



Docket Item:

Approve permanent rule amendments Chapter 575: Increasing flexibility of state administered financial aid eligibility requirements due to COVID-19.

Summary:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Rule | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amend Existing Rule | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repeal Rule | |

Prompted by:

- State law changes
 Federal law changes
 Other

575-035-0030: The rule establishes eligibility criteria for barber and hairdresser grants and allows for the Commission to extend the 15 month cap on award eligibility for grant recipients whose education is affected by COVID-19.

575-065-0065: The rule establishes eligibility requirements for students in the foster care grant program and allows the Commission to waive eligibility requirements and grant extensions for the maximum time period for receipt of funds if a student's ability to meet those requirements is affected by COVID-19.

The rules are required to provide flexibility in financial aid awarding and the maintenance of financial eligibility for students whose education is or may be disrupted either due to either school, institution, or state actions or personal circumstances that arise from Coronavirus.

Material:

Text of Permanent Rule Amendments

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the attached permanent rule changes, to take effect upon filing with the Secretary of State.

PERMANENT COVID 19 RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

575-035-0030

Conditions of Award

(1) The maximum period of a B & H Grant shall not exceed 15 months, except as described in subsection (5).

(2) The Commission may deny any disbursement to a student failing to make satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution.

(3) No B & H Grant shall be made to any student enrolled in a course of study required for and leading to a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education.

(4) The recipient may not be in default on any federal Title IV loan, nor owe any refunds on federal Title IV funds previously disbursed.

(5) In the event the Governor issues a declaration of emergency or executive orders that order or directly lead to the temporary cessation of educational activity by an institution eligible to receive the grant under OAR 575-035-0015, the Commission may extend the maximum period of grant eligibility for a period of time equal to the effective period or such declarations or orders, as determined by the Commission.

575-065-0065

Conditions of Award

(1) Except for subsection (2)(b) and (3) below, the maximum period of scholarship eligibility shall not exceed 12 quarters or 8 semesters, of undergraduate study.

(2) Except for paragraph (a) of this subsection and subsection (3) below, a recipient must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate student, as defined by the eligible institution.

(a) The Commission may waive the full-time enrollment requirement for students who are enrolled less than full-time provided a term of enrollment begins or ends during a period where there exists an active state declaration of emergency or executive order restricting the operations of institutions of higher education. A student shall receive a grant pursuant to this paragraph provided such student is, at minimum, enrolled in course half-time.

(b) The Commission may extend the maximum period of scholarship eligibility for a student that receives a waiver under paragraph (a) of this subsection during a period where there exists an active state declaration of emergency or executive order restricting the operations of institutions of higher education, provided such extension does not violate subsection (4) of ORS 348.272.

(3) Students whose statutory rights provide for a legitimate need to exceed 12 quarters or 8 semesters of undergraduate study and/or to attend school for less than half-time undergraduate status may be eligible to receive a scholarship.

(4) The Commission may deny renewal of an award to any student failing to maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the eligible institution.

PERMANENT COVID 19 RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

(5) The Commission may deny renewal of an award to any student failing to continue to show financial need.

(6) No scholarship shall be made to any student in default on any federal Title IV loan or owing a refund on federal Title IV student aid programs.

(7) The Commission may require proof that the applicant is a Former Foster Child.

(8) A recipient must be enrolled in an eligible program as defined in 575-031-0016.

(9) A student who is otherwise eligible to receive the grant, but does not enroll or enrolls less than half-time during a term for which there exists an active state declaration of emergency or executive order restricting the operations of institutions of higher education, shall retain eligibility for or the right to renew the grant in the next subsequent term. For the purpose of this subsection, a student shall not be required to enroll in a summer term to retain eligibility.