

MARYLAND NEAR-COMPLETER GRANT PROGRAM

-- KEY POINTS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS --

(Note – these points are not a substitute for the law, or the regulations once developed by MHEC.)

The state of Maryland has created a grant program to help eligible students complete their college degrees. This program is designed to assist those students who have already completed 75% of their academic degree requirements. The grant program refers to these students as, “near-completers.”

Basic program elements are outlined below. More detailed information will become available when regulations are developed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

1. Near-completer grant program begins academic year 2019-2020
2. Grants are available for credit programs only.
3. Grant funds are to be allocated in the state budget at:
 - \$250,000 for FY 2020
 - \$375,000 annually for FY 2020-2024
4. Grants are “last-dollar” (non-loan aid to be credited toward the near-completers’ tuition before the calculation of the near-completer grant amount)
 - All other financial aid is to be calculated before this award is appropriated.
 - Students must complete the FAFSA and/or any other applications for state or federal financial aid.
 - If ineligible to submit a FAFSA, student must qualify for in-state tuition.
5. Grant funds are for tuition only, and do not include fees or expenses related to attending the higher education institution.
 - An eligible near-completer enrolling in a community college will be allocated up to one-third of the in-county resident tuition rate.
 - An eligible near-completer enrolling in a 4-year institution will be allocated up to one-third of the in-state resident undergraduate tuition rate.
6. Grants are to be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.
7. Eligible near-completers will have:
 - GPA of 2.0 on a scale of 4.0, and
 - 45 credit hours from a community college, or
 - 90 credit hours from a 4-year institution.