



# You've Got Questions – We've Got Answers!

## THECB, Grants and Special Programs

Answers to recently asked questions: December 21, 2012

Archived Q&A's, as well as a cross-reference index, can be accessed at:  
<https://www1.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/SpecialPrograms/>

### Designated Tuition Set-Aside Program

**Q: Can HB3015 financial assistance programs go to nonresident students?**

A: No. Chapter 56, Subchapter B, Sections 56.011(a) and 56.012(a) of the Education Code state that financial assistance funded from set asides under these sections shall be used to provide financial assistance for resident undergraduate students (56.011) or resident graduate students (56.012) enrolled at the institution.

**Q: Can HB3015 fund financial assistance programs that are non-need-based?**

A: No. Chapter 56, Subchapter B, Sections 56.011(b) and 56.012(b) of the Education Code state that eligible students funded from set asides under these sections must establish financial need in accordance with rules and procedures established by the Coordinating Board, giving priority to students who meet the CB definition of financial need and whose cost for tuition and required fees is not met through other non-loan financial aid. The CB's definition of financial need in rule is: Unless otherwise specified in statute or rule, a student's financial need is defined as the difference between the student's cost of attendance as determined by the institution and the student's expected family contribution as calculated using the United States Department of Education's Federal Methodology (FM).

### Financial Aid Database (FADB) Report

**Q: What waiver code should be used on the FADB for affidavit students (undocumented students) who pay resident tuition?**

A: Affidavit students are classified as residents. They are not nonresidents receiving a waiver. Unless an affidavit student is also receiving some type of exemption (such as a valedictorian scholarship exemption), he/she would not be reported in the exemption/waiver section of the FADB report.

### TEXAS Grant Program

**Q: Will the EFC cap for IY awards continue to be \$4,000 in 2013/14?**

A: Beginning with the 2013/14 year, the EFC cap for TEXAS Grant IY award consideration will be 60% of the average tuition and fees at the General Academic Teaching Institutions (GATI's). The average tuition and fees to be used for the 2013-14 year will be calculated and announced in early spring.

As an example: \$7,400 (the 12/13 average tuition and fees at the GATI's) x 60% = \$4,440.

In this example which uses the average tuition and fees for 12/13, only EFC's of \$4,440 or less would be considered for IY awards.

**Q: Will the new path to TEXAS Grant IY eligibility for the military (beginning with the 2013/14 year) be available to students attending community colleges as well as the General Academic Teaching Institutions (GATI's)?**

A: No. The location of the enabling legislation for this new path to IY eligibility limits this to persons who graduate on/after May 1, 2013 and attend one of the General Academic Teaching Institutions – defined in statute to be a public university, Lamar-Orange, or Lamar-Port Arthur.

## TEOG and TEXAS Grant Programs

**Q:** We are a community college and award both TEOG and TEXAS Grant. I am often confused by the similarities and differences between the two programs. Can you please explain the enrollment requirements – are students required to be enrolled in a certain number of hours each semester, or do we only pay attention to whether or not they complete 24 SCH’s at the end of the year? And, do we have to prorate the awards anytime a student is not enrolled full-time, or is it only under a hardship situation?

**A:** The following information is extracted from the TEXAS Grant and TEOG program guidelines. These guidelines serve as a quick reference for the various program requirements including student eligibility, annual award amounts, proration requirements, satisfactory academic progress requirements, etc. To view the full program guidelines, visit the program specific information <https://www1.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/SpecialPrograms/>

**Enrollment:** An otherwise eligible student must be enrolled at least three-quarter time (9 SCH’s) to receive up to a full TEXAS Grant award, and an otherwise eligible student must be enrolled at least half-time (6 SCH’s) to receive up to a full TEOG award.

**Proration:** Award amounts must be prorated if the student is in one of the following situations:

1. **TEXAS Grant** – the student has an approved hardship and is enrolled less than 9 SCH’s but at least 6 SCH’s, or the student has fewer than 9 SCH’s remaining of the 150 or 90 SCH limit and is enrolled in at least 6 hours. (A student enrolled in fewer than 6 SCH’s is not eligible for an award.)

The TEXAS Grant proration schedule for a hardship approval is as follows:

	<b>Enrolled 9 Hours or More</b>	<b>Enrolled 6-8 Hours</b>	<b>Enrolled Less Than 6 Hours</b>
<b>Student Hardship Approved</b>	Maximum eligibility = 100% of a maximum award amount for the semester	Maximum eligibility = the maximum award for the semester divided by 12 and multiplied by the number of hours enrolled	No Award

The TEXAS Grant proration schedule for a student with fewer than 9 SCH’s of the 150 or 90 SCH limitation is as follows:

	<b>Remaining Hours = 9 Hours or More</b>	<b>Remaining Hours = 6 – 8 Hours</b>	<b>Remaining Hours = Fewer Than 6 Hours</b>
<b>Student Enrolled at Least ¾-Time</b>	Maximum eligibility = 100% of a maximum award amount	Maximum eligibility = 50% of a maximum award amount	Maximum eligibility = 25% of a maximum award amount
<b>Student Enrolled ½-Time</b>	Only with approved hardship (see hardship schedule)	Maximum eligibility = 50% of a maximum award amount	Maximum eligibility = 25% of a maximum award amount
<b>Student Enrolled Less Than ½-Time</b>	No Award	No Award	No Award

2. **TEOG** – the student has an approved hardship and is enrolled in fewer than 6 SCH’s, or the student has fewer than 6 SCH’s remaining of the 75 SCH limit.

The TEOG proration schedule for a hardship approval is as follows:

	<b>Enrolled 6 Hours or More</b>	<b>Enrolled Less Than 6 Hours</b>
<b>Student Hardship Approved</b>	Maximum eligibility = 100% of a maximum award amount for the semester	Maximum eligibility = the maximum award for the semester divided by 12 and multiplied by the number of hours enrolled

The TEOG proration schedule for a student with fewer than 6 hours remaining of the 75 SCH limitation is as follows:

	<b>Balance of Hours = 6 Hours or More</b>	<b>Balance of Hours = Fewer Than 6 Hours</b>
<b>Nearing 75 Hour Limitation</b>	Maximum eligibility = 100% of a maximum award amount for the semester	Maximum eligibility = 25% of a maximum award amount for the semester

**Completion Rate:** As part of the renewal eligibility requirements, an otherwise eligible student must meet the following completion rate requirements to be considered for a continuation award:

**1. TEXAS Grant:**

		<b>First award prior to 9/1/05</b>	<b>First award 9/1/05 or after</b>
<b>Completion Rate</b>	Initial	Institution's SAP Policy	Institution's SAP Policy
	Renewal	75% completion of attempted hours for the year **	75% completion of attempted hours for the year and completion of 24 hours for the year **

\*\* Since the completion rate is for the year, students can regain their eligibility in the summer for a fall award.

**2. TEOG:**

<b>Completion Rate</b>	Initial	Institution's SAP Policy
	Renewal	75% completion of attempted hours for the year **

\*\* Since the completion rate is for the year, students can regain their eligibility in the summer for a fall award.

**Q: We have a student who had a misdemeanor conviction for the possession of marijuana. Is the student ineligible for TEXAS Grant or TEOG according to TEC 56.304 (b)?**

A: Institutions should consult with the institution's legal counsel concerning individual student situations as they pertain to the conviction of a felony or an offense under Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code (Texas Controlled Substances Act), or under the law of another jurisdiction involving a controlled substance as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code.

The Health and Safety Code, Section 481.121 does include misdemeanor charges which would disqualify the student unless the student meets one of the following conditions:

1. The student received a pardon or had the offense expunged, etc.
- OR
1. The student received a certificate of discharge by the TDCJ or a correctional facility or completed a court-ordered probation; and
  2. Two (2) years have passed since receiving the certificate or completing the probation.

**Undocumented Students and State Work-Study**

**Q: Are affidavit students eligible to work through the State Work-Study Program?**

A: Otherwise eligible affidavit students who can provide the appropriate documentation proving eligibility to be employed in the United States may secure employment through the State Work-Study Program.

**Hazlewood Exemption Program**

**Q: Should Continuing Education (CE) courses be covered by the Hazlewood Exemption?**

A: Yes, if the courses receive formula funding.

**Q: Can institutions grant a Hazlewood Exemption for Continuing Education (CE) courses that do not receive formula funding?**

A: Yes, if the institution's governing board elects to grant the exemption for non-formula-funded CE courses.

**Q: Does the 150 SCH limit apply to CE courses?**

A: No. The statute specifically refers to 150 "credit hours". Therefore, non-credit courses (whether formula-funded or not) are not included in the 150 SCH limit.

**Q: Why are some students showing up in the Hazlewood Database as having used Hazlewood hours in fall 2013?**

A: The year displayed in the Hazlewood online database represents the fiscal year of the award. Since fall is the first semester of each fiscal year, the year will show to be one year ahead for the fall semester. For example, the fall 2012 semester is the first semester of fiscal year 2013. Therefore, the fall 2012 semester will show up online as fall 2013. Please notice that the header for the year column now indicates "fiscal year" when reviewing student accounts in the online database. We will request a revision to the database format to make it easier to understand.

**Q: When prorating awards due to stacking the benefit with federal benefits, how should we round the number of hours used by the Hazlewood Exemption if the outcome is not a whole number?**

A: The hours used by the Hazlewood Exemption should always be rounded up if the exemption is stacked with federal benefits.

As an example: Student takes 12 hours

Total tuition and fees = \$1,000

Amount Exempted by Hazlewood = \$400

Hazlewood Hours =  $400 / 1000 \times 12 = 4.8$  hours, rounded to 5 hours used