§691.76 Frequency of payment.

(a) In each payment period, an institution may pay a student at such times and in such installments as it determines will best meet the student’s needs.

(b) The institution may pay funds in one lump sum for all the prior payment periods for which the student was eligible under §691.15 within the award year. The student’s enrollment status must be determined according to work already completed.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a–1)

§§691.77–691.78 [Reserved]

§691.79 Liability for and recovery of grant overpayments.

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section, a student is liable for any grant overpayment made to him or her under this part.

(b)(1) If an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student is not maintaining satisfactory progress, but reverses that determination before the end of the payment period, the institution may pay a grant under this part to the student for the entire payment period.

(2) For purposes of the ACG Program, if an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student enrolled in the second year of his or her eligible program is not maintaining the necessary GPA for an ACG under §691.15(b)(1)(iii)(C), but reverses that determination before the end of the payment period, the institution may pay an ACG to the student for the entire payment period.

(3) For purposes of the National SMART Grant Program, if an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student is not maintaining the necessary GPA for a National SMART Grant under §691.15(c)(3) or is not pursuing a required major under §691.15(c)(2), but reverses that determination before the end of the payment period, the institution may pay a National SMART Grant to the student for the entire payment period.

(c) If an institution determines at the beginning of a payment period that a student is not maintaining satisfactory progress or the necessary GPA for an ACG under §691.15(b)(1)(iii)(C), a National SMART Grant under §691.15(c)(3) or is not pursuing a required major under §691.15(c)(2), but reverses that determination after the end of the payment period, the institution may neither pay the student an ACG or a National SMART Grant for that payment period nor make adjustments in subsequent payments to compensate for the loss of aid for that period.

(d) Subject to the requirement of paragraph (d)(2), an institution may make one disbursement for a payment period to an otherwise eligible student if—

(1)(i) For the first payment period of the student’s ACG for the second year, a student’s GPA for the first year under §691.15(b)(1)(iii)(C) is not yet available; or

(ii) For a payment period for a National SMART Grant, a student’s cumulative GPA through the prior payment period under §691.15(c)(3) for the student’s enrollment in the eligible program through the prior payment period under §691.15(c)(3) is not yet available; and

(2) The institution assumes liability for any overpayment as a result of the student failing to meet the required GPA to qualify for the disbursement.

(e) For purposes of this section, a self-paced program is an educational program without terms that allows a student—

(1) To complete courses without a defined schedule for completing the courses; or

(2) At the student’s discretion, to begin courses within a program either at any time or on specific dates set by the institution for the beginning of courses without a defined schedule for completing the program.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a–1)

[71 FR 38004, July 3, 2006, as amended at 74 FR 20225, May 1, 2009]
(2) The institution is liable for a grant overpayment if the overpayment occurred because the institution failed to follow the procedures set forth in this part or 34 CFR part 668. The institution must restore an amount equal to the overpayment to its ACG or National SMART Grant account, as applicable.

(3) A student is not liable for, and the institution is not required to attempt recovery of or refer to the Secretary, a grant overpayment under this part if the amount of the overpayment is less than $25 and is not a remaining balance.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, if an institution makes an overpayment under this part for which it is not liable, it must promptly send a written notice to the student requesting repayment of the overpayment amount. The notice must state that failure to make that repayment, or to make arrangements satisfactory to the holder of the overpayment debt to repay the overpayment, makes the student ineligible for further title IV, HEA program funds until final resolution of the overpayment.

(2) If a student objects to the institution's overpayment determination on the grounds that it is erroneous, the institution must consider any information provided by the student and determine whether the objection is warranted.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, if the student fails to repay an overpayment under this part or make arrangements satisfactory to the holder of the overpayment debt to repay the overpayment, after the institution has taken the action required by paragraph (b) of this section, the institution must refer the overpayment to the Secretary for collection purposes in accordance with procedures required by the Secretary. After referring the overpayment to the Secretary under this section, the institution need make no further efforts to recover the overpayment.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1070a–1)