



PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

Office of Financial Aid

SMART GRANT Frequently Asked Questions!

The National Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (SMART)

What is a SMART grant?

The Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (HERA) created a new grant program for students who are at degree-granting institutions and are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant. Congress has funded the grant which is available to eligible students beginning July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2011.

The National SMART Grant is offered during the third and fourth years of undergraduate study to students who are also eligible for the Federal Pell Grant. This grant will be awarded in addition to the student's Federal Pell Grant award.

Who is eligible?

To receive the National SMART Grant each academic year, a student must:

- Be Enrolled at least half-time
- Be a U. S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be Federal Pell Grant eligible during the same award year
- Be in the third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree program (or fifth year of a five year program)
- Have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale in coursework **each** semester
- Major in physical, life or computer science, engineering, mathematics, technology, critical foreign language or a non-major single liberal arts program
- Be enrolled in at least one course that meets the specific requirements of your major in each payment period

How do I apply?

A student can apply for the National SMART Grant by completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Upon receipt of your FAFSA each year, Providence College will verify with the U.S. Department of Education whether or not you meet all of the eligibility requirements. If eligible, the Office of Financial Aid at Providence College will add the grant to your annual Financial Aid Notice.

How much can I receive?

A National SMART Grant will provide up to \$4,000 for each of the third and fourth years of undergraduate study. Award amounts will be prorated accordingly for students who enroll less than fulltime.

The amount of the student's National SMART Grant, in combination with the student's Federal Pell Grant, other resources, and estimated financial assistance may not exceed the student's financial need (cost of attendance minus the Expected Family Contribution equals financial need). A student may not receive more than one National SMART Grant award in each academic year for which the student is eligible.

All annual award amounts for an academic year may be reduced by the Department of Education if sufficient funds are not available to all eligible students nationally in an award year.

Which majors, offered by Providence College, are eligible for the SMART grant?

The following fields of study are eligible for the National SMART Grant. Under each category are the specific majors offered by Providence College. For a list of all National SMART Grant eligible majors, please visit www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclatters/GEN0809.html.

- **Computer Science**
 - Computer Science
- **Engineering**
 - (Pre) Engineering
- **Foreign Language**
 - *Eligible major for Smart Grant consideration not available at Providence College*
- **Life Sciences**
 - Biology
 - Biology – Optometry Option
- **Mathematics**
 - Mathematics
- **Multidisciplinary Studies**
 - *Eligible major for Smart Grant consideration not available at Providence College*
- **Physical Sciences**
 - Chemistry
 - Biochemistry
 - Applied (Engineering) Physics
- **Technology**
 - *Eligible major for Smart Grant consideration not available at Providence College*

If I have more questions about the SMART grant program, where can I go?

The U.S. Department of Education provides additional guidance on this grant at www.studentaid.ed.gov!