

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD
BOARD REPORT #03-18

TALENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM
RECOMMENDED RULE CHANGE RELATED TO MILITARY LEAVE
AND
UW WHEG
STATUTORY LANGUAGE CHANGE RELATED TO MAXIMUM AWARD

Talent Incentive Program Rule Change

One of the eligibility requirements for a student to continue to receive the Talent Incentive Program (TIP) Grant after their initial year is that the student must be continuously enrolled from semester to semester and year to year. Exceptions to this requirement may only be made for medical reasons, as described in HEA 5.05(2) of the State Administrative Code.

Recently, students have begun to request exceptions to TIP's continuous enrollment requirement not for medical reasons, but because they had been called up to active duty in the Armed Forces. This situation is not addressed in the administrative rules.

Recommendation:

Seek to adjust the Administrative Rules to read as follows.

HEA 5.05 Continued Talent Incentive Grant Eligibility.

1. To continue to receive a grant after the freshman year, the student shall maintain half-time status per academic term and academic progress towards a degree, diploma or certificate as determined by the institution the student is attending. The minimum award shall be set annually by the board for sophomores, juniors and seniors.
2. The student shall maintain continuous enrollment from semester to semester, or quarter to quarter, to remain eligible for a grant award for the sophomore, junior and senior years. Exceptions to this requirement shall be made by the executive secretary and will be for illnesses or disabilities which prevent attendance *or for active duty military service*. All ~~such medical~~ exceptions will be certified by a doctor. No more than 12 months exception from the continuous enrollment requirement will be authorized by the executive secretary.

UW WHEG Statutory Language Change

With an increase of 8% or more in funding, a request to eliminate the grant maximum may be necessary.

Recommendation:

Seek to adjust the Statutory Language by inserting the following where the current language has been stricken.

39.435(3) Grants under sub. (1) shall not be less than \$250 during any one academic year, unless the Joint Committee on Finance approves an adjustment in the amount of the minimum grant. *The board shall establish the maximum amount of a grant awarded under this subsection. The board may not establish a maximum amount that exceeds the maximum amount in the previous academic year unless the board determines, to the best of its ability, that in doing so the board will award grants under this paragraph in the current academic year to at least as many students as the board awarded grants to under this paragraph in the previous academic year.* ~~Grants under sub. (1) shall not exceed \$1,800 during any one academic year.~~ The board shall, by rule, establish a reporting system to periodically provide student economic data and shall promulgate other rules the board deems necessary to assure uniform administration of the program.