

## ARTHUR F. QUERN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM

## TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

## SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION

## CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## PART 2740

## ARTHUR F. QUERN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM

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2740.10	Summary and Purpose
2740.20	Applicant Eligibility
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**AUTHORITY:** Implementing Section 65.57 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/65.57] and authorized by Sections 20(f) and 65.57 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/20(f) and 65.57].

**SOURCE:** Adopted at 25 Ill. Reg. 2730, effective February 15, 2001.

**Section 2740.10 Summary and Purpose**

- a) The Arthur F. Quern Information Technology Grant Program provides grant assistance for retraining in information technology (IT) fields to qualified students pursuing additional certification or a degree in an IT field at a degree-granting institution.
- b) This Part establishes rules that govern the Arthur F. Quern Information Technology Grant Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

**Section 2740.20 Applicant Eligibility**

A qualified applicant shall be:

- a) a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;
- b) a resident of Illinois;
- c) a high school graduate or a person who has received a General Educational Development (GED) Certificate;
- d) enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, on at least a half-time basis in an eligible program of undergraduate information technology related study, as determined by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), at an ISAC-approved degree-granting institution of higher learning; and
- e) pursuing additional certification or a degree in an information technology field.

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**Section 2740.30 Program Procedures**

- a) All applicants must complete and file the form that the U.S. Department of Education (ED) designates as an application for federal student financial aid for the purpose of determining the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that is used as a selection criteria for this award. (See Section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USCA 1070a).)
- b) A completed ISAC application for a Quern IT Grant must be postmarked on or before May 1 immediately preceding the academic year for which the grant is being requested, in order to receive priority consideration for an award.
- c) If the student section of an ISAC application is incomplete, ISAC will notify the applicant. The applicant will then have an opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, the application will be considered for processing as of the date when the application is complete and received at ISAC's Deerfield office.
- d) ISAC shall make renewal applications available to all qualified students who received a Quern IT Grant during the preceding academic year.
- e) ISAC shall select the recipients from among qualified applicants who filed timely applications based on a combination of the following criteria.
  - 1) Expected Family Contribution (EFC), from the lowest to the highest;
  - 2) Students who have received a baccalaureate degree shall receive priority consideration;
  - 3) Recipients of assistance under the Quern IT Grant Program during the previous academic year shall receive first priority consideration provided the student:
    - A) maintains his or her status as a qualified applicant, as outlined in Section 2740.20 of this Part, Applicant Eligibility;
    - B) maintains satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution; and
    - C) has submitted an application on a timely basis.
- f) If all other criteria are equal, priority consideration will be given to the qualified applicant who submitted his or her completed application to ISAC on the earliest date.
- g) Grant funds are applicable toward two semesters/three quarters of half-time and full-time study within an academic year.
- h) The total number of grants awarded in a given fiscal year is contingent upon available funding.
- i) To the extent necessary to administer this program within the limits of the State appropriation, the Commission may adjust the priority consideration dates and factors established by this Section.

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- j) Notice of eligibility shall be sent by ISAC to each qualified applicant who is selected to receive a Quern IT Grant. A notice will be sent by ISAC to each qualified applicant who is not selected to receive a grant.
- k) Renewal recipients may receive a subsequent award even if their program is no longer on the list of approved programs.

**Section 2740.40 Institutional Procedures**

- a) The institution shall submit eligibility information for qualified applicants in sufficient time for ISAC to make award announcements.
- b) The institution shall submit a certification of eligibility for qualified applicants with its request for payment.
- c) Grant Amount
  - 1) Quern IT Grants are applicable toward tuition and fees and other educational costs included in the student's cost of attendance, as defined at Section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USCA 108711).
  - 2) The annual grant amount shall be computed by the institution and shall be the lesser of:
    - A) \$2500, or
    - B) the student's cost of attendance.
  - 3) A qualified recipient may be eligible to receive the Quern IT Grant for up to two academic years.
  - 4) If the recipient does not qualify for the maximum \$2500 grant during the student's first academic year, the excess award amount shall not be carried forward to the award amount for a subsequent academic year.
  - 5) The total amount of Quern IT Grant assistance awarded to a qualified applicant in a given academic year, when added to the other financial aid available to the qualified applicant for that year, cannot exceed the cost of attendance.
  - 6) A qualified applicant may receive grant assistance under the Monetary Award Program only up to the amount by which the qualified applicant's cost of attendance exceeds the amount of the Quern IT Grant.
- d) Funds shall be remitted by ISAC to institutions on behalf of the recipients.
- e) Upon receipt of grant funds, the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status for the term for which the award was intended. If enrolled, the institution may credit the grant funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient.

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- f) Upon receipt of the grant funds, if the recipient has withdrawn from enrollment for the terms for which the award was intended, the recipient may still receive payment up to the cost of attendance incurred.