

## Academic Competitiveness Grant

An Academic Competitiveness Grant will provide up to \$750 for the first year of undergraduate study and up to \$1,300 for the second year of undergraduate study to full-time students who are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant and who had successfully completed a rigorous high school program, as determined by the state or local education agency and recognized by the Secretary of Education. Second year students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0.

### Arizona Recognized Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study

If otherwise eligible, all students, including private school students, home-schooled students, students enrolled in Department of Defense Overseas Schools, and Bureau of Indian Affairs students may qualify for an ACG under the rigorous secondary school program of study options pre-recognized by the Secretary. These options include a set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative and the Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores as detailed below.

The eligibility options for a student graduating from secondary school in Arizona during the 2008 calendar year are:

- **Arizona Academic Scholars.** This program, part of the national State Scholars Initiative and patterned after the recommendations of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, requires at least:
  - Four credits in English (English 1 – 4);
  - Three credits in math (Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry);
  - Three credits in lab science (biology, chemistry, physics or physical science)
  - Three credits in social studies (geography, world history, U.S. history, U.S. government/civics, and economics)
  - Two credits in a language other than English
  - All other school district graduation requirements
  - “C” or better grades in Scholars courses.
- **A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative.** This program of study requires passing grades in the following:
  - Four years of English;
  - Three years of Math (including Algebra I and a higher level course such as Algebra II, Geometry, or Data Analysis and Statistics);
  - Three years of science, including one year each of at least two of the following courses: biology, chemistry, and physics;
  - Three years of social studies; and
  - One year of a language other than English.

- ***Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and test scores.*** This program requires a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school and a minimum passing score on the exams for those classes. Students must score 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.
  
- ***Arizona Dual Credit Coursework Program.*** The program requires a minimum of two dual/community college credit courses taken in any combination of the four core subject areas of math, English, social studies and a lab science.
  - The math course must be at the Algebra I or higher level of rigor.
  - All courses must have been completed with a grade of B or higher.