

**CHAPTER 11**

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND:  
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES  
AND POLICIES**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A. 18A:71–28 et seq. and 18A:71–33 through 36.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2004 d.161, effective March 25, 2004.  
See: 35 N.J.R. 5533(a), 36 N.J.R. 1919(b).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, expires on March 25, 2009.

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 11, Administrative Procedures and Policies, was filed and became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, was adopted as emergency new rules by R.1973 d.121, effective May 2, 1973. See: 5 N.J.R. 188(b).

Subchapter 2 was repealed by R.1978 d.201, effective for the academic year beginning the fall of 1978. See: 9 N.J.R. 570(a), 10 N.J.R. 281(d).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, was readopted as R.1983 d.646, effective January 18, 1984. See: 15 N.J.R. 1428(a), 16 N.J.R. 143(b).

Subchapter 2, Martin Luther King Physician-Dentist Scholarship Program, was adopted as new rules by R.1988 d.153, effective April 4, 1988. See: 19 N.J.R. 2374(a), 20 N.J.R. 807(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, expired on January 18, 1989.

Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, was adopted as new rules by R.1989 d.222, effective April 17, 1989. See: 20 N.J.R. 2506(a), 21 N.J.R. 1012(a).

Subchapter 3, C. Clyde Ferguson Law Scholarship, was adopted as new rules by R.1991 d.306, effective June 17, 1991. See: 22 N.J.R. 3439(a), 23 N.J.R. 1944(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, consisting of Subchapter 1, Undergraduate Financial EOF Assistance, was readopted as R.1994 d.226, effective April 11, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 711(a), 26 N.J.R. 1857(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 2, Martin Luther King Physician-Dentist Scholarship Program and Subchapter 3, C. Clyde Ferguson Law Scholarship, expired on April 17, 1994.

Subchapter 2, Graduate EOF Financial Eligibility, Subchapter 3, C. Clyde Ferguson Law Scholarship, and Subchapter 4, Martin Luther King Physician-Dentist Scholarship Program, were adopted as new rules by R.1994 d.452, effective September 6, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 1932(a), 26 N.J.R. 3722(a).

Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 9A:11 by R.1995 d.248, effective May 15, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 812(a), 27 N.J.R. 1993(a).

Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, was repealed and Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, was adopted as new rules by R.1999 d.46, effective February 1, 1999. See: 30 N.J.R. 3771(a), 31 N.J.R. 420(a).

Chapter 11, Educational Opportunity Fund: Administrative Procedures and Policies, was readopted as R.2004 d.161, effective March 25, 2004. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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## SUBCHAPTER 1. AUTHORITY, MISSION AND SCOPE

### 9A:11-1.1 Authority

(a) Under the general supervision of the Commission on Higher Education, the Educational Opportunity Fund Board of Directors creates and adopts such rules deemed necessary for the proper administration of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), as set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:71-31. The Board administers all Article III, Article IV, C. Clyde Ferguson Law Scholarship, and Martin Luther King Physician-Dentist Scholarship funds appropriated by the State Legislature and other public or private sources and is an agency of communication with departments and agencies of the U.S. government on the availability of grants or loans to New Jersey for purposes related or similar to those set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:71-28 through 40 and 18A:72J. Through the Commission on Higher Education, the Board of Directors is responsible and reports periodically in writing to the Governor and the Legislature on the performance of its duties in accordance with the law.

(b) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:71-28 through 40 and 18A:72J-1 et seq., the Board of Directors shall identify, recruit, and provide financial assistance to needy students who are residents of New Jersey in order that they may attend institutions of higher education. The Board is authorized to determine and promulgate standards of eligibility and award undergraduate and graduate "opportunity grants," C. Clyde Ferguson Law Scholarships, and Martin Luther King Physician-Dentist Scholarships to students attending institutions of collegiate grade that are licensed by the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. The Board shall also develop, establish, and maintain programs of remedial and supplementary education for eligible students to be administered either directly or through cooperative ventures with any or all of these institutions.

Amended by R.2004 d.161, effective April 19, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5533(a), 36 N.J.R. 1919(b).

In (b), amended the N.J.S.A. reference in the first sentence, substituted "that are licensed by the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and accredited by the accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education" for "located and approved in New Jersey" in the second sentence, and substituted "these institutions" for "the public and private institutions of higher education in the State" in the third sentence.

### 9A:11-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Abbott school district" means any New Jersey public school district characterized by both low student achievement and concentrated poverty that has been assigned the designation Abbott school district by the Commissioner of Education.

"Allocation" means any of the following fiscal year funding categories approved by the EOF Board of Directors: Summer Article III undergraduate, Summer Article III graduate, Summer Article IV, Academic Year Article III undergraduate, Academic Year Article III graduate, Academic Year Article IV, or any special project funding during the summer or academic year from either Article III or Article IV.

"Article III" means a New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund undergraduate or graduate student financial aid grant awarded to an eligible student for the academic year or summer session.

"Article IV" means a New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund academic year or summer grant allocated to a participating New Jersey college or university to provide program support services to EOF-eligible students.

“Board” means the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Board of Directors, which is appointed by the Governor; sets policy; approves all necessary rules for program operation and student eligibility for Article III academic year and summer session, undergraduate and graduate student grants, academic year and summer program Article IV support funds, C. Clyde Ferguson Law Scholarship, and the Martin Luther King Physician-Dentist Scholarship; develops the annual budget request for the Statewide program; and supports EOF programs at public and independent colleges and universities.

“Budgeted contract” means the fiscal year contract signed by the EOF Executive Director and the president of the participating institution.

“Campus EOF administrator/director” means the individual at a New Jersey institution of higher education directly responsible for the overall administration of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program at that particular college or university campus.

“Commission” means the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education, which is the State-level planning and coordinating agency for higher education in New Jersey.

“Commission/EOF” means the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Program’s central office, located within the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education.

“Costs” means total educational expenses as defined by the institution.

“District Factor Group (DFG)” means an indicator of the socioeconomic status of citizens in each New Jersey school district. The New Jersey Department of Education uses this measure for the comparative reporting of test results from New Jersey’s Statewide testing programs. The indicators use demographic variables from the most recent U.S. census data, and school districts are ranked and divided into alphabetical groups. The groups range from “A” (lowest socioeconomic districts) to “J” (highest socioeconomic districts).

“Early childhood program aid” means any New Jersey school district that is eligible to receive early childhood program aid from the New Jersey Department of Education under the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996 (P.L. 1996, c.138).

“Eligible urban aid municipality” means a New Jersey municipality that has been authorized to participate in programs administered by the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority.

“EOF” means the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Program.

“EOF Executive Director” means the chief executive officer of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Program.

“Ferguson Scholarship” means the C. Clyde Ferguson Law Scholarship program.

“First-generation college student” means an applicant whose parents or parent (in the case of an applicant who regularly resided with and received support from only one parent) did not complete a baccalaureate degree.

“Fund” means the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Program.

“High-distress area” means an area in New Jersey characterized by low or substandard housing and/or low real estate value, low per capita income, high unemployment, population decline, and a high percentage of residents receiving welfare and other benefits targeted for low-income families.

“Initial student” means a student who is receiving an Article III EOF undergraduate or graduate student grant for the first time. The term “initial” is not synonymous with the word “freshman,” nor does it imply that the student is in his or her first year of college attendance.

“King Scholarship” means the Martin Luther King Physician-Dentist Scholarship program.

“Labor surplus area,” as defined by the New Jersey Department of Labor and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, is an area with an unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average for the previous two calendar years. These areas also are eligible for Federal programs designed to provide assistance to impoverished, disadvantaged communities undergoing serious economic problems.

“Master contract” means an annual agreement entered between the Commission on Higher Education and individual New Jersey institutions of higher education specifying the contractual terms and conditions under which the Commission shall provide funds specified under the applicable project contract to the contractor.

“Need” means the difference between the total educational expenses to attend a particular college and what a student or student’s family is expected to contribute towards meeting those costs based on methodology contained in Federal Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, including all subsequent amendments and supplements.

“New Jersey College Bound Grant Program” means a precollege educational enrichment program designed to help ensure completion of secondary school; to increase college admission, retention, and graduation rates of urban youth; and to encourage the successful pursuit of postsecondary education in the science, mathematics, or technology that was funded by the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education.

“NJ GEAR UP state project” means any Federally funded New Jersey state project administered by the Commission under the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs.

“NJ GEAR UP support service only (NJGEARUP/SSO) student” refers to a NJ GEAR UP state project graduate enrolled in college through the Fund who is unable to demonstrate financial eligibility for an initial Article III student grant.

“Opportunity grant” means an EOF Article III undergraduate or graduate academic year or summer student grant.

“PAB” means the Program Advisory Board appointed by institutions participating in the Fund.

“Participating institution” means a New Jersey institution of higher education that is licensed by the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and which has entered into a contractual relationship with the Board to provide an EOF undergraduate, graduate, and/or summer program for eligible students.

“Renewal student” means a student who previously has received an Article III EOF undergraduate or graduate student grant.

“TRIO programs” means the Federally funded grant programs Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services.

Amended by R.2000 d.163, effective April 17, 2000.  
See: 32 N.J.R. 156(a), 32 N.J.R. 1422(a).

Inserted “NJ GEAR UP state project” and “NJ GEAR UP support service only (NJ GEAR UP/SSO) student”.

Amended by R.2004 d.161, effective April 19, 2004.  
See: 35 N.J.R. 5533(a), 36 N.J.R. 1919(b).

Inserted “Abbott school district”, “Early childhood program aid”, “Eligible urban aid municipality”, and “New Jersey College Bound Grant Program”; amended “Initial student”, “Participating institution” and “Renewal student”; deleted “Special needs school district”.

### 9A:11-1.3 EOF mission statement

The New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund contributes to the development of a college-educated public that reflects the diversity of New Jersey. In partnership with New Jersey colleges and universities, the Fund provides access to higher education and support for highly motivated students who exhibit the potential for success, but who come from families/communities disadvantaged by low income and the lack of access to the quality educational preparation necessary to attend college. Through its partnership with participating institutions of higher education, the Fund seeks to maximize educational opportunities for EOF students by providing direct program services designed to promote persistence through degree completion. Accordingly, EOF supports innovative educational initiatives, supplemental instruction, support services, and leadership development activities to improve the student’s chance of academic success. In concert with other sources of student financial assistance, the Fund also attempts to make college affordable for those students who find the costs of higher education an impediment to access and student persistence.

### 9A:11-1.4 Scope

(a) The rules in this chapter govern the awarding of Article III undergraduate EOF grants to students for study leading to approved certificates, associate degrees, and/or baccalaureate degrees, and the awarding of Article III graduate EOF grants and Ferguson and King Scholarships for study leading to approved master’s, doctoral and/or professional degrees. The rules also govern the development, administration, and maintenance of institutional programs of remedial and supplemental education for EOF students supported in part through Article IV funding in the summer and academic year.

(b) Institutions that participate in the EOF program shall not discriminate in their admissions decisions based on race, age, creed, religion, marital status, national origin, color, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

## SUBCHAPTER 2. UNDERGRADUATE EOF FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

### 9A:11-2.1 Scope

This subchapter governs the awarding of Article III undergraduate EOF grants. The Article III undergraduate EOF grant is not a financial aid entitlement. Institutions select students for participation based on the eligibility criteria in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.2 and 2.4.

### 9A:11-2.2 Student eligibility

(a) The undergraduate EOF Program is designed to provide an opportunity for higher education to disadvantaged New Jersey residents who would be unable to attend and/or succeed academically in college without the financial assistance and special services that are part of this program. The program is intended for students who show potential and exhibit evidence of academic and/or creative promise but who have limited educational and financial resources for college because of poor high school preparation and have economic backgrounds that reflect a history of poverty.

(b) To be eligible for an undergraduate EOF grant, a student must demonstrate a history of poverty, which generally includes documented, long-term economic hardship of the family, such as little or no accumulation of assets and the inability to provide more than the basic needs of family members, as evidenced by at least one of the following:

1. Having attended or graduated from a DFG A or B school district or an Abbott school district;
2. Having resided in a municipality that is a high-distress/labor surplus area, or is considered an eligible urban aid municipality, and/or is eligible to receive Early Childhood Program Aid (ECPA) from the New Jersey Department of Education;

3. Having resided in an area that historically has been populated by low-income families; such an area, commonly called a "pocket of poverty," has characteristics of a high-distress/labor surplus area, even if the municipality is not formally so identified;

4. Having a sibling who was or is enrolled in an EOF program;

5. Being a first-generation college student who is, or whose family is, eligible for government assistance and/or educational programs targeted toward low-income and disadvantaged populations (TRIO programs, free and reduced breakfast/lunch programs, food stamps); or

6. Having successfully completed a NJ GEAR UP state project or NJ College Bound grant program.

(c) The admitting institution determines eligibility for EOF at the time of a student's initial application. The institution, in the context of its own selectivity, shall make and document a broad assessment of the student's motivation and talent (latent, as well as demonstrated) based on interviews, recommendations, high school records, and other requisite application materials.

(d) To be initially eligible for an EOF undergraduate Article III grant, a student must demonstrate that he or she:

1. Has a high school diploma or GED;
2. Meets N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.2 and 2.3, which are the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship programs' rules governing residency, and noncitizens and resident aliens, respectively;
3. Meets the financial criteria established in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.4;
4. Is or will be a full-time student as defined by the institution offering the undergraduate program of study unless the institution has received approval under N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.9(b) to award grants to part-time students; and
5. Is admitted to and intends full-time enrollment and matriculation in a curriculum leading to an undergraduate degree or certificate at an institution participating in the Fund. Degree and certificate programs shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours or the equivalent and be at least one academic year in duration. The Fund is not intended for a student whose primary educational goal is to complete an adult basic education curriculum or attain language proficiency.

(e) In addition, an eligible student shall exhibit evidence of the potential to succeed in college, but:

1. Shall not have demonstrated sufficient academic preparation to gain admission to an approved institution of higher education under its regular standards of admission (where applicable) and shall have standardized test scores that are below the institutional norms; or

2. Shall have an educational background that indicates a need for improved basic skills, additional academic support, or additional preparation for the applicant's desired degree program, at an approved institution with an open enrollment admissions policy.

(f) Students who have successfully completed a NJ GEAR UP state project and who have been admitted to the institution under its regular standards of admission (where applicable) or who do not demonstrate needs as specified in (e)2 above shall also be eligible to participate in the EOF program, assuming they meet all other eligibility criteria in this subchapter, except those in (e) above.

(g) Students shall not receive assistance under the programs administered by the Board if they owe a refund on a grant or scholarship previously received from a State or Federal program through any institution or are in default on any loan made under any State or Federal student financial assistance program at any institution. However, such students may receive State financial assistance if they make satisfactory repayment arrangements with the appropriate office.

(h) Students attending out-of-State institutions are not eligible for Article III undergraduate grants.

Amended by R.2000 d.163, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 156(a), 32 N.J.R. 1422(a).

Inserted (b)6; inserted a new (f); and recodified former (f) and (g) as (g) and (h).

Amended by R.2004 d.161, effective April 19, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5533(a), 36 N.J.R. 1919(b).

Rewrote the section.

### 9A:11-2.3 Dependent/independent student defined

(a) For purposes of income eligibility and verification, the Fund shall adhere to N.J.A.C. 9A:9-2.6, which is the Tuition Aid Grant and Garden State Scholarship programs' rule defining dependent versus independent students.

(b) The institution shall share with the EOF Executive Director any material findings or audit exceptions related to the determination of dependency status at any time they are revealed in the course of an audit or program review.

### 9A:11-2.4 Financial eligibility for initial Article III student grants

(a) The EOF Income Eligibility Scale is based on 200 percent of the annual Federal poverty guidelines (that is, doubled) as published annually in the Federal Register. This benchmark was established to reflect an eligible target population consistent with the intent of the original legislation. The EOF Executive Director shall inform institutions of annual adjustments to the EOF Income Eligibility Scale each spring.

1. Except as provided in (d), (f), (g) and (h) below, dependent and independent students are financially eligible for an initial Article III student grant if their gross household income does not exceed the applicable amounts set forth in the EOF Income Eligibility Scale, as follows:

## Academic Year 2004-05

<u>Applicants with a Household size of</u>	<u>Gross Income Not to Exceed</u>
1	\$17,780
2	24,240
3	30,520
4	36,800
5	43,080
6	49,360
7	55,640
8	61,920

2. For each additional member of the household, an allowance of \$6,280 shall be added to this amount in order to determine EOF eligibility for the 2004-05 academic year. This allowance shall be adjusted to reflect changes in the Federal poverty guidelines as published in the Federal Register. In addition the gross income level for each household size shall also be adjusted annually.

(b) A dependent student's income shall not be considered in the gross household income.

(c) The following sources of untaxed income—earned income credit, additional child tax credit, untaxed social security benefits, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)—shall be excluded from consideration in the gross household income of applicants.

(d) An applicant whose household receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and/or Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI) as the sole means of support is eligible regardless of the amount of such support.

(e) In determining financial eligibility for an Article III student grant, separation or divorce or the disability or death of a wage earner in the calendar year before the academic year for which eligibility is being determined, with a concomitant decrease in household income below the EOF Income Eligibility Scale, does not automatically satisfy the financial eligibility criteria stated in (a) above.

(f) The campus EOF administrator/director shall approve students in cases such as those cited in (e) above after review and recommendation by the financial aid office. The campus EOF administrator/director, in cooperation with the director of financial aid, shall have the discretion to use professional judgment to assess whether an applicant or the applicant's family meets the spirit and intent of the Fund.

(g) Where there is evidence that strict adherence to the maximum income eligibility cut-off will not serve the purpose of the Fund, the campus EOF administrator/director has the discretion to admit, up to a maximum of 10 percent of the annual EOF freshman class, students with family incomes as high as, but no more than, 281 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines as published annually by the Federal government. These discretionary admits, however, shall also meet all eligibility provisions of N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.2.

(h) Institutions shall obtain permission from the EOF Executive Director before exceeding the 10 percent discretionary, over-income waiver set forth in (g) above.

(i) The records of applicants deemed eligible in accordance with the provisions of (f), (g) and (h) above, shall contain sufficient documentation to support the use of professional judgment, as stated in (f) above, and the discretionary criteria, as stated in (g) above.

(j) Notwithstanding provisions of (f) and (g) above, priority shall be given to students whose incomes are within the limits of (a) above.

Amended by R.2000 d.18, effective January 18, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3034(a), 32 N.J.R. 275(a).

In (a), substituted references to 2000-01 for references to 1999-2000 throughout, increased gross income maximums in 1, and increased allowance in 2.

Amended by R.2001 d.35, effective January 16, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 3713(a), 33 N.J.R. 268(a).

In (a), substituted references to 2001-02 for references to 2000-2001 throughout, increased gross income maximums in 1, and increased allowance in 2.

Amended by R.2002 d.108, effective April 1, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3718(a), 34 N.J.R. 1425(c).

Rewrote (a).

Amended by R.2003 d.28, effective January 21, 2003.

See: 34 N.J.R. 2896(a), 35 N.J.R. 404(b).

In (a), substituted "2003-04" for "2002-2003" and increased the amounts in the Income Eligibility Scale in 1 and 2.

Amended by R.2004 d.161, effective April 19, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5533(a), 36 N.J.R. 1919(b).

Rewrote the section.

#### 9A:11-2.5 Verification of financial eligibility

(a) At the time of initial enrollment, the institution shall verify the income and assets of all undergraduate EOF grant applicants' parent(s) or guardian(s) or of applicants and spouses, as appropriate. The purpose of the verification is to ensure that EOF funds are granted only to students who meet the eligibility criteria in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.2 and 2.4.

(b) In cases where earnings are not the source of an initial awardee's income as described in (a) above, the file shall contain appropriate, verified documentation on which to base the award (for example, statements from the public assistance agency, Social Security Administration, Bureau of Children's Services, Veterans Administration, or other appropriate administrative agency), regardless of the awardee's dependency status.

(c) In all cases, files shall contain completed forms indicating all relevant data for determining initial eligibility, such as household size, annual income, and sources of income and assets: for dependent students, of parent(s) or guardian(s), for independent students, of the student or student and spouse, as appropriate. A student's records shall also include the application for financial aid, the student's signed acceptance of the financial aid package, and proof that the student received the grant.



(d) To retain eligibility for Article IV program support services, a nonfunded student must continue to file the financial aid form approved by the Board and must have received Article III undergraduate academic year funds during initial enrollment in the program.

(e) A student who enrolls in the prefreshman summer program before his or her eligibility has been determined and who is later found financially ineligible cannot be considered a nonfunded student.

Amended by R.2004 d.161, effective April 19, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5533(a), 36 N.J.R. 1919(b).

In (b), substituted "no longer eligible for" for "are denied", "because of" for "due to" and amended the N.J.A.C. reference.

#### **9A:11-2.11 NJ GEAR UP support-services-only student**

(a) A student who has successfully completed a NJ GEAR UP state project but is unable to demonstrate financial eligibility for an initial Article III student grant as set forth in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.4 shall be termed a NJ GEAR UP support-services-only (NJGEARUP/SSO) student.

(b) A NJGEARUP/SSO student is eligible to receive both Article III and Article IV benefits of the prefreshman EOF summer program and subsequent academic year Article IV program support services throughout their enrollment in college.

New Rule, R.2000 d.163, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 156(a), 32 N.J.R. 1422(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.11, Transfer of eligible students to another participating institution, recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.12.

Amended by R.2004 d.161, effective April 19, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5533(a), 36 N.J.R. 1919(b).

#### **9A:11-2.12 Transfer of eligible students to another participating institution**

(a) Students who wish to complete a degree at an institution other than the one where they received their initial Article III undergraduate student grant must meet all of the receiving institution's criteria for the admission of transfer students, as well as the receiving institution's criteria for participation in the EOF program.

(b) Once deemed initially eligible for an Article III undergraduate grant at the sending institution, a student is presumed to have met the historical poverty eligibility criteria (as outlined in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.2(b)) and the financial eligibility criteria (as outlined in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.4) for a renewal EOF grant at the receiving institution.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.11 by R.2000 d.163, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 156(a), 32 N.J.R. 1422(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.12, Academic progress, recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.13.

#### **9A:11-2.13 Academic progress**

(a) Before payment of an Article III undergraduate student grant may be made to an eligible continuing student,

the institution shall have satisfactory evidence that the student is maintaining academic progress and class standing according to the institution's established policy for academic progress of EOF students, as outlined in (b) below.

(b) For purposes of determining continued eligibility for an Article III undergraduate student grant, the Board shall recognize the same standards of academic performance and progress that an institution adopts to determine eligibility for Federal student financial aid programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 20 U.S.C. § 1091(d) and 34 C.F.R. § 668.84 ("satisfactory progress"), as well as the following provisions.

1. Due to the special nature of the EOF mission, an institution's satisfactory progress standards for EOF students shall take into consideration the maximum semesters of payment for which an EOF student is eligible under N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.8. Other factors that shall be considered include the time an EOF student needs to adjust to college life, with the help of the program's supportive services, and the institution's remedial/developmental and ESL policies and programs for EOF students.

2. The summer program is a critical component of the EOF program. Courses that an EOF student schedules and completes using EOF Article III undergraduate summer funds, as well as academic year courses, shall be considered in determining the student's academic progress. However, as stipulated at N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.8(h), Article III undergraduate summer grants are not considered a semester of payment.

3. EOF students have the first four semesters of payment to complete all courses that the institution designates as remedial/developmental. The EOF Executive Director may approve additional remedial/developmental work (beyond the four semesters) upon formal written request and approval by the institution.

- i. The institution's formal request to the EOF Executive Director shall detail reasons for the request. If there are extenuating circumstances, such as prolonged illness or a death in the family, the student shall provide suitable evidence in the form of one or more of the following documents: letter from the attending physician, obituary notice, and/or death certificate. The request shall also indicate how many remedial/developmental courses the student must complete to fulfill the institution's requirement and the number of additional semesters needed to do so; the student's most recent academic transcript, which shall reflect all remedial/developmental courses and grades earned to date; a copy of the institution's Federal Title IV standards of academic progress policy for EOF students; and why the institutional administrator believes the student can complete the requirement successfully if given additional semester(s) of funding.

ii. The request shall be approved if the institution demonstrates that with the additional semesters the student is highly likely to complete the remedial/developmental requirement, the student has not otherwise exhausted his or her eligibility for EOF funding, and the student is in compliance with all of the institution's other academic progress requirements.

(c) The class standing and academic progress of all students receiving Article III undergraduate financial assistance shall be monitored by institutions at least once a year before the fall semester.

(d) Students who fail to achieve the standards set forth in this section shall be ineligible to receive academic year Article III undergraduate financial assistance until the institution certifies that they are in good academic standing and are achieving satisfactory academic progress.

(e) The institution shall share with the Commission/EOF any material findings or audit exceptions related to the determination of academic progress at any time that they are revealed in the course of an audit or program review.

(f) Students and institutions shall have the right to appeal, through the procedures in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-6.7, a denial under this section of Article III undergraduate financial assistance. The EOF Executive Director may, at his or her discretion, consider individual cases and shall have the authority to make such exceptions as unusual circumstances may warrant.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.12 by R.2000 d.163, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 156(a), 32 N.J.R. 1422(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.13, Discontinuance of Article III student grants, recodified to N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.14.

Amended by R.2004 d.161, effective April 19, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5533(a), 36 N.J.R. 1919(b).

In (b), substituted "of" for "for" following "the same standards" in the introductory paragraph, substituted "as well as" for "in addition to" following "summer funds," and amended the N.J.A.C. reference in 2.

#### **9A:11-2.14 Discontinuance of Article III student grants**

(a) The Article III student grant shall be discontinued for any student who fails to meet the participating institution's policies governing academic performance and progress pursuant to N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.13.

(b) The Article III student grant shall be discontinued for any student who has been academically dismissed and not reinstated in good standing by institutional officials.

(c) The Article III student grant shall be discontinued for any student who is not matriculated in a full-time or Board-approved part-time program of study or for any student who is not enrolled. The institution shall repay the amount of any grants the institution has received for that student.

(d) The Article III student grant shall be discontinued for any student who refuses to abide by regulations established by the institution for participation in the EOF program.

(e) The Article III student grant shall be discontinued for any student who intentionally falsified or gave misleading information upon which EOF program eligibility was based. That student shall repay the amount of any grants previously awarded to him or her.

(f) Article III grants cannot be guaranteed to renewal students who transfer to another participating institution in New Jersey. Students are advised to contact the EOF director at the receiving institution of their intent to transfer.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.13 and amended by R.2000 d.163, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 156(a), 32 N.J.R. 1422(a).

In (a), changed N.J.A.C. reference.

Amended by R.2004 d.161, effective April 19, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5533(a), 36 N.J.R. 1919(b).

In (a), amended the N.J.A.C. reference; in (b), substituted "and not" for "unless" following "academically dismissed"; in (c), rewrote the second sentence; in (e), inserted "EOF program" preceding "eligibility was based".

### **SUBCHAPTER 3. GRADUATE EOF FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY**

#### **9A:11-3.1 Scope**

This subchapter governs the awarding of Article III graduate EOF grants. The overall objective of the graduate EOF program is to increase the participation of New Jersey residents from backgrounds of historical poverty in graduate and professional study. Priority in granting EOF graduate grants shall be given to students who received EOF undergraduate grants.

#### **9A:11-3.2 Student eligibility**

(a) The academic deficiencies that identify the undergraduate student as educationally disadvantaged do not apply at the graduate level. The graduate EOF program is designed to provide an opportunity for New Jersey residents whose undergraduate record reflects the potential for advanced study beyond the baccalaureate degree. Eligible students shall have economic backgrounds that reflect a history of poverty as described in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.2(b)1 through 5.

(b) Students who received Article III EOF grants as undergraduates shall be given priority consideration for Article III graduate grants. These students are presumed to have met the financial eligibility criteria (as outlined in N.J.A.C. 9A:11-2.4) for graduate EOF as long as they continue to demonstrate financial need.