



## **Student Financial Aid Packaging 2025-2026 Policy**

Montgomery College believes that students should not be restricted from attending because of limited financial resources. The College established a financial aid program, consisting of grants, scholarships, loans, and student employment, to help eligible students pay for tuition, books, and other necessary items. The College's student financial aid packaging policy is based on this philosophy.

Montgomery College uses the results of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for all need-based funds.

### **Gift Aid**

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) awards gift aid to students with financial need according to the restrictions of the award and the availability of funds.

#### *Pell Grants*

OSFA awards estimated Pell grants after student files have been reviewed and approved. We inform students that their awards will be prorated based on their semester enrollment (see "Award Conditions"). Enrollment for each semester is determined based on the hours that are billed, eligible to receive a grade, and count in the program of study as of a published lock date for each part of term within a semester. Enrollment for summer Pell is locked at the end of the 100% refund period for each session within the summer semester. Lock dates for all terms are published on MyMC.

#### *SEOG*

OSFA awards SEOG first to Pell-eligible students with a Student Aid Index (SAI) of -1500-2". When SEOG funds are expended during the initial fall packaging runs, we remove SEOG from packaging. We award funds that remain from students who do not enroll for fall to students enrolling for the spring semester. We do not prorate the amount of SEOG for part-time enrollment unless it is required due to an overaward. Less-than-half-time students may receive SEOG if they have remaining financial need.

The minimum SEOG awarded is \$300 per academic year. The maximum is \$1,000 per academic year. In order to maintain a semester SEOG award, students must stay enrolled in at least one class past the 6% date (MC last date for refund) for the classes in which they registered. If students withdraw from all classes prior to their 6% dates, SEOG will be cancelled for that semester.

### *Board of Trustees Grant*

This is an institutional grant awarded by the OSFA primarily to county students who demonstrate financial need. Based on available funds and student need, funds can be given on a case-by-case basis to state and out of state students.

The minimum awarded BOT grant is \$300 per academic year. The maximum awarded grant is \$2,000. The amount of the of grant is not prorated for part-time enrollment. BOT Grant will pay tuition and fees only for less than half time enrollment. Exceptions to the limits are determined by the Director. Grants may be adjusted due to overawards of financial aid. The minimum and maximum grant amounts may be changed at the discretion of the financial aid staff due to a student's special circumstances. BOT Grant will not package for students with an SAI above 20000 and out of county students. Exceptions are approved, on a case-by-case basis. For county, maximum Pell grant eligible students, BOT Grant is awarded after FSEOG is expended.

### **Self-help Aid**

#### *Federal Work Study*

OSFA awards Federal Work Study (FWS) to students who demonstrate financial need. OSFA awards FWS funds first to, eligible, returning students who have initiated a request to continue their employment. Other students are awarded based on their request to work, eligibility and available funds. All students are informed about the FWS program and how to search for a job on their award notification. The maximum FWS award is approximately \$ \$9795.75. The rate of pay is adjusted to stay consistent with state and county minimum wage requirements. For the 2025-26 award year the estimated wage is \$17.65 per hour fall 2025 and spring 2026. Students are permitted to work an average maximum of 15 hours per week. Every attempt is made to place students in a job related to their major. Students are also placed in off-campus community service jobs with nonprofit agencies.

#### *Federal Direct Loans*

Montgomery College packages the maximum amount of Federal Direct Loans in the initial financial aid award notification as an offered amount, to notify students those loans are available. To receive their loans, students must accept their loans online. Students must complete an online student loan entrance interview. Students receiving their first loan certified by Montgomery College are encouraged to complete the Direct Loan Request Form before completing the loan process. The Student Loan Team processes accepted loans after the student's financial aid file is verified, other aid had been awarded, and eligibility for loans has been determined. The six hours required for loan eligibility are determined at both certification and disbursement, based on the student's current and or completed hours in their program of study. In order to authorize a disbursement, students must begin attendance in at least one course. If within the semester, six hours are not obtained the loan amount may be adjusted. Montgomery College does not automatically package Parent PLUS loans. Parents who wish to obtain a PLUS loan should apply at <https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/>.

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