

# Academic Competitiveness Grant and National SMART Grant

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## Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)

During an eligible student's first year, the maximum ACG award is \$750; the maximum ACG award for a student's second year is \$1,300.

### ACG Requirements

To receive an ACG, a student must

- be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant during the same award year;
- be a first- or second-year undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time in a degree program or in a certificate program of at least one year in length at a two-year or four-year degree-granting institution;
- have completed a rigorous secondary school program of study; and
- if a first-year student
  - have completed secondary school after Jan. 1, 2006, and
  - not, while in high school, have been enrolled as a regular student in an ACG-eligible program except as part of a dual enrollment program
- if a second-year student
  - have completed secondary school after Jan. 1, 2005, and
  - have at least a 3.0 grade point average as of the end of his or her first academic year of undergraduate study.

These are not the only ACG requirements. For more details, including a list of recognized "rigorous" programs of secondary school study, visit the "Federal Financial Aid Programs" section at [www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov](http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov).

## National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant)

An eligible student may receive up to \$4,000 a year for his or her third and fourth academic years of undergraduate study.

### National SMART Grant Requirements

To receive a National SMART Grant, a student must

- be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant during the same award year;
- be enrolled at least half-time in the third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree or certificate program (or the fifth year of a five-year program) at a degree-granting institution;
- be pursuing a major (or, in some cases, equivalent course work) in physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, technology, engineering, or a critical foreign language as described in the "Federal Financial Aid Programs" section at [www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov](http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov); and
- have at least a 3.0 grade point average as of the end of the student's second year and continue to maintain a 3.0 GPA which must be checked prior to the beginning of each payment period (e.g., semester).

