

**§ 2525.55**

(c) *Determination of receipt of award.* For purposes of determining the aggregate value of education awards, an award is considered to be received at the time it becomes available for use.

**§ 2525.55 What is the impact of the aggregate value of education awards received on an individual's ability to serve in additional terms of service?**

The aggregate value of education awards received does not limit an individual's ability to serve in additional terms of service, but does impact the amount of the education award the individual may receive pursuant to § 2525.100(d) upon successful completion of any additional term of service.

**§ 2525.60 May an individual receive an education award and related interest benefits from the National Service Trust as well as other loan cancellation benefits for the same term of service?**

An individual may not receive an education award and related interest benefits from the National Service Trust for a term of service and have that same service credited toward repayment, discharge, or cancellation of other student loans, except an individual may credit the service toward the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, as provided under 34 CFR 685.219.

**§ 2525.70 What are the effects of an erroneous certification of successful completion of a term of service?**

(a) If AmeriCorps determines that the certification made by a national service program under § 2525.10(a)(2) is erroneous, AmeriCorps shall assess against the national service program a

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charge for the amount of any associated payment or potential payment from the National Service Trust, taking into consideration the full facts and circumstances that led to the erroneous or incorrect certification.

(b) If AmeriCorps determines that the certification made is knowingly false or inaccurate, AmeriCorps will disallow the education award and/or initiate a debt collection process for any education award funds disbursed.

(c) Nothing in this section prohibits AmeriCorps from taking any action authorized by law based upon any certification that is knowingly made in a false, materially misleading, or fraudulent manner.

**Subpart C—Determining the Amount of an Education Award**

**§ 2525.100 What is the amount of an education award?**

(a) *Full-time term of service.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the education award for a full-time term of service in an approved national service position of at least 1,700 hours will be equal to the maximum amount of a Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) that a student eligible for that grant may receive in the aggregate for the award year in which the term of service is approved by AmeriCorps.

(b) *Less than full-time term of service.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the amount of an education award for an approved national service position for less than full-time term of service (*i.e.*, partial award) is determined in accordance with the following table:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (b)

For:	In an approved position of at least: (hours)	Is equal to the following percentage of the amount of an education award for a full-time term of service described in paragraph (a) of this section:
Three quarters time term of service (TQT) .....	1,200	70 percent.
Half-time term of service (HT) .....	900	50 percent.
Reduced half-time term of service (RHT) .....	675	Approximately 39 percent.
Quarter-time term of service (QT) .....	450	Approximately 26 percent.
Minimal time and summer associate (MT & SA) .....	300	Approximately 21 percent.
Abbreviated time (AT) .....	100	5.6 percent.

(c) *Calculating a pro-rated award following release for compelling personal circumstances.* The education award for an Eligible Individual who is released from completing an approved term of service for compelling personal circumstances is equal to the product of:

(1) The number of hours completed divided by the number of hours in the approved term of service; and

(2) The amount of the education award for the approved term of service.

(d) *Calculating a discounted education award amount.* To ensure that an Eligible Individual receives no more than the aggregate value of two awards, pursuant to § 2525.50, if the sum of the education award value offered for a term of service and the aggregate value of previously-received education awards exceeds the value of two awards, then the individual may receive only a portion of that offered education award, such that the aggregate value of the education awards is not greater than the value of two awards.

#### Subpart D—Using an Education Award

##### § 2525.210 For what purposes may an education award be used?

(a) An education award may be used to pay educational expenses and/or to repay qualified student loans, as defined in § 2525.2;

(b) An education award is divisible and may be applied to any combination of loans, costs, or expenses described in paragraph (a) of this section.

##### § 2525.220 What steps are necessary to use an education award to repay a qualified student loan?

(a) *Required information.* Before disbursing an amount from an education award to repay a qualified student loan, AmeriCorps must receive:

(1) An Eligible Individual's written authorization and request for a specific payment amount; and

(2) Any identifying and other information from the loan holder as requested by AmeriCorps.

(b) *Payment.* When AmeriCorps receives the information required under paragraph (a) of this section, it will pay the loan holder and notify the Eligible Individual of the payment.

(c) *Aggregate payments.* AmeriCorps may establish procedures to aggregate payments to holders of loans for more than a single individual.

##### § 2525.230 What steps are necessary to use an education award to pay all or part of the current educational expenses at an institution of higher education?

(a) *Required information.* Before disbursing funds from an education award to pay all or part of the current educational expenses at an institution of higher education, AmeriCorps must receive:

(1) An Eligible Individual's written authorization and request for a specific payment amount;

(2) Information from the institution of higher education as requested by AmeriCorps, including verification that—

(i) It has in effect a program participation agreement under section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094);

(ii) Its eligibility to participate in any of the programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 has not been limited, suspended, or terminated;

(iii) If an Eligible Individual who has used an education award withdraws or otherwise fails to complete the period of enrollment for which the education award was provided, the institution of higher education will ensure an appropriate refund to AmeriCorps of the unused portion of the education award under its own published refund policy, or if it does not have one, provide a pro-rata refund to AmeriCorps of the unused portion of the education award;

(iv) Individuals using education awards to pay for current educational expenses at that institution do not comprise more than 15 percent of the institution's total student population;

(v) The requested amount will be used to pay all or part of the Eligible Individual's educational expenses attributable to a course offered by the institution;

(vi) The requested amount does not exceed the difference between:

(A) The Eligible Individual's cost of attendance and other educational expenses; and