Financial Aid Facts is a new series dedicated to providing information for students, faculty and staff regarding financial aid. The series will report changes in financial aid regulations and provide information on College policies that are affected by these changes. This first issue provides some basic facts regarding financial aid and the importance of the Pell grant to our students, as well as information about the stricter satisfactory academic progress policy as a result of recent changes in financial aid regulations.

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides needs-based grants to low-income college students who have not yet earned a bachelor’s or professional degree to promote access to postsecondary education. Grant amounts are dependent on:

- Student’s expected family contribution (EFC)
- Student’s cost of attendance (as determined by the College)
- Student’s enrollment status (FT/PT)
- Student’s attendance status (full academic year or less)

**Pell Grants by the Numbers**

Pell at Community College of Philadelphia in 2010-2011:

- 14,960 individual students received Pell grants
- $3,168 was the average Pell grant award per student recipient
- $47.3 million was the total dollar amount of Pell grants awarded to all student recipients
- Approximately 50 percent of degree- and certificate-seeking students depended on Pell grants to pay at least a portion of their tuition and fees
- Of Pell grant recipients, just over 18 percent were full-time students, just under 82 percent were part-time students

To learn more about the importance of the Pell grant and its impact on students’ access to education, please visit [www.ccp.edu/site/savepell](http://www.ccp.edu/site/savepell).

**What to Know**

Changes in financial aid regulations require that a new, stricter satisfactory academic progress policy be in place beginning fall 2011. Students on financial aid must now meet the minimum academic requirements at the end of each semester or summer on a cumulative basis or risk losing their federal aid.

Students receiving financial aid are expected to be making progress towards graduation after each semester or summer. This progress is measured using two criteria:

- Maintain at least the Grade Point Average (GPA) opposite the number of credit hours you have attempted in the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Hours Attempted</th>
<th>Minimum GPA</th>
<th>Credit Hours Attempted</th>
<th>Minimum GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 - 17</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>37 - 48</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 24</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 36</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Successfully complete 67% of the credits you have attempted every semester and summer: for example, if you have attempted 12 credits in total, you must have completed at least 8 credits with a passing grade.

The Office of Financial Aid will review your academic progress after each semester and summer. Incomplete (“I”) or unreported (“NR”) grades will be counted as attempted credits that have not been completed with a passing grade.

**For more information, go to the Financial Aid section of the College website.**

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