Missouri State | OFFICE of STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

The MoState Access Award

Scholarship Purpose

The MoState Access Award is an exciting new scholarship program designed to ensure that costs will no longer prevent any Missouri students from accessing higher education. The costs of college should not be a barrier preventing students from obtaining a generation changing education.

Under the MoState Access Award program, eligible students will have any outstanding Missouri State University tuition & fees paid in-full after other federal, state, and institutional grants and scholarships are first applied. For a typical eligible student, this means that after the Federal Pell Grant, Access Missouri Grant, and any institutional scholarships they may be receiving are applied to their balance, the MoState Access Award will pay the remainder of the student's unmet MSU tuition & fee needs.

Eligibility Criteria

- First-time undergraduate or first-time transfer students beginning in the 2023-24 award year
- FAFSA submitted by the MSU priority deadline (for 2023-2024 this will be February 1, 2023)
- Admitted to MSU by June 1
- Federal Pell Grant eligible, as determined by the FAFSA
- Missouri Resident
- Enrolled full-time (12 hours in the fall, 12 hours in the spring)
- If selected, students must submit all required eligibility review documentation by August 1. This includes reviews such as verification, citizenship review, dependency review, etc.

Renewal Details

The Award can be renewed for a total of 3 additional years (4 years total) if the following requirements are met:

- Complete 24 MSU credit hours per year with a 2.75 cumulative MSU GPA
- Meet institutional Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements
- Resubmit the FAFSA annually by the February 1 priority deadline
- Submit any required documents no later than July 1
- Maintain Pell Grant eligibility for every year scholarship is to be received

Other Considerations

- The MoState Access Award will not be applied to summer tuition and fees.
- Students who graduate early cannot have the MoState Access Award applied toward a graduate program.

Common Questions

- **What costs are paid by the MoState Access Award?**
  - The MoState Access Award will cover any unpaid tuition and fee costs assessed to a student's account at the end of the first week of classes. This includes tuition, student service fees, college fees, and course fees. The amount will be determined after programs like Pell, Access Missouri, etc. have disbursed to the student's account.

- **If a student changes their course load after the Change of Schedule Period (COSP) (first week of classes) will their MoState Access Award be adjusted to reflect those changes in tuition and fee charges?**
  - No. The MoState Access Award will not be adjusted for changes in course schedule after the full-term COSP. This means that a semester award will not be increased if a student adds additional courses after the first week. This includes late adds due to waitlisting or the addition of second block courses.

- **If a student submits their FAFSA by the Priority Deadline (February 1) and they are not eligible for the Federal Pell Grant, but the student becomes eligible based on FAFSA revisions due to changes in reported income (corrections, special circumstances, etc.), will the student become eligible for the MoState Access Award?**
  - It depends. If a student becomes Pell Grant eligible **before** August 1, then they **would** be eligible for the MoState Access Award. If a student becomes Pell Grant eligible **on or after** August 1, then they would **not** be eligible for the MoState Access Award. As such, any changes to the FAFSA to try to qualify for the MoState Access Award must be completed before August 1.

- **If a student's tuition and fees are fully paid by the Pell Grant, Access Missouri Grant, institutional scholarships, and/or other tuition specific aid programs will they qualify for disbursements from MoState Access?**
  - No. The MoState Access Award can only be applied toward a student's unpaid tuition and fees balance. If a student does not carry such a balance after the aforementioned aid programs, they will not qualify for a disbursement from the MoState Access Award program.

- **When will I know how much I will receive from the MoState Access Award?**
  - Due to the nature of this award, the Financial Aid team is unable to calculate an exact award amount because it will be based on a student's other financial aid funding and the number of courses in which a student enrolls. The final calculation will be performed after the Change of Schedule Period (COSP) (first week of classes); at this time, a student's course registration is "locked" and we know how much tuition and fees the student has been charged.
    - The Financial Aid team will determine which portion of a student's tuition and fees costs are paid by the other aid programs (Pell Grant, Access Missouri, etc.) and which portion is not paid by those programs. The MoState Access Award will then be paid to the student's account for that amount.

- **How will MoState Access Funds be calculated?**
  - The value of a MoState Access Award will be determined by the remaining unpaid tuition and fee balance at the end of COSP, after disbursements of:
    - Federal Pell Grant
    - Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant
    - Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program
    - FastTrack Workforce Incentive Grant
    - Institutional Scholarship Funds
    - Other tuition specific aid programs (GI benefits, Employee fee waivers, Vocational Rehabilitation, etc.)
  - If a tuition specific aid program is disbursed late (after MoState Access has been awarded and disbursed), the Office of Student Financial Aid will recalculate the student's MoState Access Award disbursement. It is possible that late disbursements from tuition specific sources may result in a partial or full cancellation of the MoState Access Award.
  - **The MoState Access Award is designed to cover unpaid tuition and fee expenses. The program is not intended to be refundable to the student through use of multiple tuition & fee specific aid sources.**