

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

PART 2742
FORENSIC SCIENCE GRANT PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: Implementing Section 65.80 and authorized by Section 20(f) of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act [110 ILCS 947/65.80 and 20(f)].

SOURCE: Adopted at 30 Ill. Reg. 18764, effective December 1, 2006.

Section 2742.10 Summary and Purpose

- a) The Forensic Science Grant Program encourages graduate students to enter the field of forensic science and continue their careers as forensic scientists with the Illinois State Police (ISP). The career opportunity will take place in one of the specialty areas of forensic science that is considered a shortage specialty area. For purposes of this Part, ISP has determined that specialty shortage area means that forensic scientists are needed for the processing and analysis of latent fingerprints and forensic biology/DNA testing.
- b) This Part governs the Forensic Science Grant Program. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

Section 2742.20 Applicant Eligibility

- a) A qualified applicant shall be:
 - 1) a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;
 - 2) a resident of Illinois or will be residing in Illinois for other than a temporary or transitory purpose upon completion of the forensic science program;

- 3) enrolled on a full-time basis at an Illinois institution of higher learning in a minimum one-year program that combines graduate education with training in a specific forensic discipline in a manner equivalent to the Illinois State Police's new examiner training program so as to prepare him or her to do casework; and
- 4) in compliance with all of the evaluation criteria required by the ISP for employment.

Section 2742.30 Program Procedures

- a) A completed ISAC application/ISP Employment Agreement and promissory note for the Forensic Science Grant Program must be received preceding the academic year for which the grant is being requested in order to receive priority consideration for an award.
- b) If, in any given year, the number of qualified applicants exceeds the amount of funds available, priority will be given according to the following criteria:
 - 1) students demonstrating exceptional merit according to their cumulative grade point averages, prioritized from the highest to the lowest. All grade point averages will be converted to a four-point scale; and
 - 2) grant recipients under the Forensic Science 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;
 - B) maintains satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution; and
 - C) submits all necessary documentation on a timely basis.
- c) If all other criteria are equal, priority consideration will be given to the applicant who submitted his or her completed application on the earliest date.
- d) A recipient may receive the equivalent of two academic years of award assistance under this Part.
- e) Awards are applicable for full-time study during any academic year.

- f) The total number of grants in a given fiscal year is contingent upon available funding.
- g) Each qualified applicant who is selected to receive a Forensic Science Grant shall be notified.
- h) This forensic Science Grant information shall be available to the public with the application packet or online at ISAC's website.
- i) Prior to receiving grant assistance for any academic year, the qualified applicant must sign an ISP Employment Agreement/Promissory Note that is submitted to ISAC. The ISP Employment Agreement/Promissory Note shall include the following stipulations:
 - 1) the recipient pledges to be employed in Illinois by the ISP as a forensic scientist in a designated specialty area under the guidelines of the ISP for a period of not less than four years as required for receiving an award under this Part;
 - 2) the recipient shall begin employment with the ISP within one year following termination of the academic program (unless circumstances prohibit ISP from hiring program participants), and shall maintain employment on a continuous basis for the required period of four years;
 - 3) if the recipient does not fulfill the requirement to work as a forensic scientist in a designated specialty area for the ISP, the grant converts to a loan and the recipient must repay the entire amount of the grant, prorated according to the fraction of the obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees;
 - 4) the recipient agrees to provide ISAC with evidence of compliance with program requirements; and
 - 5) the recipient promises to use the proceeds awarded for educational expenses related to his or her education and any cost deemed necessary by the ISP and or the institution of higher learning to complete training.
- j) If deemed necessary by the ISP, the recipient shall sign an affidavit regarding participation and conduct.
- k) A recipient of the grant under this Part shall not be in violation of the agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (i) during periods in which the recipient:

- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces;
 - 2) is enrolled full-time in a specific forensic discipline equivalent to the ISP's new examiner training program at an approved institution. This must be for one continuous period of time, not to exceed one year, following graduation;
 - 3) is temporarily totally disabled for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; or
 - 4) meets all required qualifications and is actively seeking but unable to be employed as a forensic scientist with the ISP for one continuous period and provides evidence of that fact.
- l) If a recipient is required to repay any portion of the grant, the repayment period shall be completed within ten years after the grant converts to a loan. This ten-year period may be extended if the recipient:
- 1) serves, for not more than three years, as a member of the United States Armed Forces;
 - 2) is enrolled full-time in a graduate or doctoral program at an approved institution for one continuous period of time, not to exceed one year, following graduation;
 - 3) is temporarily totally disabled, for not more than three years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician; or
 - 4) is seeking but unable to find full-time employment for one continuous period not to exceed two years and provides evidence of that fact.
- m) During the time a recipient qualifies for any of the extensions listed in subsection (l), he or she shall not be required to make payments and interest shall not accrue.
- n) A recipient shall enter repayment status on the earliest of the following dates:
- 1) the first day of the first calendar month after the recipient has ceased to pursue a course of study leading to certification as a forensic scientist;
 - 2) the date the recipient informs ISAC that she or he does not plan to fulfill the contractual agreement; or

- 3) the day after the latest date upon which the recipient must have begun service with the ISP as a forensic scientist after termination of the education for which the grant was awarded.
- o) A recipient shall not be required to repay the amount of the proceeds received if she or he becomes permanently totally disabled, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed physician (see, e.g., 34 CFR 653.42(k)(1)), or if his or her representative provides ISAC with a certified death certificate.

Section 2742.40 Institutional Procedures

- a) The institution shall submit payment requests to ISAC. By submitting a payment request, an institution is certifying that the qualified applicants meet the requirements of Section 2742.20, Applicant Eligibility.
- b) Funds shall be remitted by ISAC annually to participating institutions on behalf of the recipients.
- c) The total amount awarded to a qualified applicant in a given academic year shall not exceed \$30,000, to cover those expenses related to the forensic science program in which he or she is enrolled.
- d) Upon receipt of the 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 funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient.