



MU Land Grant MU Land Grant Honors Lessons Learned

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Goals of the Land Grant and Lan Grant Honors Program

The Land Grant program was designed to fulfill MU's commitment to our land grant mission by providing access to Mizzou for the Missouri undergraduates pursuing their first Bachelor's program who had the highest financial need (Federal Pell grant-eligible). Land Grant Honors provides additional assistance to very high ability Land Grant students



How the program works

- Both Land Grant programs are “last dollar” awards. This means the Land Grant amount is determined after federal/state grants and institutional scholarships are subtracted from the total amount of tuition and fees. Private or external scholarships do not reduce Land Grant amount. They go on top of the Land Grant award
- Both programs guarantee aid to cover the full cost of average tuition & fees. For Land Grant Honors, students who meet criteria also have average cost of on-campus Honors housing and dining covered



How the program works

- All Land Grant recipients must:
 - Submit their FAFSA by February 1, to ensure they met deadlines for State financial aid programs (Access Missouri)
 - Be Missouri residents at initial enrollment to Mizzou
 - Qualify for Pell-eligible status and be eligible for their full amount of Pell over the academic year
- Land Grant Honors recipients must meet requirements above, plus:
 - Complete the Honors College application & be admitted to Honors program
 - Sign a Land Grant Honors contract outlining rules related to on-campus housing & Verification
 - Complete Verification process by August 1



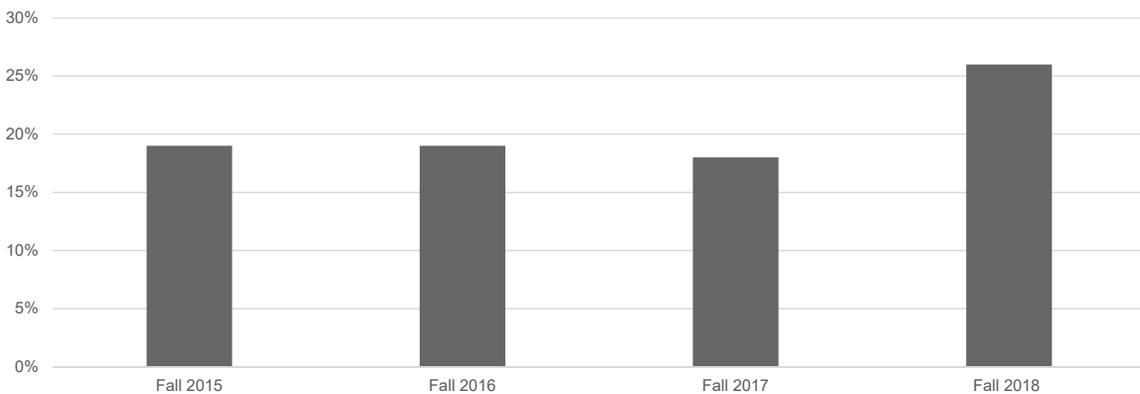
Renewal Criteria

- All Land Grant recipients must:
 - Continue to submit FAFSA by February 1 deadline and maintain Pell eligibility
 - Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress
- Land Grant Honors recipients must meet requirements above, plus:
 - Take at least one Honors course per semester and remain in the Honors program
 - Must live in Honors Housing to receive Land Grant Honors housing/dining stipend-otherwise reverts to Land Grant
 - Complete Verification process each year by August 1 prior to enrollment

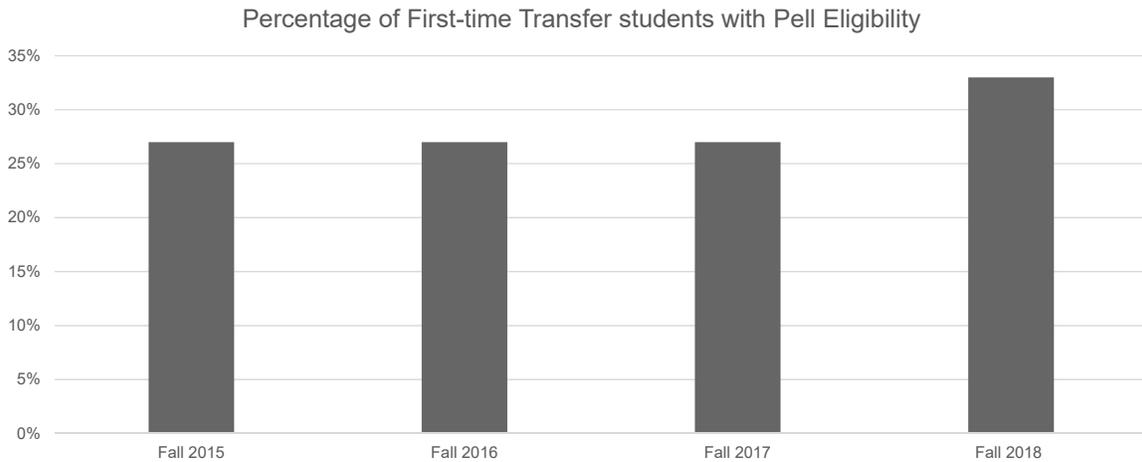


Outcomes for First-Time college (FTC)

Percentage of First Time College Students Entering Mizzou who were Pell-eligible
Fall 2015 – Fall 2018



Outcomes



To-Do's

- Clear communication with prospective students, families and high school counselors about how “last dollar” works-Financial Aid and Admissions message consistency very important
- Communicate heavily about meeting the deadline for both FAFSA submission and Verification
- Collaboration with IT resources & Cashiers on packaging paraments and disbursement



To-Do's

- Gain buy-in/develop positive message with academic units on awarding institutional scholarships to Land Grant students-departments may want to “save” scholarships for other students for whom their award does not reduce dollars-using departmental scholarships in the package keeps the program affordable
- Collaboration with Honors and Housing on common, consistent messages with inquiries



Challenges

- Pell-eligible student retention rates can be a challenge; financial resources are not their only retention issue-may “take a village” to maintain retention rates
- Requires significant investment-may divert resources from other merit-based or need-based aid without careful planning
- Coordinate with University Advancement (fundraising) on support for long-term support for the program



Challenges

- Setting up packaging parameters to ensure aid disburses correctly and packages “correct” for additional aid takes human and technology resources-you DON’T want to rush it. Mizzou spent significant time planning the process
- “Do the math”-is the cost worth the investment?
 - How much merit- or need-based aid are you already investing?
- Coordinate with University Advancement (fundraising) on support for long-term support for the program



Questions?

Lynn Stichnote & Luci Conkling, Mizzou undergraduate and Land Grant Recipient

