

# Limits on Financial Aid

1. All students must make Satisfactory Academic Progress toward a degree to continue to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
2. Most federal and state grants are only available to undergraduate students who are pursuing their first undergraduate degree.
3. The **Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) State Grant** offers a maximum of four years (or the equivalent) of state grant funding for students pursuing a bachelor's degree, and two years of funding for students pursuing an associate's degree. Students who are taking more than 50% of their classes online in any semester and students who are enrolled in programs that are designed to be delivered 100% online are generally not eligible for the Pennsylvania State Grant. However, Clarion University currently participates in PHEAA's Distance Education Pilot Program. Student Financial Services staff nominate online students who are otherwise eligible for a Pennsylvania State grant to the DE Pilot Program. PHEAA notifies nominated students of their award status.
4. Federal aid regulations state that a student may receive aid for up to a maximum of 150% of the published length of the educational program.
  - Most students pursuing a bachelor's degree will lose eligibility after they **attempt or earn** 180 credits.
  - Most students pursuing an associate's degree will lose eligibility after attempting or earning 90 credits.
  - Most graduate students will lose eligibility after attempting or earning 50 credits.

**Attempted credits** are credits in which you enrolled and may include credits for courses you failed or from which you withdrew. **Attempted credits include any credits earned at a previous school (transfer credits).** **Earned credits** are credits you successfully completed. Your unofficial Clarion transcript lists attempted hours (AHR) and earned hours (EHR).

5. Students are also limited by federal and state regulations as to the amount of aid that they can receive in any one semester or academic year. This includes aid from any source, including private loans, but not including institutional work study. Students may not receive more in financial aid than the cost of attendance, which includes tuition, fees, room, meals, cost of books, transportation and personal expenses. The cost of attendance is established by Clarion University each year.
6. Students must be enrolled for at least six credits per semester in a degree program to be eligible for the Pennsylvania State Grant. In order to utilize a PHEAA state grant during a summer session, the student must be enrolled for at least six credits over at least 8 weeks (two of the three summer sessions).

## 7. Lifetime loan maximums:

Dependent undergraduate students may borrow up to a lifetime maximum of \$31,000 through the Federal Direct Loan program. Up to \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans. Independent undergraduate students may borrow a maximum of \$57,500. Up to \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans. Graduate students may borrow up to a maximum of \$138,000.

Students must be enrolled for at least six credits per semester (or summer) and must be enrolled in a degree program to be eligible to receive a federal loan.

## 8. Subsidized Loan Limit at 150%:

This rule applies to all first-time borrowers after July 1, 2013. A full-time student who is enrolled in an associate's degree program may only receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans for a maximum of three years. A full-time student who is enrolled in a bachelor's degree program may only receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans for a maximum of six years. If a student is enrolled for longer than 150% of the time it normally takes to complete a degree program, s/he will lose the interest subsidy on any previously borrowed Federal Direct Student Loans.

**9. Lifetime PELL grant limits:**

Students may only receive a maximum of six years of federal PELL grants.