Person Returning Funds:	Phone Number:	
Name of College:	School Code:	Date Completed:



## Post-Closure Payments

- It may be possible for OHE to issue a manual payment to the school
  - Contact Grant Unit for assistance
- Once State Grant activity is closed out for aid year, school must keep all associated student records for 3 years or until all audit findings for that school year are resolved



## Thank you and Questions

- Meghan Flores, State Financial Aid Manager: Manages Team and Programs below <u>Meghan.flores@state.mn.us</u> (651) 355-0610
- **Shannon Olson**: SG eligibility questions, SG batch processing, SG fund advances, SG online budget questionnaire <u>Shannon.l.olson@state.mn.us</u> (651) 355-0611
- Shawn Reynolds: State Grant, MN Dream Act (general, processing and status of application), OHE FA Estimators <a href="mailto:shawn.Reynolds@state.mn.us">shawn.Reynolds@state.mn.us</a>, 651.355.0615

