How Does the Financial Aid Office Determine Enrollment Level?

There are four enrollment levels:

- **Full-time**: 12 or more credits
- **¾-time**: 9 – 11.5 credits
- **½-time**: 6 – 8.5 credits
- **Less than ½-time**: .5 – 5.5 credits

For a class to count towards a student’s financial aid enrollment level, the following criteria must be met:

- The student is in a financial aid-eligible program of study
- The program of study is under a valid MCC catalog year
- The student was enrolled in the class as of the quarterly census date
- The class is required for the student’s program of study (the program of study as of the census date)
- The instructor reported that the student is participating in the class
- If the course is a repeated course:
  - The student has not yet received a grade of R, P, D or better in the course *OR*
  - It is the first time the student has repeated the course since receiving a grade of R, P, D or better in the course

**Census Dates for 2016-2017:**

- **Fall**: September 19th
- **Winter**: December 15th
- **Spring**: March 22nd
- **Summer**: June 12th – 1st 5wk Session
  - June 19th – 10wk Session
  - July 18th – 2nd 5wk Session
Do You Have to be Full-Time to Receive Financial Aid?

Although original award letters are based on full-time attendance, most students do not have to be full-time to receive financial aid.

**Pell Grant**

Pell grants are prorated based on enrollment level. For example, if your Pell grant for fall quarter is $1,000 based on full-time attendance (12 or more credits), but you only attend ¾-time (9-11 credits), your Pell grant for that quarter will be reduced to $750, if you attend ½-time (6-8 credits), your Pell grant for that quarter will be reduced to $500, and if you are less than half-time (1-5 credits), your Pell grant for that quarter will be reduced to $250.

**Exception:** Students with an Expected Family Contributions (EFC) of 3501 – 4700 must be enrolled at least half-time (6-8.5 credits) to receive a Pell grant, students with an EFC of 4701-5000 must be enrolled at least ¾-time (9-11.5 credits) to receive a Pell grant, and students with an EFC of 5001-5234 must be enrolled full-time (12 or more credits) to receive a Pell Grant.

**Loans**

Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits at the time their federal student loans are certified and at the time their federal student loans are disbursed. If they are not enrolled in at least 6 credits at the time of disbursement, the disbursement will be cancelled. Loan amounts for students whose enrollment level is less than full-time for any quarter will be reviewed each quarter to determine if the loan amounts exceed the adjusted Cost of Attendance and therefore need to be reduced.