

Hardship Policy for State Exemptions and Grants

In accordance with Texas Senate Bill 1210, undergraduate students receiving certain exemptions and/or TEOG (Texas Education Opportunity Grant) are required to meet the following academic requirements:

- Meet institutional Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards
 - 2.00 cumulative SAP GPA and 67% pace
- Not have attempted, as of the beginning of the term, a number of semester credit hours that is considered to be excessive under Texas Education Code, Section 54.014
 - For an Associates Degree program, attempted hours cannot exceed 75 credit hours.
 - For a Bachelors Degree program, attempted hours cannot exceed 150 credit hours.
 - Students who are not enrolled in a degree program are considered to be enrolled in an Associate Degree program and must not exceed 75 credit hours.

Eligibility for an exemption and/or TEOG will be reviewed at the end of each semester. Students who are not meeting the academic requirements listed above may be allowed to file an appeal to receive the exemption and/or TEOG if there is a hardship that lead to the loss of eligibility, including:

- Personal illness, injury or accident (requires proof from a medical provider and/or accident/police reports)
- Serious illness or death within immediate family (requires death certificate/obituary/doctor statement)
- Undue hardship (job loss, home destroyed, divorce-related financial hardship, or any other document circumstances which prevented coursework completion)
- The student's active duty or other services in the United States armed forces or the student's active duty in the Texas National Guard
- Other special circumstances acceptable to the institution

In order to file for a hardship, the student must submit the regular Suspension Appeal Form. The deadline to submit the form is the first day of class for the term the student is seeking to appeal for.

A suspension appeal that is approved will change the student's financial aid status from suspension to probation, after the student signs an academic plan with their Financial Aid Advisor. Students will then be eligible for an exemption and/or TEOG and will have a hold placed on their records to prevent self-registration. Students on Financial Aid Probation who fail to meet their academic plan conditions will be returned to Financial Aid Suspension that will result in loss of future aid. To maintain eligibility while on probation, a student must earn a minimum 2.0 GPA the first semester of Probation, a 2.25 GPA the second semester of Probation and a 2.5 GPA for all subsequent semesters. Additionally, students must successfully complete 67% Pace per academic term and not withdraw from any courses for the semester after Census.

If a suspension appeal is denied, or if the student chooses not to appeal, the student will remain on financial aid suspension until either SAP requirements are met or, if the student has excessive hours, he or she changes programs. The student will not be eligible to receive an exemption and/or TEOG while on suspension.

In regards to TEOG only, at the end of a renewal-year, TEOG recipients are required to meet the State's more stringent GPA completion rate and maximum time frame requirements (2.50 GPA, 75% pace and 75 attempted hours, respectively, to continue receiving subsequent renewal-year awards. Students not meeting these requirements are not offered the opportunity to submit a Suspension Appeal to request continued renewal-year TEOG eligibility.

In addition, a student is not allowed to receive TEOG funds for a less-than-half-time enrollment due to a hardship provision.