

Please read the changes to the Federal Pell Grant as this could impact you especially, if you intend to transfer and pursue your bachelor's degree

### **What has happened?**

In December 2011, President Obama signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74). This law has significantly impacted the Pell Grant Program. Beginning in fall 2012, students are now limited to 12 semesters (or 600%) of Pell Grant eligibility during their lifetime. This change affects all students regardless of when or where they received their first Pell Grant. Students that are currently receiving the Pell Grant in the academic year 2014-2015 and have already used 600% of their Pell Grant eligibility will no longer be eligible to receive a Pell Grant starting fall 2015.

### **How do I know if this affects me?**

If you have attended college for 4 years or longer, receiving the Pell Grant each year, you are likely to exhaust or have already exhausted your lifetime limit of 12 semesters of Pell Grant eligibility during the 2014-2015 school year. If you have attended college and received the Pell Grant for 4 years or less, you will likely not surpass the lifetime limit during the 2014-2015 school year.

Whether you have used all of your Pell Grant eligibility or only half, please be conscious about the lifetime limit of the Pell Grant when changing majors and/or scheduling classes.

### **Can I see my lifetime Pell Grant used?**

You may view your Pell Grant used by logging into [www.NSLDS.ed.gov](http://www.NSLDS.ed.gov).

### **How is the percentage used calculated?**

The percentages are based off the annual award at fulltime enrollment status. For students with an annual award for the 2014-2015 academic year, at the maximum award, \$5,645 and attended 12 or more credits in two semesters (Fall and Spring for example), the percentage used for the 2014-2015 academic year is 100%. If you only attended 9 credits for two semesters, your percentage used for the academic year is 75%.

### **I have questions about this, who do I call?**

Our Financial Aid Office staff is available to discuss the change in the lifetime Pell Grant eligibility with you. Please call us at (337) 421-6545 or email [financialaid@sowela.edu](mailto:financialaid@sowela.edu)

***As always we are here to answer any questions or concerns you may have. This information should be used to assist you with choices/decisions concerning your future educational plans.***