

3/11/2011

Re: An Open Letter to Students from Chris Hanlon, Director of Financial Aid, Cheyney University of PA.

During several conversations with students during Summer 2010 it came to my attention that many of you may not know of the downside of using PHEAA Summer Grant. My hope herein is to explain how PHEAA Grant awarding works so you can make an informed decision about using the grant to support Summer study. Please take note of the following:

>PHEAA grant is awarded based on students receiving a maximum of 8.0 awards, one award for each full-time semester of study over four years.

>In the summer, PHEAA grants are awarded at a value of $\frac{1}{2}$ a normal (Fall-Spring) semester award. For example, this summer's 2011 PHEAA grant for part-time summer study should be approximately \$650. For full-time summer study, the grant award will be approximately \$1300.

>An awarded part-time Summer grant counts against the total allowable awards of 8.0. This is the case even though the grant is $\frac{1}{2}$ of a normal Fall-Spring award.

(continued)

If you answer any of the following questions with a “yes,” you should seriously consider not applying for PHEAA Summer Grant:

1. Do you plan to be at Cheyney for eight normal full-time Fall and Spring semesters? If you do, using State Grant in Summer 2011 may leave you without State Grant support during your critical last semester at Cheyney.
2. Do you have eligibility for any other aid program in the summer that covers the cost of your study? If you have enough aid coming from other programs to cover your cost, please consider NOT applying for Summer State Grant.
3. Do you have a saved refund from either the prior Fall 2010, or Spring 2011 semesters that could be used to pay for your summer courses? If you have a refund in savings, you can use these Title IV financial aid dollars to pay your summer fees (as summer is in the same academic year as Fall and Spring). If you can pay your summer fees using a past Fall or Spring refund, please consider NOT applying for Summer State Grant.

It is important that all of you know that if you apply for a PHEAA Summer State Grant, the Office of Financial Aid must award and disburse these funds. We are not able to return these funds to PHEAA even when we know that the use of the Summer Grant could impact your ability to pay for your final semester of study at Cheyney. If you have any questions about the use of Summer State Grant, please be sure to set an appointment with your financial aid counselor as soon as you are able.

Sincerely,

Chris Hanlon

