

# Frank O'Bannon and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Completion Requirements Webinar Q&A

Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Division of Student Financial Aid (SFA)  
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*Please reference these questions in conjunction with the Webinar PowerPoint available online at [http://www.in.gov/sfa/files/140314 - Webinar Presentation - OBannon and 21st Completion Requirements.pptx](http://www.in.gov/sfa/files/140314_-_Webinar_Presentation_-_OBannon_and_21st_Completion_Requirements.pptx).  
Slide numbers are included for reference.*

## *Slides #9 and 11: Completion Requirements*

**Q. Will credit hours completed by a student show in eStudent? If so, how will AP/dual credit hours show?**

A. We are working to implement this. More details will be available soon.

**Q. How will a school know how many AP/dual credit hours the student has earned from another school?**

A. If the other school has reported the hours to SFA, this information will be contained in the files.

**Q. How does a school determine if a student is a second, third or fourth year student? Is it a combination of initial award year and remaining eligibility units?**

A. This information will be contained in the files provided by SFA. A student's status is based on how many years the student has received state financial aid.

## *Slide #10: Frank O'Bannon Award Incentives*

**Q. Is the GPA incentive only for students that graduated high school with an Academic/Technical Honors diploma?**

A. No. In order to receive the Academic Honors incentive during a student's first year of state financial aid, the student had to earn an Academic or Technical Honors diploma in high school. In order to receive the Academic Honors incentive during a student's second, third or fourth year of state financial aid, the student must earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Students who graduated high school with an Academic or Technical Honors diploma must earn the required cumulative GPA to receive the incentive in the second, third and fourth years of aid. A student who did not graduate high school with an Academic or Technical Honors diploma can receive the incentive in the second, third and fourth years of state financial aid by earning the required cumulative GPA.

**Q. To receive the Academic Honors incentive in the second year, the student only needs to meet the 3.0 cumulative GPA minimum and have successfully completed at least 24 credit hours, correct?**

A. Yes. In addition, the student would have to demonstrate financial need. At a public institution, the student must have an EFC at or below \$4,000. At a private institution, the student must have an EFC at or below \$7,500, and at Ivy Tech or a proprietary institution, the student must have an

EFC at or below \$3,500. (See slide #19 for additional information about \$0 base awards.)

**Q. Is it possible for a student to receive the Associate Degree incentive for pursuing a second associate degree?**

A. No. The Associate Degree incentive is only available to a student who receives an associate degree before enrolling in a baccalaureate degree program.

**Q. How will it be determined that a student has earned an associate degree? Specifically, how will this be determined if the student transferred from another school?**

A. Schools will report this information to SFA. If a student has transferred from another school who did not report the completion of the associate degree, it is the student's responsibility to ensure the school is aware of this degree.

**Q. Must a student have sufficient unmet need to receive an incentive?**

A. Both the base awards and the incentives can only be applied to the cost of tuition and regularly assessed fees.

**Q. Will the incentives fund through the regular state accounts (i.e. FOC or HEA)?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Are the base award and incentive amounts going to be listed separately or grouped together in the files?**

A. A total state financial aid award amount for the student will be provided. However, the file will indicate which of the incentives the student is eligible to receive.

**Q. Will the incentives be reconciled separately?**

A. Schools will reconcile the incentives as part of the student's total state financial aid award amount.

*Slides #11 and #12: Completion Requirements 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program*

**Q. Can a student get back in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program if he falls out for a semester?**

A. If a student fails to meet the credit completion requirements for the 21st Century Scholars program by the end of a year, the student can resume eligibility by meeting the credit completion requirements in a subsequent year.

For example, if by the end of the student's first year of receiving the 21st Century Scholarship, the student has successfully completed only 29 credit hours, the student will not be eligible to receive the 21st Century Scholarship in his or her second year. (The student may be eligible to receive the Frank O'Bannon award at the full-time rate if all eligibility requirements of O'Bannon are met). The student can receive the 21st Century Scholarship again in the third year if, at the end of the second year, the student has successfully completed at least 60 credit hours.

It is important to note that award eligibility is determined annually not term-by-term.

*Slide #12: Completion Requirements 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program*

**Q. If the student fails to meet the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars credit completion requirements, does he or she default to the Frank O'Bannon award program? Does the student have to opt-out of the Scholars program?**

A. If a Scholar fails to meet the credit completion requirements, he or she may be eligible to receive the Frank O'Bannon award if all eligibility requirements for that program are met. The student does not need to opt-out of the Scholars program to receive the Frank O'Bannon award. The student will default to that program based on his or her successfully completed credits.

*Slide #13: Key points to remember*

**Q. Does the grid show awards for both Frank O'Bannon and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars?**

A. No. The new grid for annual awards only applies to students receiving a Frank O'Bannon award. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars attending public institutions will receive an award equal to 100 percent of tuition and regularly assessed fees. For information regarding the 2014-2015 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar award maxima at private and proprietary institutions, please see the memorandum available online at [http://www.in.gov/sfa/files/140312 - Michalak Memo - 2014-2015 Scholars Award Maxima at private colleges.pdf](http://www.in.gov/sfa/files/140312_-_Michalak_Memo_-_2014-2015_Scholars_Award_Maxima_at_private_colleges.pdf).

*Slide #21: Example 2*

**Q. The grid says the Academic Honors incentive is \$800. From where does the \$700 amount in the last bullet point come?**

A. The student in this example received state financial aid for the first time before the 2013-2014 academic year. As such, this student is not subject to the credit completion requirements, is grandfathered to receive the on-time award amount from the grid and is grandfathered to receive past Academic Honors incentive amounts. A grandfathered grid with the grandfathered Academic Honors incentives for public (\$800), private (\$1,400) and Ivy Tech/proprietary (\$700) schools is available online at [http://www.in.gov/sfa/files/2014-2015\\_State\\_Financial\\_Aid\\_Menu\\_\(Grandfathered\).pdf](http://www.in.gov/sfa/files/2014-2015_State_Financial_Aid_Menu_(Grandfathered).pdf).

*Slides #27 and 28: Scholar Opt Out/Opt In*

**Q. At what point can a Scholar opt out of the program?**

A. A Scholar must opt-out of the program before the school reconciles any part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship on behalf of the student.

**Q. Who should discuss with the student the option to opt out of the Scholars program?**

A. It is up to schools to determine how they wish to handle the opt-out process.

**Q. Should the student report his opt-out decision to the school or SFA?**

A. A student should report this decision to the school who will share the information with SFA.

**Q. How will schools notify SFA if a Scholar decides to opt out of the program?**

A. Schools will notify SFA via file exchange or xGrads.

**Q. When a student opts back in to the Scholars program, is this handled at the school level?**

A. Scholars have the option to opt-out of the Scholars program for one year or permanently. If the student has opted out of the program permanently, he or she cannot opt back in to the

program. If the student has opted out for one year only, the student will default back to the Scholars program assuming all credit completion requirements and eligibility requirements are met for that year.

**Q. Will the option to opt out of the Scholars program be something the student can do through the eStudent website?**

A. At this time, students will not have that option.

**Q. To opt back in to the Scholars program, how many credit hours must the student complete?**

A. Scholars have the option to opt-out of the Scholars program for one year or permanently. If the student has opted out of the program permanently, he or she cannot opt back in to the program. If the student has opted out for one year only, the student will default back to the Scholars program assuming all credit completion requirements and eligibility requirements are met for that year.

For example, a student receives the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship in year one and successfully completes at 39 credit hours. The student chooses to opt-out of the Scholars program in year two and receives the Frank O'Bannon award instead. In order to get back in the Scholars program for year three, the student has to successfully complete at least 60 credit hours by the end of year two – the same requirement the student would have had to meet had he not opted out of the program.

*Slide #32: File Layouts*

**Q. Will SFA use the information provided in the COMP file to create incentive awards for schools to claim?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Is there an excel convertor for the COMP file?**

A. The convertor is not yet available but is something SFA does plan to provide.

**Q. Will the file layouts indicate which FAFSA year is being used to calculate the award? This will be especially important for students who start in the spring.**

A. Yes, this information will be provided in the file.

*Slides #33 and 34: CHE – Institution Data Exchange*

**Q. Who is providing the GPA and credit completion information for awards? Is it the state or the school? How are we obtaining this information?**

A. By the end of May, SFA will provide a list with pre-populated student information to institutions. Institutions should fill in the completion and GPA data and submit to SFA. This file will contain GPA and credit completion information to SFA for the first time. SFA will collect data elements from institutions at the end of each academic term, and that information will then be available from SFA for future reference. If an institution did not provide the most up-to-date GPA and completion data for a student, an updated COMP file should be submitted before awards are claimed for that student. The file submission will provide initial GPA and credit completion information to SFA.

**Q. When will the COMP file be due back to SFA?**

A. By the end of May, institutions that can should submit a file to SFA. SFA will collect data elements from institutions at the end of each academic term. If an institution did not provide the most up-to-date GPA and completion data for a student, an updated COMP file should be submitted before awards are claimed for that student.

*Slides #37 and 38: Spring 2014 Starts*

**Q. If a student receives his or her first state financial aid award spring 2014, should the school claim the full amount of the academic year award in spring and reserve the remainder of the funds to award in fall 2014?**

A. No. Schools should claim only the spring 2014 award. The unused fall SFA award offer will be converted to the second half of the student's first "annual award." This second half will be calculated at half the annual award amount and be based on the award offer calculated from the 2013-2014 FAFSA. In other words, the spring award will be doubled to reflect what the fall award would have been. The second half of the annual award can be claimed after academic year 2014-2015 awards are calculated. This aligns the student's annual award with his 12-month window for credit completion.

**Q. If a student first began receiving state financial aid in the spring semester and no longer meets SAP the following fall semester, he is no longer eligible for the fall award due to not meeting SAP, correct? Just because the student's state aid cycle (spring through fall) is no longer in sync with the standard academic year cycle (fall through summer), that does not trump the SAP factor, correct?**

A. Correct. In order to receive state financial aid in any term, the student must be meeting SAP.

**Q. Can 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars starting in spring 2014 receive the full award in summer?**

A. For summer 2014, the student will only receive a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar award if the student did not use the full award during the spring 2014 term and the school was able to reconcile and hold those funds for use during the summer. (See slides #39 and #40 for information about summer 2014 aid).

**Q. Can a student receive the full Frank O'Bannon award in summer if he or she starts in spring?**

A. For summer 2014, the student will only receive a Frank O'Bannon award if the student did not use the full award during the spring 2014 term and the school was able to reconcile and hold those funds for use during the summer. (See slides #39 and #40 for information about summer 2014 aid).

*Slides #39 and 40: 2013-2014 Summer Aid*

**Q. A student attended one school during fall 2013 and took 12 credit hours and attends another school during spring 2014 where he is taking 12 credit hours. How will we know what is available to the student for summer 2014?**

A. Students will only be able to use fund balances at the school where they utilize state aid during the spring 2014 term. If a student attended a different school in fall 2013 and had unused state financial aid, that aid will not be available to the student for summer 2014.

**Q. If a student receives a part-time grant in fall 2013 and the Frank O'Bannon award in spring 2014, will that student have any eligibility in the summer?**

A. This student would be considered a spring 2014 start (see slides 37 and 38) to align the student's first full-time state financial aid award with the student's 12-month credit completion window. The first half of the student's first annual award will be the spring 2014 Frank O'Bannon award. The second part of the student's award can be claimed after academic year 2014-2015 awards are calculated.

**Q. If a student uses state financial aid during the summer, does that use one of his or her 8 terms of eligibility?**

A. The statute has been updated to indicate a student is eligible to receive up to four years of state financial aid – rather than 8 terms. Receipt of aid during the summer will count as part of the student's annual award.

**Q. Can summer be a start term?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Can a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar that uses a different fee remit program (i.e. Lilly Scholarship, military benefit, etc.) during the academic year use the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship in summer?**

A. Yes. SFA will be issuing a memo with more information about this scenario.

#### *Slide #54: Frequently Asked Questions*

**Q. How will SFA notify schools of exceptions granted to students for not meeting the credit completion requirements?**

A. If a student submits an appeal for falling short of the credit completion requirements due to special circumstances and that appeal is approved, SFA will notify the school before notifying the student to ensure the school is aware of the student's status. The method for notification has not yet been determined.

#### *Additional Questions*

**Q. The tuition survey indicates parking fees, construction fees, etc. are not included. Has this changed?**

A. No, this has not changed.

**Q. Will SFA use the term Freedom of Choice or Frank O'Bannon on its award notifications for private schools?**

A. Freedom of Choice award will be used to refer to Frank O'Bannon awards offered to students at private institutions. Higher Education Award will be used to refer to Frank O'Bannon awards offered to students to at public and proprietary institutions.