

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid has made us aware of changes to the state appropriations for the 2017-2018 academic year and subsequent years. Significant changes have been made to the state grant programs.

The legislature has eliminated the "stacking" of undergraduate grants. If a student is eligible for more than one grant program, students will receive aid through the program that will award the larger amount. (For example, an MTAG and MESG-eligible student will only receive MESG, since it is the larger amount. An MTAG and HELP-eligible student will only receive HELP.) The following grants are included in this new rule:

- * Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG)
- * Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG)
- * Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP)
- * Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers & Firemen Scholarship (LAW)
- * Nissan Scholarship

Also, eligibility checks (grades and hours) for ALL state grant and loan programs will happen at the end of EVERY term. Students who do not meet the eligibility requirements at the end of each term will not receive the award for the next semester.

These changes apply to both new and continuing students.