

UNITED STATES

\$297,604,911 in Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG) awarded to 401,372 students

\$195,474,710 in National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants awarded to 66,120 students

For ACG and National SMART Grants, students must apply for financial aid by submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be determined to be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant; be a U.S. citizen; be enrolled in a two- or four-year degree program; and be enrolled full-time.

The following are the Secretary's approved rigorous high school programs of study students can complete to earn an Academic Competitiveness Grant:

- The student has completed a high school course of study with at least—
 - Four years of high school English;
 - Three years of high school math, including Algebra I and another higher level math course;
 - Three years of high school science, which must include two years of biology, chemistry or physics;
 - Three years of high school social studies; and
 - One year of high school foreign language.
- At least two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.

For your state's approved programs visit:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/smart/performance.html>

**STUDENTS SHOULD SELF-IDENTIFY ON THE FAFSA THAT
THEY TOOK ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS**

Academic Competitiveness and National SMART Grants were created in 2006 as part of the President's American Competitiveness initiative. Congress appropriated \$4.5 billion for the programs between 2006 and 2011.

Last year, the Department of Education set a goal to double the number of students receiving ACG and National SMART grants by 2010-11. States, colleges, and high schools should promote ACG and National SMART Grants because completing a rigorous high school program is the best way to increase college readiness, reduce remediation, and increase college completion rates for low-income students. Increased postsecondary attainment will help the United States compete in the 21st century.

In addition to the Pell Grant amount, up to \$750 will be awarded to eligible first-year ACG students, and up to \$1,300 to second-year ACG students. Up to \$4,000 will be awarded to eligible National SMART Grant students for each year in addition to the Pell Grant funds. *Colleges and universities should package these grants with the other aid, including state and institutional awards, to provide low-income students an early commitment that if they complete high school and take challenging courses, college expenses can be fully paid.*



Top five schools in the nation enrolling ACG students:	
1. Pennsylvania State University	4,053
2. University of California-Davis	3,141
3. Ohio State University	2,117
4. University of Texas	2,036
5. El Paso County Community College District	2,011

Top five schools in the nation enrolling National SMART Grant students:	
1. Brigham Young University	1,574
2. University of Phoenix	1,196
3. University of California-San Diego	926
4. DeVry University	890
5. Pennsylvania State University	882

The Nation's Top National SMART Grant majors:	Top Foreign Languages:
1. Biological and Biomedical Sciences	1. Japanese Language and Literature
2. Engineering	2. Chinese Language and Literature
3. Computer Science	3. Russian Language and Literature

The effort in the first year of implementation can be improved upon going forward. To do this, high school and postsecondary personnel, state policymakers, and access advocates should:

1. **Know your state's approved programs of rigorous study.**
2. **Accept the challenge to double the number of students receiving ACG and National SMART grants by 2010-2011.**
3. **Advocate for low-income students' access to rigorous, college preparatory classes, and pursuit of high-demand, high-wage majors in the National SMART Grant program.**

Under the ACG program regulations, institutions only have to review the eligibility of a student that has self-identified on the FAFSA as having taken an approved rigorous course of study in high school. Therefore, it is important that your high school students know which approved course of study they've completed and indicate it on the FAFSA. Institutions should consider reviewing the eligibility of all Pell Grant recipients for Academic Competitiveness Grants.



STATE	ACG Program		SMART Grant Program	
	RECIPIENTS	TOTAL DISBURSED	RECIPIENTS	TOTAL DISBURSED
Alabama	5736	\$3,887,614	899	\$2,562,263
Alaska	189	\$143,934	101	\$269,537
Arizona	3072	\$2,180,226	2486	\$7,046,186
Arkansas	4645	\$3,477,082	449	\$1,323,674
California	40307	\$29,694,652	7907	\$22,823,924
Colorado	3983	\$2,981,254	1575	\$4,620,619
Connecticut	3271	\$2,489,464	342	\$1,078,891
Delaware	610	\$402,369	71	\$233,050
District of Columbia	1352	\$1,230,405	152	\$519,633
Florida	21653	\$15,026,439	3197	\$8,606,876
Georgia	12450	\$9,076,329	1768	\$4,939,979
Hawaii	568	\$434,125	216	\$675,633
Idaho	2723	\$1,845,284	1176	\$3,540,007
Illinois	13771	\$10,399,898	3058	\$9,340,091
Indiana	12355	\$8,816,812	1340	\$3,919,718
Iowa	6247	\$4,813,979	885	\$2,727,962
Kansas	3783	\$2,971,759	770	\$2,310,710
Kentucky	7755	\$5,414,629	820	\$2,389,337
Louisiana	7672	\$5,597,922	826	\$2,314,207
Maine	2347	\$1,794,373	305	\$961,446
Maryland	4821	\$3,565,998	658	\$1,997,307
Massachusetts	10738	\$8,967,374	1490	\$4,991,885
Michigan	9375	\$7,265,297	2302	\$6,868,110
Minnesota	7815	\$6,092,198	1172	\$3,543,533
Mississippi	5898	\$4,278,167	562	\$1,725,038
Missouri	7681	\$5,705,347	1264	\$3,856,810
Montana	1235	\$940,998	408	\$1,123,802
Nebraska	3865	\$2,966,312	375	\$1,168,524
Nevada	519	\$372,649	218	\$674,706
New Hampshire	2358	\$1,542,001	173	\$585,320
New Jersey	6322	\$4,930,855	943	\$2,932,274
New Mexico	1931	\$1,275,077	412	\$1,086,477
New York	33093	\$24,920,183	5057	\$14,161,709
North Carolina	14772	\$10,748,150	1380	\$4,288,717
North Dakota	1654	\$1,255,626	222	\$652,882
Ohio	19667	\$14,298,474	1928	\$5,442,007
Oklahoma	5864	\$4,244,069	1026	\$2,947,474
Oregon	3166	\$2,361,091	1162	\$3,279,059
Pennsylvania	23063	\$18,419,038	3112	\$9,925,204
Rhode Island	2401	\$1,790,932	173	\$550,002
South Carolina	8078	\$6,172,837	758	\$2,356,832
South Dakota	1803	\$1,458,431	400	\$1,246,577
Tennessee	9267	\$6,675,111	1107	\$3,290,043
Texas	35513	\$24,685,786	3551	\$10,635,484
Utah	1345	\$1,048,705	3248	\$9,987,403
Vermont	1279	\$1,018,743	226	\$706,289
Virginia	7092	\$5,374,254	1091	\$3,309,622
Washington	4767	\$3,663,900	1615	\$4,554,368
West Virginia	2501	\$1,887,660	463	\$1,416,543
Wisconsin	8444	\$6,640,547	1208	\$3,750,400
Wyoming	556	\$360,552	73	\$216,566
Total:	401,372	\$297,604,911	66,120	\$195,474,710



06/07 to 07/08 Percentage Change in AC and SMART Grant
Recipients and Funds Disbursed

STATE	ACG Program		SMART Grant Program	
	RECIPIENTS	TOTAL DISBURSED	RECIPIENTS	TOTAL DISBURSED
Alabama	55%	37%	-11%	-17%
Alaska	215%	232%	60%	32%
Arizona	112%	99%	1%	-7%
Arkansas	15%	13%	-9%	-11%
California	35%	27%	10%	1%
Colorado	34%	29%	15%	5%
Connecticut	78%	63%	17%	12%
Delaware	161%	128%	34%	28%
District of Columbia	25%	28%	14%	7%
Florida	33%	26%	21%	6%
Georgia	27%	22%	14%	0%
Hawaii	65%	88%	6%	4%
Idaho	42%	25%	8%	-1%
Illinois	47%	40%	13%	4%
Indiana	45%	32%	10%	5%
Iowa	44%	34%	6%	1%
Kansas	26%	21%	12%	9%
Kentucky	43%	32%	-1%	-12%
Louisiana	19%	16%	-13%	-24%
Maine	39%	31%	34%	22%
Maryland	39%	30%	13%	1%
Massachusetts	27%	25%	12%	5%
Michigan	45%	37%	11%	4%
Minnesota	40%	32%	11%	2%
Mississippi	51%	44%	3%	0%
Missouri	44%	34%	9%	4%
Montana	23%	20%	6%	-10%
Nebraska	26%	21%	2%	3%
Nevada	-1%	-4%	7%	12%
New Hampshire	97%	53%	-11%	-13%
New Jersey	8%	18%	13%	3%
New Mexico	78%	60%	-17%	-25%
New York	33%	25%	20%	8%
North Carolina	28%	21%	5%	-1%
North Dakota	22%	19%	-30%	-34%
Ohio	36%	29%	3%	-7%
Oklahoma	23%	19%	6%	0%
Oregon	37%	29%	5%	-4%
Pennsylvania	22%	23%	9%	4%
Rhode Island	25%	10%	-1%	-14%
South Carolina	48%	43%	8%	3%
South Dakota	27%	27%	18%	14%
Tennessee	38%	31%	7%	-2%
Texas	28%	22%	17%	7%
Utah	81%	71%	-6%	-12%
Vermont	43%	35%	59%	38%
Virginia	18%	15%	12%	2%
Washington	42%	35%	3%	-6%
West Virginia	21%	10%	-2%	-9%
Wisconsin	40%	35%	7%	2%
Wyoming	58%	40%	-13%	-16%
United States	28%	34%	0%	8%

