

STATE OF INDIANA

STATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF INDIANA



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TO: Indiana Higher Education Financial Aid Offices

FROM: Kathi C. Graves, Grants Division Director

KG

RE: Associate Degree Implementation

DATE: February 16, 2012

The Indiana General Assembly passed IC 21-12-1.5-4 to enable students with Associate Degrees who meet qualifying guidelines to be considered for the same maximum award as a similarly situated individual who graduates from high school with an academic honors diploma.

Eligibility

The state award supplement applies to an individual who:

- did not graduate from high school with an Academic Honors diploma;
- has received an Associate Degree from a State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana ("SSACI") eligible Indiana college;
- thereafter enrolls in a baccalaureate degree program; and
- otherwise qualifies for a Higher Education Award (HEA) and/or Freedom of Choice (FOC) Grant.

The HEA/FOC differential is calculated in the same way as the differential for an Academic Honors diploma student who is eligible for a HEA and/or FOC award. The award is a 20 percent supplement to the base state grant award the student is eligible to receive.

Reporting of Associate Degree Status:

- 1) The college the student is attending for his or her baccalaureate degree will report to the SSACI an Associate Degree identifier via the APPL, NOTF or RECEN via xGrads. SSACI then will calculate the new state grant award based upon state grant eligibility criteria, and the identifier will be stored in the SSACI database for future year award calculations. The school will have the ability to claim the award in xGrads or via file exchange.
- 2) Reporting to SSACI may occur throughout the award cycle. If the school already has claimed the state grant award funds prior to the differential being applied, the school will need to process a refund which will allow for the new award to be created and then claimed.

The attached 2012 grant file layout spreadsheet includes an updated APPL file record description to reflect Associate Degrees. Detailed instructions will be available for reference by March 1, 2012 in the xGrads Information Files.

Our school partners who have questions on this topic should contact SSACI at 317-232-2372 or via email at CollegeFA@ssaci.in.gov.

Students with questions should contact the SSACI Grant Division at 317-232-2372 or grants@ssaci.in.gov.