Automatic Zero EFC**:** If the parents of a dependent applicant or an independent applicant with dependents reports adjusted gross income of $15,000 or less, and files 1040A, 1040EZ, or is a non-tax filer, then the applicant receives a zero EFC, regardless of other aspects of the family’s financial circumstances.

Average Grant: The sum of all grant awards divided by the number of Federal Pell Grant recipients.

Award Year: The period of time from July 1 of one year thru June 30 of the next year. The award year covered in this 2016-2017 End-of-Year Report is July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016.

C%:Column Percent. The number of responses in each cell within a column as a percentage of the total number of responses in the column.

Control of Institution: Refers to whether an educational institution is public, private non-profit, or proprietary.

Dependent Recipient: An individual receiving a Federal Pell Grant who is dependent on his or her parent for financial support. To be considered dependent in 2016-2017, the student

* Is under 24 years of age, or
* Is not a veteran of active service in the U.S. Armed Forces, or
* Is not an orphan or ward of the court, or
* Does not have legal dependents, or
* Is not married, or
* A graduate or professional student.

Educational Cost**:** The cost of attending an institution offering postsecondary education coursework for a full academic year. In 2016-2017, educational costs considered by Federal Pell Grant awards purposes include tuition and fees, allowances established by the institution for room and board, the cost of books and supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses. Certain additional allowances, such as provisions for childcare and costs of special services or equipment required by handicapped students, are also permitted.

EFC**:** Expected Family Contribution. Number given to the applicant, based upon the applicant’s financial strength as indicated by factors such as family income, net assets, and household size, which is combined with the applicant’s educational cost and enrollment status (full time, three-quarter time, half time, or less than half time) to determine the applicant’s grant level.

Electronic Application**:** Introduced in 1990-91, the U.S. Department of Education’s process for submitting applications for Title IV Federal Aid electronically directly to the Central Processing System, either directly from the institution, from software provided to the student, or via the World Wide Web.

Eligible Applicant**:** Individual who has submitted an official application for a Federal Pell Grant and has been determined eligible to receive a grant because of sufficient financial need. An eligible applicant in 2016-2017 had an EFC of $**5,198** or less.

Expenditures**:** Funds awarded to Federal Pell Grant recipients for an award year.

Family Income**:** One of the primary factors considered in determining eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant. In this report, family income is considered to be the sum of a family’s adjusted gross income (or earned income for non-tax filers) and non-taxable income (including non-educational social security benefits, welfare benefits, and child support).

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**:**  The Department of Education form that may be used to apply for a Federal Pell Grant as well as other forms of Federal aid.

Formula Type**:** Six different formulas are used to determine Federal Pell Grant eligibility and are applied according to the applicant’s dependency status and qualification for the Simplified Needs Test (SNT).

* Formula 1 is used for dependent applicants not meeting the SNT.
* Formula 2 is used for independent applicants without dependents other than a spouse not meeting the SNT.
* Formula 3 is used for independent applicants with dependents other than a spouse not meeting the SNT.
* Formula 4 is used for dependent applicants who qualify for the SNT.
* Formula 5 is used for independent applicants without dependents other than a spouse who qualify for the SNT.
* Formula 6 is used for independent applicants with dependents other than a spouse who qualify for the SNT.

Independent Recipients**:** An individual receiving a Federal Pell Grant who is not dependent on his or her parent for financial support. To be considered independent in 2016-2017, the student:

* Is 24 years old or older, or
* Is a veteran of active service in the U.S. Armed Forces, or
* Is an orphan or ward of the court, or
* Has legal dependents, or
* Is a graduate, professional student, or
* Married, or
* The FAA makes a documented determination of independence by reason of unusual circumstances.

Ineligible Applicant**:** Individual who has submitted an official application for a Federal Pell Grant but has been determined ineligible to receive a grant because of insufficient financial need. An ineligible applicant in 2016-2017 has an EFC greater than **$5,198**.

N**:**  Number. The number of applicants, recipients, or other values found in each table cell.

Net Asset Level**:** Estimated monetary value of an applicant’s (or applicant’s family if the applicant is a dependent) assets, minus the applicant’s liabilities. Factors considered in estimating net asset level include the value of investments, business, non-family farm, and all debts against those assets, plus cash and bank accounts. Home and family farm are not included in determining Net Asset Level.

**Professional Judgement:** The Financial Aid Administrator’s ability to change a student’s dependency status (dependent to independent only), adjust the components of the Cost of Attendance, and/or components of the EFC (income or asset levels).

**R%:** Row Percent. The number or responses in each cell within a row as a percentage of the total number of responses in the row.

Renewal Application**:** Introduced in 1992-93, the renewal application allows schools to draw down records for returning students from the prior year, print a renewal application for the student and key enter and transmit the data electronically to the Central Processing System. Alternatively, the student can be sent a paper or electronic renewal application directly from the Central Processing System (CPS), and the completed application is then sent by the student to CPS.

SAR**:** Student Aid Report. A report provided to an applicant showing the applicant’s EFC. The applicant must submit a SAR to the institution he or she plans to attend in order to receive an award.

Simplified Needs Test (SNT)**:**  Eligibility calculation based on a reduced set of family and financial indicators comprised of:

* Family size,
* The number of family members enrolled in college at least half-time,
* Adjusted gross income (or earnings, in the case of non-tax filers),
* Federal income taxes paid, and
* Untaxed income and benefits.

To qualify for the Simplified Needs Test (SNT) a student (or student and parents, for a dependent) must file or be eligible to file an IRS Form 1040A or 1040EZ (not a 1040) or be a non-tax filer, and must have a combined adjusted gross income (or earnings) of less than $50,000.

Title IV**:**  The section of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, that pertains to

Federal student financial aid programs. Title IV applicant’s data may be used to determine eligibility for programs other than the Pell Grant Program.

In addition to the Pell Grant Program, the main Title IV programs are:

* William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program,
* Federal Perkins Loan Program
* Federal Work-Study Program,
* Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program,
* Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program,
* Academic Competitiveness Grant Program, and
* National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant Program

Type and Control of Institution**:**  Institutions are classified according to the length of programs and control of the institution.

* 4-year public or private non-profit, includes colleges offering baccalaureate and/or graduate programs.
* 2-year public or private non-profit usually denotes a community college or vocation/technical school.
* Proprietary refers to private, profit-making schools offering primarily programs of 2 years or less in duration. It also includes a small number of schools with programs greater than 2 years in length.

Valid Application**:**  An application with sufficient data to calculate an EFC. A graduate student is not considered a valid applicant for Federal Pell Grant purposes.

Verification**:**  The process by which applicants for Federal student aid who meet error-prone criteria are selected and required to present to the institution’s financial aid administrator those forms (such as a federal income tax return and W-2 statements) which confirm the accuracy of the information they reported on their applications.