The Department of Education's
Experimental Sites Initiative
Pell Experiments
June 2015

Agenda

1 **The Pell Experiments**

2 **Implementation of Experiments**

3 **Policies and Procedures**

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Pell Experiments

- **Federal Pell Grant – Extends eligibility to students with bachelor's degrees who enroll in vocational or career programs**

- **Federal Pell Grant Program – Extends eligibility to students enrolled in certain short-term training programs**

Pell Experiment 1:

Eligibility to students with bachelor's degrees who enroll in vocational or career programs

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Identify Students

- Make notation in the file
- Keep copy of amended PPA

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Work with local work force agency

- The experiment will require that the program be one that provides training needed to meet local or regional workforce needs, as determined by the institution in consultation with employers or state or local workforce agencies [October 27, 2011 Federal Register](*)*

- Example: Unemployment Agency

*Posted to IFAP October 28, 2011

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Policies and Procedures

Policies & Procedures for the Pell experiment *(Federal Pell Grant Program – Eligibility of students with bachelor's degrees who enroll in vocational or career programs)* must address the following:

Policy Topic	Required policy & procedure	School Policy
Random Assignment System (RAS)	The institution must include procedures to ensure that it designates one RAS Administrator to manage user accounts and that it uses the RAS system to randomly assign students to *Offer Pell Grant* or *Do Not Offer Pell Grant* group. Further, the institution must ensure that only students with bachelor's degrees who are otherwise Pell eligible and assigned to the *Offer Pell Grant* group are offered experimental Pell Grant funds.	
Eligible Student	The institution must include procedures to ensure that eligible students do not receive more than one full scheduled Pell Grant award, over no more than two award years for enrollment in a vocational/career program of study of one year or less.	
Unemployed or underemployed students	The institution must include procedures to ensure that eligibility is restricted to students with a bachelor's degree who have demonstrated that they are unemployed or underemployed and will be entering the vocational program for the first time.	
Local or regional workforce needs	The institution must ensure that the program provides training needed to meet local or regional workforce needs, as determined by the institution in consultation with employers or state or local workforce agencies.	

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Policies and Procedures

Policy Topic	Required policy & procedure	School Policy
Potential Student Notification	The institution must include procedures that inform potential participants that the institution is participating in a project that will allow some, but not all, otherwise Pell Grant eligible students who enroll in a specific program to receive a Pell Grant. The institution must explain that without the exemption, the student would not be eligible because the student already has a bachelor's degree.	
Consent Process	The institution must include procedures that inform potential eligible applicants about the experiment and that it provides students a chance to receive a Pell Grant. The institution must provide assurance that participation in the lottery and the experiment is voluntary. This requirement is addressed by the Department's contractor.	This policy is addressed by the Department's contractor. A letter informing the student and their parents (for minors about their participation in the experiments) are automatically sent to the emails provided by the schools or are available to be printed and mailed via the contractor's website at https://www.pellexperiment.org/
Career and employment information	The institution must ensure that it informs students that they must agree to provide career and employment information to the institution for both the period prior to enrolling in the program and receiving Pell Grant funding and for up to two years following completion or withdrawal from the program. As an alternative, the institution *may* include procedures to obtain this information from an alternative reliable source such as a state longitudinal data system.	

Pell Experiment 2:

Eligibility to students enrolled in certain short-term training programs

This experiment extends Pell eligibility to students enrolled in certain short-term training programs.

Program Eligibility

- Approval of Short Term Programs Form

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Awarding & Disbursement

- Calculating Pell awards
- Disbursements

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Federal Pell Grant Program – BOTH Experiments

Extending eligibility to students with bachelor's degrees who enroll in vocational or career programs &
Extending eligibility to students enrolled in certain short-term training programs

Random Assignment System (RAS)

- **contact@pellexperiments.org**
- 1-866-235-7263

Policies and Procedures

Policies & Procedures for the Pell experiment *(Federal Pell Grant Program – Eligibility of students enrolled in certain short-term training programs)* must address the following:

Policy Topic	Required policy & procedure	School Policy
Random Assignment System (RAS)	The institution must include procedures to ensure that it designates one RAS Administrator to manage user accounts and that it uses the RAS system to randomly assign students to *Offer Pell Grant* or *Do Not Offer Pell Grant* group. Further, the institution must ensure that only students assigned to the *Offer Pell Grant* group are offered experimental Pell Grant funds.	
Eligible Program	The institution must include procedures to ensure that Experimental Pell funds are awarded only to students enrolled in an *approved* eligible program of at least eight weeks in length with a minimum of at least 150 clock hours, 4 semester or trimester credits, or 6 quarter credits.	
Program Approval Application	The institution must include procedures that all programs considered for the experiment must be approved by the School Participation Team using the Approval of Short Term Programs Form available on the ESI website.	

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Policies and Procedures

Policy Topic	Required policy & procedure	School Policy
Program Approval documentation	*For Short-Term programs that have been approved the State/Accreditor but not Eligible for Title IV aid* the school must develop procedures to ensure that Accreditor Approval Documentation for each program and submit a scanned copy with the Approval of Short Term Programs Form. *For Short-Term programs that have been approved by the State/Accreditor and are currently eligible for the Direct Loan Program* the institution must develop procedures to ensure that it attaches a scanned copy of Accreditor, State, and Department of Education Approval documentation and submit with the Approval of Short Term Programs Form. *For Brand New Programs*, the institution must develop procedures to ensure that it obtains State and Accreditor Approval a soon as it receives its PPA Amendment. The institution cannot submit the approval form until it has the State and Accreditor Approval. Once received, the institution must scan copy of Accreditor and State approval documentation and submit with the Approval of Short Term Programs Form.	
Amount of Pell funds received	The institution must develop procedures to ensure that the amount of the Pell Grant provided to a student under this experiment will be prorated for the shorter period of instructional time, pursuant to the Pell Grant regulations at 34 CFR 690.63(a)(3). The institution must also develop procedures to ensure that **Formula 4** is used to calculate the Federal Pell Grant for students participating in the experiment.	

Policies and Procedures

Policy Topic	Required policy & procedure	School Policy
Local or regional workforce needs	The institution must ensure that the short-term vocational program provides training needed to meet local or regional workforce needs, as determined by the institution in consultation with employers or state or local workforce agencies. As part of that consultation, the institution must ensure that the content and instruction hours of the program are sufficient to meet hiring requirements of multiple likely employers, and sufficient to allow the students to apply for any licenses or other certifications that may be required to be employed in the filed for which the training as offered.	
Potential Student Notification	The institution must include procedures that inform potential participants that the institution is participating in a project that will allow some, but not all, otherwise Pell Grant eligible students who enroll in a specific program to receive a Pell Grant. The institution must explain that without the exemption, the student would not be eligible because the program would not be eligible for Title IV.	
Consent Process	The institution must include procedures that inform potential eligible applicants about the experiment and that it provides students a chance to receive a Pell Grant. The institution must provide assurance that participation in the lottery and the experiment is voluntary.	This policy is addressed by the Department's contractor. A letter informing the student and their parents (for minors about their participation in the experiments) are automatically sent to the emails provided by the schools or are available to be printed and mailed via the contractor's website at https://www.pellexperiment.org/

Policies and Procedures

Policy Topic	Required policy & procedure	School Policy
Career and employment information	The institution must ensure that it informs students that they must agree to provide career and employment information to the institution for both the period prior to enrolling in the program and receiving Pell Grant funding and for up to two years following completion or withdrawal from the program. As an alternative, the institution *may* include procedures to obtain this information from an alternative reliable source such as a state longitudinal data system.	

Annual Reporting Requirements

School Level

Survey that addresses how your school implemented experiment(s)

Student Level

individual level data, including Personally Identifiable Information (PII), on aid received, program of study, and educational outcomes,

Sample Student Data Fields

- Name
- SSN
- DOB
- Contact information
- Gender
- Dependency status
- Direct costs and total costs
- EFC

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Sample Financial Aid Award Fields

- Pell Grant
- FWS
- FSEOG
- Subsidized Loans
- Unsubsidized Loans
- PLUS Loans

- Non-Federal loans to parents
- Non-Federal loans to students
- State Grants
- Institutional Grants and Scholarships

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Draft Academic Info Fields

- Name of Program
- CIP code
- Credential level
- Applicant enrolled, Y/N
- Date started
- Date ended
- Credit / clock hours attempted and completed

- Measure of academic performance (e.g., GPA)
- Successfully completed program, Y/N
- Credential earned
- Utilization of support services (e.g., counseling, placement)

Annual Reporting Requirements

- Social Policy Research Associates (SPR) is currently working with schools to collect these data!

- If you have not already done so please contact your liaison to begin coordinating the collection or contact the study team directly:
  - By phone: (866) 235-7263
  - By email: contact@pellexperiments.org.

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ESI Website

How to Apply

Federal Register Notice

Apply to Participate

Screening & Approval Process

Dear Colleague Letters & Electronic Announcements

Experiments

Experiments

List of Participants

Implement an Experiment

Action Plans

Training

Q&As

Guidance

ESI Reporting

Data Collection Instrument

Analysis Reports

Archives

https://experimentalsites.ed.gov

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Contact Information

Contact ESI staff at:

Holly.Langer-Evans@ed.gov
617-289-0136

Michael.Cagle@ed.gov

206-615-2586

experimentalsites@ed.gov

Questions and Answers

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