

## ***NASFAA's HERA Implementation Tools***

### **Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National SMART Grant**

<b>ELIGIBILITY CRITERION</b>	<b>FIRST-YEAR ACG (\$750)</b>	<b>SECOND-YEAR ACG (\$1,300)</b>	<b>SMART (\$4,000)</b>
1. Pell Grant recipient	✓	✓	✓
2. U.S. citizen	✓	✓	✓
3. Enrolled in a 2- or 4-year degree program	✓	✓	
4. Enrolled in a 4-year degree program			✓
5. Full-time enrollment	✓	✓	✓
6. Demonstrated need	✓	✓	✓
7. Did not receive a grant at the same level in his or her prior academic year	✓	✓	✓
8. First time as a regular student in an undergraduate program	✓		
9. In his or her first academic year of an undergraduate program	✓		
10. In his or her second academic year of an undergraduate program		✓	
11. In his or her third or fourth academic year of an undergraduate program			✓
12. Rigorous secondary school curriculum	✓	✓	
13. GPA (3.0)		✓	✓
14. Eligible major			✓

ELIGIBILITY CRITERION	COMPLIANCE PARTNERS, LIAISONS, AND CONTACTS					
	FINANCIAL AID	ADMISSIONS	REGISTRAR	BURSAR	IT SYSTEMS	
1. Pell Grant recipient						
2. U.S. citizen						
3. Enrolled in a 2- or 4-year degree program						
4. Enrolled in a 4-year degree program						
5. Full-time enrollment						
6. Demonstrated need						
7. Did not receive a grant at the same level in his or her prior academic year						
8. First time as a regular student in an undergraduate program						
9. In the first academic year of an undergraduate program						
10. In the second academic year of an undergraduate program						
11. In the third or fourth academic year of an undergraduate program						
12. Rigorous secondary school curriculum						
13. GPA (3.0)						
14. Eligible major						

CRITERION #	NOTES
1	A student must actually receive a Pell Grant payment to be eligible for ACG or SMART Grant funds. A student who gains or loses Pell Grant eligibility during a payment period also gains or loses ACG/SMART eligibility. Repayment of ACG/SMART is required when eligibility for Pell Grant has been lost for the same payment period.
5	The institution must apply its Pell Grant enrollment status recalculation policy to ACG/SMART. Thus, a student who is not considered full-time for Pell Grant payment for a period is not full-time for ACG/SMART for that period.
6	Grant amounts may not exceed student's need (COA – EFC – EFA). Schools are encouraged to adjust aid less favorable to the student first, if necessary, but the institution determines where ACG and SMART fit into its packaging policy.
7	A student may receive only one grant per academic year. For example, a student is eligible for only one \$750 ACG for his or her first academic year; the student may not receive another grant until he or she moves into his or her second academic year and qualifies for the next award level. See also criteria 9, 10, and 11.
8	Prior postsecondary enrollment does not include enrollment in college courses while still in high school as long as the student was not admitted to the postsecondary program as a regular student.
9, 10, 11	A student progresses to the next award level upon accruing the number of credits in the institution's definition of Title IV academic year. For example, if the institution defines its academic year for Title IV purposes as 24 credits, a student who has accrued 24 credits moves into his or her second academic year. This progression may differ from the institution's determination of class standing (e.g., freshman, sophomore, junior, senior), which is used to determine annual loan limits.
12	A rigorous secondary school curriculum is defined by the U.S. Department of Education; see GEN-06-08. Applicants with a GED instead of a high school diploma are not eligible for ACG.
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For second-year ACG: use the student's cumulative GPA achieved at the end of the first year for eligibility determination in all payment periods of the second year.</li> <li>• For SMART Grants: use the cumulative GPA based on all courses applicable to the student's <i>program of study</i> (not just the major) through the most recently completed payment period.</li> <li>• For transfer students in their first payment period at the current school, calculate a GPA using the prior school's grades in courses accepted for transfer to the student's current program.</li> </ul>
14	Eligible majors are designated by the U.S. Department of Education; see GEN-06-06. A student who declares an eligible major during a payment period is eligible for that period but not for prior periods. A student who changes to an ineligible major may receive no further SMART payments but need not repay grant funds received while still in an eligible major.