



Maryland Higher Education Commission
 Office of Student Financial Aid
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 MHEC.MARYLAND.GOV

ENROLLED IN LESS THAN 12 CREDITS
Academic Program
 Appeal Criteria / Required Documentation
2026-2027 Academic Year

The Maryland Higher Education Commission understands that students may experience circumstances that result in them failing to meet certain requirements for consideration or reinstatement of State grant and scholarship programs. Therefore, the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has developed an appeal process for certain allowable programs and circumstances that allows students to request (re)consideration of a State award

Appeal Process

1. Students determine if they meet the criteria to submit an appeal based off the program and allowable appeals under that program.
2. Student gathers all required documentation for the appeal.
3. Student completes the [2026-27 MHEC Grant and Scholarship Appeal Request Form](#), uploading all required documentation, by the published deadline.
4. OSFA staff will review the appeal and make a determination within 45 business days, unless the student is informed otherwise.

Important Reminders

- Appeals must be submitted through the Appeal Request Form and will not be accepted by any other means.
- It is the student’s responsibility to ensure they have provided all required documentation for their appeal. Incomplete appeal requests will be denied.
- It is the student’s responsibility to submit their appeal by the published deadline. Late appeals requests will be denied.

2026-2027 Enrolled in Less Than 12 Credits Appeal Information	
Eligible Programs	Guaranteed Access Grant Educational Assistance Grant 2+2 Transfer Scholarship
FALL Appeal Opens	July 1, 2026
FALL Appeal Closes	December 15, 2026
SPRING Appeal Opens	October 1, 2026
SPRING Appeal Closes	April 15, 2027
Allowable Reasons for Appeal	Required Documentation
Required Course or Activity or Structure of Academic Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department Chair Certification Form completed by department chair of academic program (available on MHEC website) • Documentation of the courses and credits being taken for the semester being appealed (i.e. class schedule) • Copy of the program curriculum structure from the institution's catalog or website

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- This appeal refers to what credits you are currently enrolled in for the 2026-27 academic year.
- You must be enrolled in at least 6 credits to file this appeal.
- Appeals must be filed per term if you are enrolled in less than 12 credits each term.
- GA and EA students who received a **Part-Time Grant from MHEC** in the 2026-27 school year **cannot** file an Enrolled in Less Than 12 Credits appeal.

For approved appeals, GA and EA Grants are recalculated based on part-time status:

- A student enrolled in 9-11 credits will receive three-quarters of the award
- A student enrolled in 6-8 credits will receive one-half of the award