

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/16/17  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 542

By: Senator Hickey  
By: Representative C. Douglas

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE  
CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC  
CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(6), concerning the definition of "continuously enrolled" in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is amended to read as follows:*

*(6) "Continuously enrolled" means:*

*(A) For a traditional student, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education twenty-seven (27) semester hours in the first academic year as a recipient and successfully completes thirty (30) semester hours each academic year thereafter, ~~not including any summer term;~~*

*(B) For a full-time nontraditional student, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not including a summer term;~~*

*(C) For a full-time current achiever student, he or she:*

*(i) Before receiving a scholarship under this*



subchapter, successfully completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not including a summer term~~; and

(ii) As a recipient of a scholarship under this subchapter, successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not including a summer term~~;

(D) For a part-time nontraditional student, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at least six (6) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not including a summer term~~; and

(E) For a student who is enrolled in a degree plan that has a maximum number of semester hours in a semester that is less than the requirements of subdivisions (5)(A)-(D) of this section, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education the maximum number of hours required by the degree plan for the semester;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-207(4)(C), as amended by Acts 2017, No. 315, § 1, concerning additional eligibility requirements for traditional students, is amended to read as follows:

(C) Successfully completed at least twenty-seven (27) semester hours of courses ~~in consecutive semesters, not including a summer term~~, as a full-time, first-time freshman; and

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(a), concerning continuing eligibility, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(4) A recipient may attend summer terms at the student's own expense to earn credit hours necessary to maintain eligibility for a scholarship under this subchapter.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(c), concerning continuing eligibility, is amended to read as follows:

~~(c)(1)(A) If a recipient becomes ineligible for the scholarship because the recipient's postsecondary grade point average or number of successfully completed credit hours no longer meets the minimum requirement for the scholarship, the recipient may regain eligibility under this subsection one (1) time only in the academic year in which the student became~~

~~ineligible.~~

~~(B) The Department of Higher Education shall by rule define "academic year".~~

~~(2)(A) A traditional student recipient who becomes ineligible loses eligibility for a scholarship may use this subsection to become eligible apply as a first-time nontraditional student applicant but may not use this subsection again to regain lost eligibility for the nontraditional student scholarship.~~

~~(B)(2) A recipient under subdivision (c)(1) of this section who loses eligibility for the nontraditional student scholarship and does not regain eligibility under subdivision (e)(1) of this section is not eligible to apply for a scholarship under any eligibility provision of this subchapter.~~

~~(3) The recipient shall complete the requirements for regaining eligibility under this subsection:~~

~~(A) In the same academic year in which the student failed to maintain eligibility; and~~

~~(B) At the student's own expense.~~

~~(4) Except as provided under § 6-85-211(a)(3) and unless the requirements of this subsection are waived by the department under subsection (d) of this section, to regain eligibility for the scholarship:~~

~~(A)(i) As a traditional or nontraditional full-time student, the student shall:~~

~~(a) Successfully complete at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses for credit for which the approved institution of higher education certifies that the courses meet the satisfactory academic progress standards of the institution; and~~

~~(b) Achieve a 2.5 grade point average for the semester hours completed under this subdivision (e)(4)(A).~~

~~(ii) A traditional student who does not regain eligibility under subdivision (e)(4)(A)(i) of this section is ineligible to reapply for a scholarship as a traditional student but may apply as a nontraditional student; and~~

~~(B) As a nontraditional part-time student, the student shall:~~

~~(i) Successfully complete at least six (6) semester~~

~~hours of courses for credit for which the approved institution of higher education certifies that the courses meet the satisfactory academic progress standards of the institution; and~~

~~(ii) Achieve a 2.5 grade point average for the semester hours successfully completed under this subdivision~~

~~(c)(4)(B).~~

/s/Hickey

**APPROVED: 03/28/2017**