



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

One Ashburton Place, Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108-1696

TEL (617) 994-6950
FAX (617) 727-0955
WEB www.mass.edu

Carlos E. Santiago, *Commissioner*
Chris Gabrieli, *Chairman*
Massachusetts Board of Higher Education

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW MASSGRANT PLUS FOR FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STUDENTS AT MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Q. When does the MASSGrant Plus program take effect?

A. *MASSGrant Plus* will be implemented at Massachusetts community colleges beginning in the fall 2018 semester.

Q. Is it up to community college students to apply for MassGrant plus?

A. No. The *MASSGrant Plus* award will be calculated on the student's behalf. The program is intended to complement other financial aid programs, so there is no need for the student to apply separately for this funding.

Q. What if a student has already paid his or her bill for the fall 2018 semester, but did have a gap between tuition and fee charges and the grants and scholarships available to cover them? Will he or she be eligible for MASSGrant Plus retroactively?

A. Yes.

Q. What if a student already took out a loan to "fill the gap" in unmet need?

A. The *MASSGrant Plus* award is only based upon EFC – Estimated Family Contribution – plus public or institutional grant funding. This means that a student's unmet need calculation will not be affected by loans.

Q. When will students see the MASSGrant Plus appear in their accounts? Will they receive checks, or will it come in the form of a credit for the following semester?

A. Community college campuses will be reimbursed at the end of each semester by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Each campus has discretion to determine how to manage the process of awarding *MASSGrant Plus* to their students.

Q. Is there a limit to the number of credits a student can take per semester? For example, if an enterprising student is taking/paying for 18 credits, will MASSGrant Plus cover the gap in the cost of the additional credits?

A. There is no upper limit on the number of credits that apply; however, the student must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program.