

## CATALOG ADDENDUM – ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS GRANT (ACG) 2009-2010

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### **Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) 2009-2010**

The ACG grant is available to students who have successfully completed a ‘rigorous secondary school program of study’. L.I.B.I. must document a student’s successful completion of a rigorous program and receipt of a high school diploma or certification of home-schooling completion.

To be considered for ACG a student must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
2. Be a Pell Grant recipient;
3. Be enrolled at least half time in the first or second academic year;
4. First year students, \$750.
5. Second year students, have at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average on a scale 4.0 scale for the first academic year. \$1300 for second year students.

Payments for the ACG grants are made in the same manner as Pell Grants.

The following programs meet the department definition of a “rigorous secondary program of study”:

1. The requirement that rigorous secondary school programs designated by state education agencies (SEAs) and state-authorized local education agencies (LEAs) and recognized by the Secretary of Education has been eliminated. It has been replaced with the requirement of courses that prepare students for college and work that are beyond the basic graduation requirements and that are recognized by a designated state official.
2. Advanced or honors secondary school programs established by states and in existence for the 2004-05 or 2005-06 school year.
3. Secondary school programs identified by state level partnership recognized by State Scholars Initiative of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) of Boulder, Colorado.
4. A program for a student who completes at least two courses in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program with a score of four or higher on the course examinations or at least two Advanced Placement (AP) courses with a score of three or higher on College Board’s exams for those courses.
5. A secondary school program in which a student completes, at minimum:
  - a. four years of English;
  - b. three years of math, including algebra I and a higher level class such as algebra II, geometry, or data analysis and statistics;
  - c. three years of science, including one year each of at least two of the following courses: biology, chemistry, and physics;
  - d. three years of social studies; and
  - e. one year of a language other than English.
6. The Secretary publishes a list of rigorous programs of study that are recognized: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/ac-smart.html>. The website contains links to recognized rigorous programs by year of student graduation for each state.

The recognized Advanced or Honors Programs that will be immediately recognized as

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rigorous are listed below:

- A. Alabama, Advanced Academic Endorsement
- B. Arkansas, College Preparatory Core Curriculum
- C. California, Gold State Seal Merit Diploma
- D. Delaware, Distinguished Achievement Diploma
- E. Georgia, College Preparatory with Distinction Diploma
- F. Indiana, Academic Honors Diploma
- G. Kentucky, Commonwealth Diploma
- H. Louisiana, Academic Endorsement to the Standard Diploma
- I. Massachusetts, Certificate of Mastery
- J. Missouri, College Preparatory Studies Certificate
- K. Nevada, Advanced Diploma
- L. New York, Regents Diploma with Honors or Advanced Designation
- M. Ohio, Honors Diploma
- N. Oklahoma, Certificate of Distinction
- O. Pennsylvania, Certificate of Distinction
- P. Texas, Distinguished Achievement Diploma
- Q. Virginia, Advanced Studies Diploma
- R. Washington, Scholar Designation
- S. Wyoming, Advanced Endorsement Diploma