

Michigan Tuition Grant Talking Points- 2024

Since 1966 the Michigan Tuition Grant has helped students with financial need access higher education in Michigan. It is the oldest financial aid program in the state and currently represents only 1% of the higher education budget, \$42 million out of \$3.98 billion. Independent, nonprofit colleges and universities in Michigan award 20% of the bachelor's degrees in Michigan each year. Michigan cannot reach its Sixty by 30 educational attainment goal without independent, nonprofit colleges and universities. 1% of the budget; 20% of the degrees.

Students from every legislative district in the state receive the Michigan Tuition Grant.

The Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG) is the only college access grant program in Michigan with NO age limitation, both adult students and those coming straight out of high school are eligible as long as they exhibit financial need when paying for college. As of fall 2023, 18% of MTG recipients were over the age of 25 with more than 125 individuals over the age of 50, all pursuing a bachelor's degree for the first time.

The MTG directly replaces loan funds for students \$1:\$1, saving students not only the principle of a student loan but future loan interest as well. On average, students who receive the MTG have \$3,000 less in student loans each year of college, saving \$12,000 in loan principle and \$10,000 in interest over the lifetime of the loan. While the average debt for a student completing a bachelor's degree at an independent college in Michigan is very low (~\$30,000) the MTG helps keep it even lower for the state's most in-need students.

The average family income for a student with the MTG is just above the typical income level for a Pell student. MTG allows families that are not Pell eligible but with a wide gap in the ability to pay for college to receive some assistance. The Federal Pell Grant is also not enough for most students to keep college affordable. The MTG added to Pell (in addition to the new Michigan Achievement Scholarship) coupled with generous institutional aid provided by the colleges and universities means that low-income students in Michigan have ample opportunity to attend their best fit.

After the Michigan Achievement Scholarship was passed, nine independent, nonprofit colleges and universities in Michigan announced free tuition programs for students who qualified for Pell, MTG, and Achievement. These institutions were able to leverage additional institutional aid to make the final step and fully cover tuition for these students, something that is not possible without all of the aid programs in place. In the fall of 2023, more than 3,000 students enrolled at Michigan's independent, nonprofit colleges and universities received both MTG and the Achievement Scholarship. 1,350 of these students are enrolled in the nine institutions with free tuition programs.

Who gets the Michigan Tuition Grant?

- ~15,000 students in Michigan receive the MTG
- 3,126 students receive both Achievement and MTG, (1st Achievement class started in fall 2023)
- 43% of MTG students also receive Pell (about 6,000 students)
- 2,200 students are over the age 25 receive MTG (18% of the total)
- 127+ MTG recipients are over the age of 50
- Over 250 veterans and family members of service members receive MTG
- Students from every legislative district in the state