

# R616, Adult Learner Grant Program<sup>1</sup>

**R616-1** The following policy has been codified<sup>2</sup> as Utah Administrative Code R765-616.

## **R616-2 References.**

**2.1** [Utah Code Title 53B, Chapter 13c](#), Adult Learner Grant Program

## **R765. Higher Education (Utah Board of), Administration.**

### **R765-616. Adult Learner Grant Program.**

#### **R765-616-1. Purpose.**

To provide financial assistance for adult learners pursuing an online degree in a field of industry need.

#### **R765-616-2. Authority.**

This rule is authorized by Title 53B, Chapter 13c.

#### **R765-616-3. Definitions.**

(1) “Cost of Attendance” means the estimated costs associated with taking an online course, as established by an eligible institution in accordance with Board policies.

(2) “Cost of attendance” includes tuition, costs payable to the eligible institution, and other direct educational expenses related to taking an online course.

(3) “Eligible Institution” means an institution that offers a postsecondary level course of instruction using digital technology.

(4) “Eligible Student” means a student who meets the eligibility criteria established in Subsection R765-616-4.

(5) “Fiscal Year” means the fiscal year of the state.

(6) “Institution” means an institution described in Section 53B-1-102 or a Utah private, nonprofit postsecondary institution that is accredited by a regional accrediting organization that the Board recognizes.

(7) “Online Course” means a postsecondary level course of instruction offered by an eligible institution using digital technology.

(8) “Program” means:

(a) A sequence of online courses that lead to a certificate or other recognized educational credential;

(b) Is made up of only online courses, meaning a student can complete the program through online course offerings; and

(c) Prepares students for employment in four-star or five-star jobs as defined by the Department of Workforce Services.

(9) “Tuition” means tuition and fees at the rate charged for residents of the state.

#### **R765-616-4. Grant Eligibility.**

(1) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a student shall:

(a) Be 26 years or older;

(b) Be enrolled in an online program at an eligible institution in a field designed to meet industry needs and leading to a certificate or other recognized educational credential;

(c) Be a Utah resident as determined by Board Policy R512;

(d) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (“FAFSA”); and

(e) Demonstrate financial need by being eligible for a Pell Grant.

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<sup>1</sup>Adopted July 16, 2021. Amended XXX.

<sup>2</sup> This administrative rule is still going through the codification process and minor, non-substantive edits to conform with the Administrative Code may need to be made.

- (2) The Board will prioritize grant funding for students who are:
  - (a) From rural areas of the state, as defined by the Department of Health, which includes all counties except Utah, Salt Lake, Davis & Weber;
  - (b) A member of a racial or ethnic minority;
  - (c) Classified as low income; or
  - (d) Pursuing education in degree programs aligned to four- or five- star jobs as established by the Department of Workforce Services.

**R765-616-5. Process for Allocating Grant Funding to Eligible Institutions.**

The Office of the Commissioner will allocate the funding based on the proportional number of graduates from eligible programs at participating institutions in the most recent year for which data is available on or before July 1 of each year.

**R765-616-6. Process for Awarding Grants to Eligible Students.**

- (1) Eligible institutions that receive grant funding are responsible for establishing a process to award grants along with other financial aid. When establishing a process for award grants, institutions shall:
  - (a) Award grants on an annual basis and distribute grant money on a quarter or semester basis;
  - (b) Except for provided in Subsection 4(2)(b), award grants without regard to an applicant's race, creed, color, religion, sex, or ancestry;
  - (c) Ensure the total sum of program grant, and financial aid from any source, do not exceed the cost of attendance for an eligible student at an eligible institution for a fiscal year;
  - (d) Determine award amounts within the minimum and maximum award range as established annually by the Board; and
  - (e) Ensure all funds received from the grant shall be applied towards the cost of attendance.

**R765-616-7. Reporting.**

- (1) As specified by OCHE each institution shall provide, as part of an annual institutional financial aid file submission by February 28 of each year, data pertaining to applications, awards, program enrollments, utilization, funding, and/or other scholarship information for the most recently completed fiscal year. For institutions that do not participate in the annual institutional financial aid file submission, data shall be submitted directly no later than June 30 each year.
- (2) OCHE may, at any time, request additional documentation or data related to the scholarship program and may review or formally audit an institution's documentation and compliance with this rule.
- (3) The Board shall annually report data and information collected under this section to the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee.