

**Title 6 – Department of Higher Education
Division 10 – Commissioner of Higher Education
Chapter 2 – Student Financial Assistance Program**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

6 CSR 10-2.180 Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program. The commissioner is amending sections (1), (4), and (6).

PURPOSE: This amendment updates gender-specific language, adds reference to a statutory citizenship requirement, and clarifies the renewal applicant selection process.

(1) Definitions.

(J) Full-time student means a student who is enrolled in at least twelve (12) semester hours, eight (8) quarter hours, or the equivalent in another measurement system, but not less than the respective number sufficient to secure the certificate or degree toward which the student is working in no more than the number of semesters, or their equivalent, normally required by the institution for the program in which the student is enrolled. Provided, however, that an otherwise eligible student having a disability as defined by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101–12213) who, because of *[his or her]***the student's** disability, is unable to satisfy the statutory minimum requirements for full-time status under Title IV student aid programs shall be considered by the approved institution to be a full-time student and shall be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress, as defined in subsection (1)*[(P)]***(O)** of this rule, while carrying a minimum of six (6) credit hours or their equivalent at the approved institution.

[(K) His, him, or he shall apply equally to the female as well as the male sex where applicable in this rule.]

*[(L)]***(K)** Initial recipient means a student who qualifies under section 173.240, RSMo, has filed an accurate and complete application by the deadline established by the department for the Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program, has been selected to receive an award by the advisory committee, and has not received a Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program award in any prior academic year.

*[(M)]***(L)** Program shall mean the Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program created under section 173.240, RSMo.

*[(N)]***(M)** Renewal recipient means a student who received a Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program award in any prior academic year, who meets the requirements set forth in section 173.240, RSMo, and who has filed an accurate and complete application by the deadline established by the department for the Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program, and has been selected to receive an award by the advisory committee.

*[(O)]***(N)** Residency, for the purpose of this rule, shall be determined by reference to the standards set forth in the determination of student residency rule, 6 CSR 10-3.010.

*[(P)]***(O)** Satisfactory academic progress shall be a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of at least two and one-half (2.5) on a four-point (4.0) scale, or the equivalent on another scale, and, with the exception of grade point average, as otherwise determined by the approved institution's policies as applied to other students at the approved institution receiving assistance under Title IV financial aid programs included in the Higher Education Act of 1965. The calculation of

CGPA shall be based on the approved institution's policies as applied to other students in similar circumstances.

[(Q)](P) Severely underrepresented minority ethnic group means African Americans, Hispanic or Latino Americans, Native Americans and Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders as referenced in the 2011 publication of *Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation: America's Science and Technology at the Crossroads*, authored by the Committee on Underrepresented Groups and the Expansion of the Science and Engineering Workforce Pipeline; Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy; Policy and Global Affairs; National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine.

(4) Basic Eligibility Policy. To qualify for a Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program award, an initial or a renewal recipient, at the time of his application and throughout the period during which he receives the award, must meet the following requirements:

(A) Comply with Section 173.1110, RSMo

[(A)](B) Be a Missouri resident;

[(B)](C) Have completed secondary coursework;

[(C)](D) Have maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least three (3.0) on a four-point (4.0) scale in high school or, if currently enrolled in college, have maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least two and one-half (2.5) on a four point (4.0) scale; and

[(D)](E) Be enrolled full-time in one (1) of the areas of study indicated in subsection 6. of 173.240, RSMo.

(6) Award Policy.

(B) A renewal recipient may continue to receive an award under the Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program so long as the applicant—

1. Maintains satisfactory academic progress;

2. Otherwise meets the criteria of the Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program; and

3. Continues to be selected as a recipient by the advisory committee. **The selection process will include consideration of information evidencing the applicant's continued pursuit of an environmentally-related career path, including but not limited to volunteer activities, job shadowing, or summer employment in an environmentally-related field.**

AUTHORITY: section 173.240, RSMo Supp. [2010]2013. Original rule filed Feb. 17, 2011, effective Oct. 30, 2011. Amended: Filed June 15, 2016.*

**Original authority: 173.240, RSMo 2010.*

PUBLIC COST: This proposed amendment will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred (\$500) in the aggregate.

PRIVATE COST: This proposed amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred (\$500) in the aggregate.

NOTICE TO SUBMIT COMMENTS: Anyone may file a statement in support of or in opposition to this proposed amendment with Kelli Reed, Missouri Department of Higher Education, P.O. Box 1469, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1469 or kelli.reed@dhe.mo.gov. To be considered,

*comments must be received within thirty (30) days after publication of this notice in the **Missouri Register**. No public hearing is scheduled.*