



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Date: February 5, 2024

To: Cheryl Hamilton, Associate Provost and Director Office of Opportunity Programs
Althea Forde, Ed.D., Interim University Dean of the Office for Special Programs
Higher Education Opportunity Program Directors

From: Christopher Fernando, Supervisor of Higher Education Programs *CF*

Re: Opportunity Program (OP) Student Semesters of Eligibility

This memorandum communicates an update to the methodology used to calculate the number of Semesters of Eligibility for students enrolled in NYS Opportunity Programs, specifically EOP, SEEK/CD, and HEOP (Education Law - EDN § 6451 & § 6452). Currently, if a full-time (FT) Opportunity Program (OP) student takes 12 or more credits or the equivalent during a semester, the student will have used one semester of OP eligibility. There are circumstances when full-time students take less than a full-time load for a number of semesters due to circumstances beyond their control and therefore may run out of eligibility before graduation.

Starting with the 2024-2025 year (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025), the semesters of eligibility for Opportunity Students who are taking less than a FT load (12 credits) during their studies will be calculated in the same manner as Part-Time Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) is calculated:

| <u>Credits</u> | <u>Semesters of Eligibility Used</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6 | 0.5 |
| 7 | 0.58 |
| 8 | 0.67 |
| 9 | 0.75 |
| 10 | 0.83 |
| 11 | 0.92 |

Please see for more details: [NYS Higher Education Services Corporation - Part-time TAP](#)

Note: OP students may be eligible for OP Grant Aid, even though they are not eligible for TAP. This memo is only to provide an updated methodology for calculating the Semesters of Eligibility for OP Grant Aid so it is consistent with how NYS Aid (TAP) is calculated for PT students.

Cc: Dr. William Murphy, Deputy Commissioner
Dr. Anael Alston, Assistant Commissioner
SED Program Office Associates