

# Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility

The federal Department of Education recently established new regulations which reduce the duration of a student's eligibility to receive a federal Pell Grant from 18 full-time semesters (or its equivalent) to 12 full-time semesters (or its equivalent). This provision applies to **all** federal Pell Grant eligible students effective 2012-13.

## What does this mean to you?

Beginning with Fall 2012, a student has **6 years** (12 full-time semesters) of total Pell Grant lifetime eligibility. (This includes *all* years Pell was received prior to Fall 2012.) All the years each student has received federal Pell grant will be counted toward the 6 years, regardless of when the student began receiving aid.

## Tracking Your Lifetime Eligibility Used on NSLDS

You can find your *Lifetime Eligibility Used* for the federal Pell Grant by going to the Web site [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov) and creating a student account. NSLDS, the National Student Loan Data System, tracks your lifetime Pell Grants, loan usage and overpayment status. If you have loans, you may view how much you owe and to whom.

## The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

- Step 1: Obtain a Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the U.S. Department of Education  
Your PIN serves as your electronic signature and provides access to your personal records with the U.S. Department of Education systems. You can request a PIN via the U.S. Department of Education's web site at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
- Step 2: Access NSLDS by going to [www.nsls.ed.gov](http://www.nsls.ed.gov). On the NSLDS screen, click on **Financial Aid Review**
- Step 3: Read the privacy statement on this screen. If you agree, click **Accept** to find your Lifetime Eligibility Used. A security configuration question may or may not prompt, depending on your browser's current security configuration. If you are comfortable with your browser's current security configuration, click **Accept** to continue. The **Confirming Your Identity** screen will appear after you click **Accept**.
- Step 4: Enter your *Social Security* number (SSN), the *first two letters of your last name*, your *date of birth*, and your *PIN* to confirm your identity. **Keep your PIN safe and secure.**
- Step 5: View the **Financial Aid Review** screen listing your total **Lifetime Eligibility Used**.