

Dear Student,

Enclosed please find an Academic Competitiveness Grant Eligibility Verification form. Since you may be eligible to receive this grant for the upcoming academic year, we are asking that you complete part 1 of this form and submit this form to your high school guidance counselor's office. They should complete this form and return it to our office. Our address is located at the bottom of the verification form.

An eligible student may receive an Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) of \$750 for the first academic year of study and \$1,300 for the second academic year of study. To be eligible for each academic year, a student must:

- 1 Be a U.S. citizen;
- 2 Be a Federal Pell Grant recipient;
- 3 Be enrolled **full-time** in a degree program;
- 4 Be enrolled in the first or second academic year of his or her program of study at a two-year or four-year degree-granting institution;
- 5 Have completed a rigorous secondary school program of study (after January 1, 2006, if a first-year student, and after January 1, 2005, if a second-year student);
- 6 If a first-year student, not have been previously enrolled in an undergraduate program; and
- 7 If a second-year student, have at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for the first academic year.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Financial Aid Office at 717 691-6007.

Sincerely,  
Messiah College Financial Aid

# Academic Competitiveness Grant Eligibility Verification

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Students: please complete Part 1, and then give this form to your high school counselor. High school counselors: please complete Parts 2, 3 and 4, and return this form to the address below.

## **PART 1 – Student Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Messiah College ID: \_\_\_\_\_

High School ID: (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART 2 – Academic Criteria**

In order to qualify for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), students must meet the criteria for ONE of the options listed below. High school officials should check appropriate boxes below for ONE of the following options:

**OPTION A:**  *The Pennsylvania Certificate of Distinction*

**OPTION B:**  *A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative.*

To be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant, the student must have passing grades in the following (check boxes):

- 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 at least two courses from biology, chemistry or physics);
- Three years of Social Studies; and
- One year of a Foreign Language.

**OPTION C:**  *Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses*

To be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant, the student must meet the following criteria (check boxes):

- Must have a minimum of two Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in high school; and
- Must have a score of 3 or higher on AP exams and 4 or higher on IB exams.

**OPTION D:**  *Project 720 college and Career Prep Course Sequence.*

To be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant, the student must have the following (check boxes):

- Four years of English;
- Three years of Math (including Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, and an additional course in an advanced math);
- Three years of Science (including biology, chemistry, physics or physical science);
- Four years of social studies; and
- Two years of a language other than English (optional).

**OPTION E**  *High Schools That Work Award of Educational Achievement.*

To be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant, the student must complete the HSTW-recommended curriculum in at least two of the three subject areas; complete a concentration in a career/technical field, mathematics/science, or the humanities; and meet all three of the performance goals on the HSTW assessment. The recommended curriculum consists of (check boxes):

- English: Four credits in college-preparatory level courses.
- Math: Four credits in college-preparatory level courses, including Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II and a higher level mathematics course such as trigonometry, statistics, pre-calculus, calculus, or Advanced Placement mathematics.
- Science: Three or more credits in science, including at least two credits in college-preparatory biology, chemistry, anatomy/physiology or physics/applied physics.

**The concentrations consist of:**

- Career/Technical: Four or more credits in a coherent sequence in a career/technical field or major.
- Mathematics/Science: Four college-preparatory courses each in mathematics and science. At least one higher level course in either mathematics or science must be at the Advanced Placement level.
- Humanities: Four college-preparatory courses each in English/language arts and social studies and four courses in an area of the humanities, such as foreign language, fine arts or additional English and social studies courses. At least one course in either English or social studies must be at the Advanced Placement level.

**Performance Goals:**

- The performance goals on the HSTW assessment are a 279 in reading, a 297 in mathematics, and a 299 in science on a scale of 0-500.

**OPTION F  *Pennsylvania Dual Enrollment Program.***

To be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant, the student must take nine credits through dual enrollment in order to complete a rigorous high school course of study. A student must either pass the cooperating postsecondary institution's placement exam or receive a certain score on the state's PSSA exam (currently determined locally) to be eligible for participation in the state of Pennsylvania's dual enrollment program. As dictated by state legislation, dual enrollment courses may not be remedial, and it defines the types of postsecondary institutions that may offer dual enrollment, ensuring that they offer substantive, rigorous coursework. Requirements: (check boxes):

- PSSA: Scored at or above the locally determined threshold score;
- Placement Exam: Have passed the participating postsecondary institution's placement exam; and
- College Coursework: Successful completion of nine credits in core academic areas.

**OPTION G  *Admission to State Institutions of Higher Education.***

To be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant, the student must attain proficient or above on all 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA core content areas (math, reading and writing) as well as have successfully completed a set of core subject courses which will adequately prepare them for coursework at a state sponsored four year institution of higher education. Requirements (check boxes):

- Four years of English;
- Three years of Math (in sequential mathematics), which does not include general math, but does include Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, and other advanced math courses;
- Three years of Science (including at least two of a laboratory science);
- Three years of Social Studies; and
- Two years of a Foreign Language.

**OPTION H:  *Other State Approved Criteria.***

Students who have graduated from a high school outside of Pennsylvania may still be eligible for the ACG if they meet that state's specific criteria. For approved state-specific criteria for the ACG, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs.html>.

- Checking this box verifies that the student has met the state-specific academic criteria for the ACG in your state.

**PART 3 – Confirmation of eligibility**

**Check this box if the student meets all of criteria for any ONE of the options in Part 2 and is therefore academically eligible for the ACG**

**PART 4 – High School Information**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Graduation Date (mm/dd/year): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School Official Completing Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this completed form to the address below:

**Messiah College**  
**Office of Financial Aid**  
**P.O. Box 3006, One College Avenue**  
**Grantham, PA 17027**  
**717.691.6007**  
**FAX: 717.691.2349**  
**E-mail: [finaid@messiah.edu](mailto:finaid@messiah.edu)**