



Education That Works For a Lifetime

BANNER FINANCIAL AID USER'S UPDATE

July 2009

In this edition: **Changes to the ACG Eligibility Report
(RWRACG01)**

Changes to the Academic Competitiveness Grant Program (ACG)

On May 7, 2008, President Bush signed into law H.R. 5715, commonly known as the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act (ECASLA). In addition to changes made to federal student loan programs, the law also amended regulations that govern the ACG program. Originally slated to become effective on January 1, 2009, changes to the ACG program were delayed until July 1, 2009 via the passage of the Higher Education and Opportunity Act, signed in August, 2008. Changes to the ACG program relevant to this document are as follows:

- Extends first-year ACG eligibility to students enrolled in at least a one-year certificate program and extends second-year ACG to students enrolled in at least a two-year certificate program.
- Allows eligible non-citizens (e.g. permanent residents) to qualify for AC Grants

Identifying Potential Recipients of AC Grants

The U.S. Department of Education informs colleges of a student's potential eligibility through comment codes on the ISIR record once the student has completed the self-certification process. Colleges must review all ISIR records to determine if the student may be eligible to receive an AC Grant.

Comment code 271 will be listed on the ISIR for all potential AC Grant recipients:

The financial aid administrator at your college will determine if you are eligible for an ACG. All follow-up information about your grant eligibility will come from the financial aid office at your college.

AC Grant Eligibility Report

Colleges currently utilize the AC Grant Eligibility Report (RWRACG01) to identify and evaluate students who have self-certified as AC Grant eligible. The report is available both to financial aid staff and the college official responsible for certifying that students have completed a rigorous secondary school program of study.

The RWRACG01 process/report identifies financial aid applicants with the 271 comment code on the most current ISIR record. The report lists each student's name and Banner ID. The report also examines each student's eligibility by assessing the student's personal and financial aid data. If a student is eligible for the AC Grant, a "Y" appears in the Eligible column; if not, an "N" will appear. If a student is not eligible, the reason(s) are printed alongside in the "Reasons" column.

Changes to the AC Grant Eligibility Report

Certificate Programs

As mentioned previously, students who are enrolled in a one-year certificate program are potentially eligible for the first-year AC Grant (xACG1). For our purposes, a one-year certificate program is defined as one that requires at least thirty (30) credits for completion. In order to accommodate this condition of eligibility, the RWRACG01 report will now consider each individual student's (i.e. those with the 271 comment code) program of study to ensure that it meets the aforementioned criteria. This was accomplished by further customizing the Major, Minor, Concentration Code Validation Form (RWVMAJR), as seen below:

The screenshot shows a software window titled "Quinebaug Valley Community Col Major, Minor, Concentration Code Validation Form RWVMAJR 5.0 (DEVL) [L_G...". The window contains a table with the following columns: Major Code, Description, CIPC, -- Indicators -- (Major, Minor, Conc), Occ, ACG Elig, Aid Elig, and VR Msg. A red box highlights the ACG Elig and Aid Elig columns. The table lists various certificate programs, including TechStds, Patient Care Technician Cert, Early Childhood Education Cert, Child Devl Associate Prep Cert, Senior Network Specialist Cert, Criminal Justice Cert, Allied Health Science Cert, Graphic Communications Cert, HIMT Coding Specialist Cert, and Industrial Supervision Cert. Each row includes a CIPC code, a checked box for Major indicator, and an "Act Date" field. The "Senior Network Specialist Cert" (LJ04) is highlighted in green and has both ACG and Aid Elig checkboxes checked.

Major Code	Description	CIPC	Major	Minor	Conc	Occ	ACG Elig	Aid Elig	VR Msg
LF20	TechStds: Lean Mfg&Supply Opt	150000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	26-MAR-2008
LF21	TechStds:Biomolecular Sci Opt	150000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19-SEP-2008
LJ01	Patient Care Technician Cert	510801	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	06-FEB-2008
LJ02	Early Childhood Education Cert	190708	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16-FEB-2007
LJ03	Child Devl Associate Prep Cert	190708	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15-JUL-2005
LJ04	Senior Network Specialist Cert	110401	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	23-JUL-2009
LJ05	Criminal Justice Cert	511502	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-JAN-2007
LJ15	Allied Health Science Cert	510801	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	06-DEC-2007
LJ20	Graphic Communications Cert	500701	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	23-JUL-2009
LJ21	HIMT Coding Specialist Cert	510707	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22-JUL-2009
LJ22	Industrial Supervision Cert	520205	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Sys Req:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18-JUL-2005

Please note that all Title IV Eligible (“Aid Elig”) Associate Degree programs have been pre-populated as ACG Eligible (“ACG Elig”). Certificate programs were individually coded as ACG Eligible according to the instructions of the individual Directors of Financial Aid at each college. Students who appear on the RWRACG01 report who have not met both conditions (i.e. Aid & ACG Eligible) will do so with the “Reason” notation of “Non-Elig Degree Program.”

NOTE

Although the regulations state that second-year ACG (xACG2) has been extended to students enrolled in at least a two-year certificate program, this is a condition that cannot exist at a Connecticut Community College. Per our Board of Trustees (BOT) policy (3.4.1), certificate programs “require less than the minimum number of semester hours established by the Board of Trustees for associate degree programs.” By this accord, no certificate program may consist of more than fifty-nine (59) credits, thus falling short of two-years, given the minimum criterion of thirty (30) credits per year. In short, no CCC student enrolled in a certificate program is eligible to receive the second-year AC Grant (xACG2). This condition must be monitored at individual colleges, as the AC Grant Eligibility report will not exclude these students from consideration.

Consideration of Eligible Non-Citizens

Students whose ISIR contains the 271 comment code and who have self-identified as Eligible Non-Citizens will now be included on the AC Grant Eligibility report as potentially eligible for consideration along with those students who have self-identified as US citizens. Those students whose ISIR contains the 271 comment code and who have self-identified as “Neither, not eligible” with regard to their citizenship will appear on the report as ineligible with a “Reason” notation of “Ineligible non-citizen.”

Discretionary Exclusions

Occasionally, students may appear on the RWRACG01 report as eligible (i.e. with a “Y” notation), but cannot be awarded. An example of such an instance would be a student who meets the rigorous program criteria, has previously had xACG1 disbursed on his or her behalf, but has not yet met the criteria to qualify for xACG2 (i.e. the student has not yet attained 30 credits and/or a 3.0 GPA). Previously, the only means of removing students with “Y” notations was to award them. As a result, students would continually occupy space on output of the RWRACG01 report with each job submission. As a means of addressing this issue, colleges now have the option to remove these students from their prominent positions at the beginning of the report and deposit them at the end of the report under the heading of “Students Excluded from Report at discretion of *College Name*.” An example can be seen below:

Students Excluded from Report at discretion of Quinebaug Valley Community College

Name	Banner Id	Comments
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██████████ Elizabeth	@008 ██████████	
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██████████ Zachary	@008 ██████████	
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The discretionary exclusion of individual students is accomplished via a new job submission parameter (number 03), as seen below:

File Edit Options Block Item Record Query Tools Help

Quinebaug Valley Community Col Process Submission Controls GJAPCTL 7.4.1.1 (DEVL) [L_GDEANGELIS] - Thursday July 23, 2009

Process: RWRACG01 ACG Eligibility Report Parameter Set:

Printer Control
 Printer: DATABASE Special Print: Lines: Submit Time:

Parameter Values

Number	Parameters	Values
01	Aid Year	0910
02	CSV Report	
03	Banner IDs (Exclusions)	

LENGTH: 1 TYPE: Character O/R: Optional M/S: Single
 Enter Y to print CSV or N to not print CSV file

Submission
 Save Parameter Set as Name: Description: Hold Submit

Please note that a new record must be inserted for each Banner ID submitted.

Very Important

If you choose to use this feature, you must save your job submission parameters each time you make a change to parameter 03. If you fail to do so, the process will not recall your instructions and place the affected students back into a “Y” status on the report’s output.

Awarding and Disbursing AC Grants (IMPORTANT)

While the AC Grant Eligibility report has been updated to identify potentially eligible students under new regulatory criteria, no students should be awarded ACG funds until further notice. Functionality that includes new capabilities with regard to awarding ACG funds (in a manner consistent with current Pell Grant calculations) and disbursement for less than full-time enrollment are forthcoming. In addition, there are also enhancements relative to ACG as a “Just-In-Time” fund relative to COD processing. All of these changes will be detailed in future User Updates. Once again, ACG funds should NOT be awarded at this time.