

Packaging State Aid – Cost of Attendance and Student Aid Index options

For the 2024-25 award year, colleges may use a prorated SAI for enrollment periods other than 9 months for purposes of awarding state aid. Please note that this will mean you will need to document and be able to report the prorated figures for COA and SAI when providing data to WSAC for awarding/payment reporting. Additional information and examples are provided below.

Background:

For the 2024-25 award year, federal guidance no longer permits proration of the SAI for enrollment periods other than 9 months. The use of a non-prorated SAI means less eligibility for students enrolled in less than a full 9 months (due to program completion or other reasons). In many instances, this may make an otherwise eligible student, suddenly ineligible for state financial aid.

The change in the law that limits a school's ability to use alternate SAIs for periods other than nine months did not change or alter COA protocols or requirements. Pell COA will still use full-time, full-academic-year costs for all required components and the COA for all other Title IV programs will still be based on costs and components associated with the student's actual period of enrollment. [Federal Guidance issued 08/04/2023.] *Excerpt from Slide 32 in Federal Student Aid SAI Deep Dive & Pell Implications presentation at NASFAA 2024.*

Examples:

Pell examples use the published Max Pell = \$7395, Min Pell= \$740 for 2024-25

Example Using Federal guidance (not prorating the SAI):

9-month Cost of Attendance

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Cost of Attendance | \$ 9,000 |
| Student Aid Index | <u>\$ 7,001</u> |
| Unmet Need | \$ 1,999 |
| Calculated Pell | \$ 0* |

*calculated Pell \$395 <minimum Pell therefore \$0

Pell Scheduled Award**\$ 740

State aid \$ 1,259

**Assumes minimum Pell indicator

6-month Cost of Attendance

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Cost of Attendance | \$ 6,000 |
| Student Aid Index | <u>\$ 7,001</u> |
| Unmet Need | \$ 0 |
| Calculated Pell | \$ 0* |

*calculated Pell \$395 <minimum Pell therefore \$0

Pell Annual award** \$ 493

State aid \$ 0

**Assumes minimum Pell indicator

Optional method:

Colleges may choose to prorate the COA and SAI for enrollment periods longer or shorter than 9 months to determine student eligibility for state aid. Reminder - you will need to document and be able to report the prorated figures for COA and SAI when providing data to WSAC for awarding/payment reporting. If you elect to use the standard SAI for periods longer than 9 months, you are also permitted to do that.

Example using Proration for awarding state aid:

9 month Cost of Attendance

Cost of Attendance \$9,000
Student Aid Index \$7,001
Unmet Need \$1,999
Calculated Pell Award \$ 0*

*calculated Pell \$395 <minimum Pell therefore \$0

Pell Scheduled Award**\$ 740

WCG \$ 1,259

**Assumes minimum Pell indicator

6 month Cost of Attendance

Cost of Attendance \$6,000
Student Aid Index \$4,668
Unmet Need \$ 1,332
Calculated Pell Award \$ 0*

*calculated Pell \$395 <minimum Pell therefore \$0

Pell Annual Award** \$ 493

WCG \$ 839

**Assumes minimum Pell indicator