The Department of Education's
Experimental Sites Initiative
Pell Grant Experiments
June 5, 2013

Evaluation of Pell Grant Experiments

Rigorous Study	• Statutory Change to expand Pell Grant
Random Assignment	• Group A: Offer Pell (Treatment) • Group B: No Pell Offered (Control)
Comparing Outcomes	• Identify Impact of changed Pell Grant Eligibility Requirements

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Agenda

1. • Review the two Pell Grant Experiments

2. • Discuss the Implementation of the Pell Grant Experiments

3. • Visit the new ESI Web Site

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Pell Experiments 1 and 2

Pell Experiment: 1

- Generally, a student who has earned a ***bachelor's degree*** is not Pell Grant eligible
- **Exemptions: [HEA Section 401(c)(1)](#), [34 CFR 668.32(c)(2)(i)(A)](#), and [34 CFR 690.6(a)](#)**

Pell Experiment: 2

- Students enrolled in ***academic programs*** with less than 15 weeks of instructional time and less than 600 clock hours, 16 semester credit hours, and 24 quarter credit hours are not Pell Grant eligible
- **Exemptions: [HEA Section 481(b)(1)(A)](#) and [34 CFR 668.8(d)(1)(i)-(ii)](#)**

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Experiment 1

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

- Student otherwise Pell Grant eligible

- Student unemployed or under-employed

- Vocational or career program leads to credential awarded by your institution

- Program's length is one-year or less

- Student able to complete the program in no more than two years

Experiment 2

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

- Student otherwise Pell Grant eligible
- Program requirements:
  - At least 8 weeks of instructional time
  - At least 150 clock hours, 4 semester credit hours or 6 quarter credit hours
  - Approved by FSA to participate in Title IV
  - Leads to a certificate, degree or credential awarded by your institution

Experiment 2 Exemptions

Academic Program Measures Progress In	Statutory Minimum Weeks of Instruction	Exemption Allowed	Statutory Minimum Progress	Exemption Allowed
Semesters or Trimesters	15 weeks	8 weeks	16 credits	4 credits
Quarters	15 weeks	8 weeks	24 credits	6 credits
Clock Hours	15 weeks	8 weeks	600 hours	150 hours

Experiment 2

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

- Additional program requirements:
    - Addresses local or regional workforce needs
    - Training sufficient to meet employers' hiring requirements/standards and any applicable licensure requirements
- Doesn't exceed by more than 50% the minimum number of clock hours required for training if the State has established such a requirement

Selection Process

FSA Review and Screening

Past Compliance	School Diversity
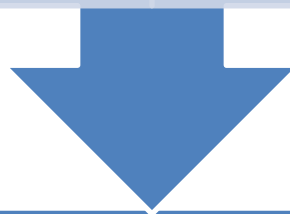
School participates if...

FSA invites via ExperimentalSites@ed.gov	School accepts	School and FSA sign PPA

Experiment 2: Approval Process

Short-term programs approved by state and accreditor, but not eligible for Title IV

- Complete required Approval of Short Term Programs Form
- Submit state and accreditor approval documentation along with form

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Experiment 2: Approval Process

Short-term programs approved by state and accreditor, currently eligible for Direct Loans

- Complete required Approval of Short Term Programs Form
- Submit state and accreditor approval documentation along with form

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Experiment 2: Approval Process

New short-term programs

- Obtain state and accreditor approval
- Complete required Approval of Short Term Programs Form
- Submit state and accreditor approval documentation along with form

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Action Plan: Program Approval Process for Experiment 2

Action	Status
Complete Program Participation Agreement (PPA)	
❑ Mail signed amendment to PPA using courier service (e.g., UPS or Federal Express) rather than the U.S. Postal Service. ❑ Have on file the signed Amendment to the PPA for Experiment 2.	
Obtain Approval For Short Term Programs	
❑ Ensure that the short term program leads to a certificate, degree or credential at your institution. *34 CFR 668.8(c)*, *34 CFR 668.8(d)* **For Short Term Programs that Have been approved by the State/Accreditor but Not Eligible For Title IV Aid:** ❑ Locate the Accreditor Approval Documentation for each program and submit 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:** ❑ Attach a scanned copy of your Accreditor, State, and Department of Education approval documentation and submit with the Approval of Short Term Programs Form. **For Brand New Short Term Programs:** ❑ Obtain State and Accreditor Approval as soon as you receive your amended PPA. You cannot submit the approval form until you have the State and Accreditor Approval. ❑ Attach a scanned copy of your Accreditor and State approval documentation and submit with the Approval of Short Term Programs Form. If you have questions about this process, contact your experiment representatives Holly Langer-Evans (*Holly.Langer-Evans@ed.gov*) or Michael Cagle	

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Approval of Short Term Programs

OPE ID#:

Institution:

Name of Program/Course:

Classification of Institutional Programs (CIP) Code:

Date First Provided:

Number of Weeks:

Clock hours (number of hours) of instruction:

If you offer the program in credit hours, number of credit hours:

Type of Hours (Check One):

○ Semester   ○ Trimester   ○ Quarter

Is each course within the program acceptable for full credit toward your associate degree or higher degree?

○ Yes   ○ No

[Email to Federal Student Aid] ← **Click Box to submit**

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Responsibilities of Institutional Offices

Administrative Capability

- 668.16(b)(1) and (4)

Experiment 1 & 2 – Recruitment

Possible Methods

- Community Outreach
- Contact local workforce partners & CBOs

Target Population

- Otherwise Pell Grant Eligible
- Unemployed or Underemployed

Message

- "Chance" to get a Pell Grant

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Action Plan: Recruitment Process for Experiment 2

Action	Status
Identify and Recruit Eligible Applicants	
❑ 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. Without the exemption, the student would not be eligible because the program would not be eligible for Title IV.	
Consent Process	
❑ Inform potential eligible applicants about the experiment and that it provides a chance for the applicant to receive a Pell Grant.	
❑ Assure that participation in the lottery and the experiment is voluntary.	
❑ When applicants with a Pell eligible EFC are entered into the lottery for a Pell Grant award, the ED Contractor will send the applicants information about their status and the evaluation study.	

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Selecting and Awarding of Students

Random Assignment System (RAS)

- Schools enter student information
- System randomly assigns to **Offer Pell Grant** or **Do Not Offer Pell Grant** group
- Question about the RAS should be directed to the contractor at contact@pellexperiments.org or 1-866-235-7263

Maintain Applicant Level Data

- Personal, institutional, and financial aid information for *all* applicants

Action Plan: Selecting and Awarding for Experiment 2

Action	Status
Random Assignment System (RAS)	
❑ Log in to the RAS at *https://www.pellexperiment.org*. ❑ Once in RAS, select "Add New Applicant" and fill in the Study Registration Form for each applicant individually. ❑ Once the information is entered select "Save, Verify Data, Notify & Randomly Assign Applicant" button. ❑ Questions about the Random Assignment process should be directed to the contractor at *contact@pellexperiments.org* or toll free 1-866-235-7263	
Group A: Treatment Group (Offer Pell Grant)	
❑ Make sure student meets all Pell eligibility and Title IV requirements.	
❑ Prepare Award Package to reflect correct Pell Award.	
Group B: Control Group (Do Not Offer Pell Grant)	
❑ Do not offer Pell Grant Award to students in this group.	
❑ No Pell Grant to be included in award package for any students in this group.	
Maintain Data	
❑ Maintain data for both groups. Be sure to include applicants that do not enroll.	
❑ Provide student-level records data (institutional and financial aid) for all applicants. Applicants include students who applied and attended; students who applied but did not attend your institution.	

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Maintain Applicant Level Data

Demographic Fields
Name
SSN
Date of Birth (DOB)
Contact Information
Gender
Dependency Status
Direct costs and total costs
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

Maintain Applicant Level Data

Financial Aid Award Fields	Financial Aid Award Fields
Pell Grant	Perkins
FWS	Non-federal loans to parents
FSEOG	Non-Federal loans to students
Direct Subsidized Loans	State Grants
Direct Unsubsidized Loans	Institutional Grants and Scholarships
Direct PLUS Loans (Parent)	Other Gift Aid

Maintain Applicant Level Data

Academic Information Fields	Academic Information Fields
Name of Program	Credit/Clock hours attempted and completed
CIP Code	Measure of academic performance (e.g.,GPA)
Credential Level	Successfully completed program, Y/N
Applicant enrolled, Y/N	Credential earned
Date Student Started	Utilization of support services (e.g., counseling, placement)
Date Student Ended	Data from any prior enrollment received at school

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After Random Assignment

Package
Based on random assignment

Maintain Applicant Level Data

Group A: Treatment Group – Offer Pell Grant

Both Groups

Group B: Control Group – Do Not Offer Pell Grant

Include applicants who do not enroll
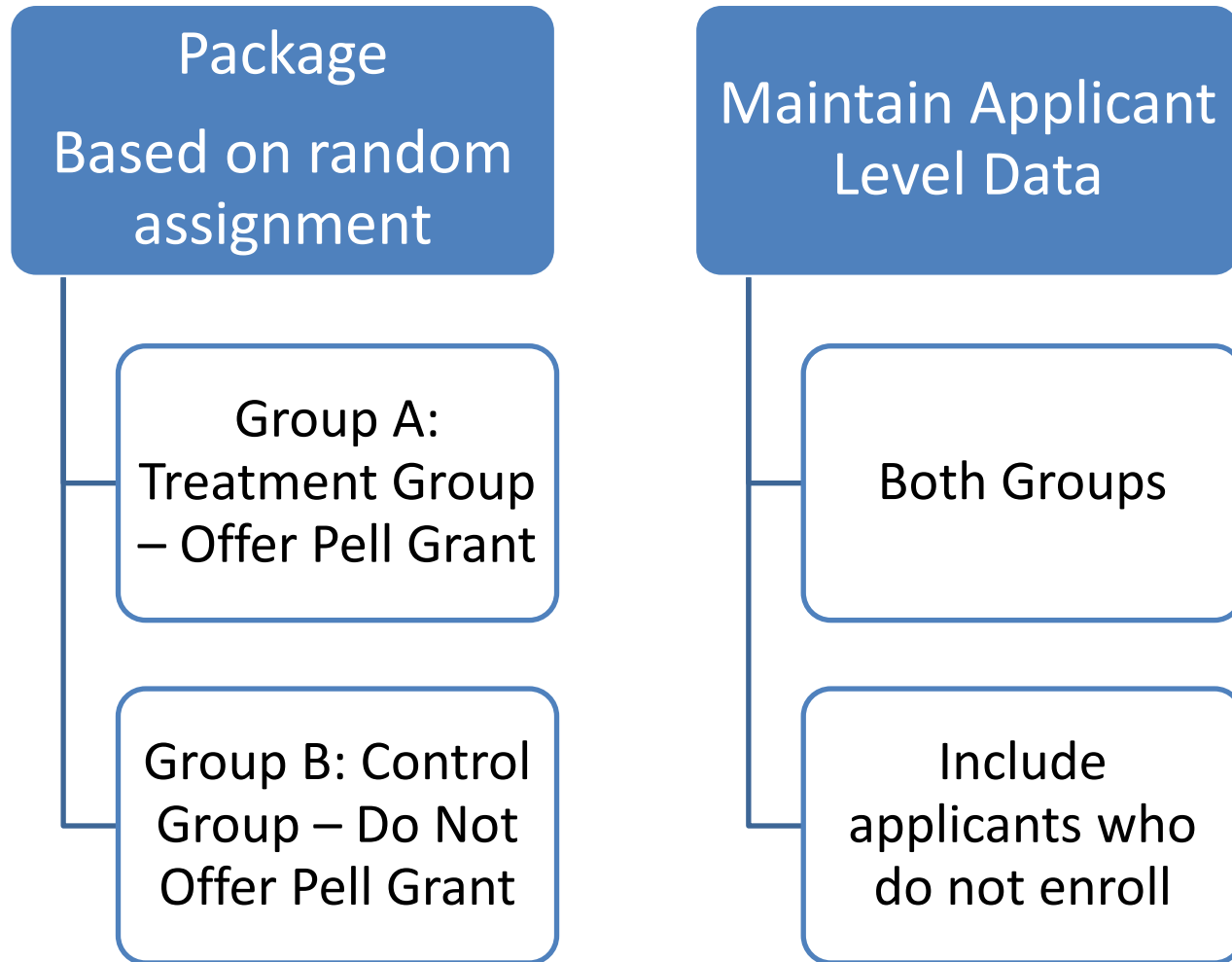
Group A: Treatment Group

Offer Pell Grant

- Award Package must reflect correct Pell Award

Group B: Control Group

Do NOT Offer Pell Grant

- No Pell Award offered to students in this group.
- No Pell Grant to be included in any Award Package for students in this group.

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More Information on the Evaluation

- For more information, visit study site at www.pellexperiments.org

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Annual Reporting Requirements

To FSA

Narrative description

To SPR

Applicant level data

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Future SPR Survey of a Sample of Students

Education

- Credentials earned
- Financial aid received

Labor Market Outcomes

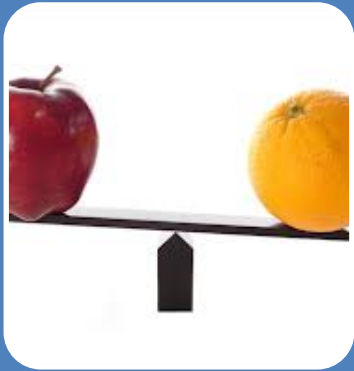- Employment related to training
- Wages

Student specific information

- Demographic information
- Goals

Future SPR Analysis of Earnings

Master Earnings File

Compare pre- and post-training earnings

ESI Website

https://experimentalsites.ed.gov

How to Apply

Federal Register Notice

Apply to Participate

Screening & Approval Process

Implement an Experiment

Action Plans

Training

Q&As

Dear Colleague Letters & Electronic Announcements

Experiments

Experiments

List of Participants

ESI Reporting

Data Collection Instrument

Analysis Reports

Archives

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Questions and Answers