

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

2010 - 2011

STUDENT ACCESS GUARANTEE PROGRAM

And

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE ACCESS GUARANTEE PROGRAM – BOOK BURSARY

Centennial College

Student Access Guarantee Program 2010 - 2011

Backgrounder:

In March 2006, the Ministry ended a two-year tuition freeze and announced a new Tuition Framework that permits post-secondary institutions to increase their tuition. As a condition of raising tuition, institutions must participate in the **Student Access Guarantee (SAG)**.

Financing Postsecondary Education is a Shared Responsibility:

In financing post-secondary education, there is an expectation that the student and his or her family will participate in financing the cost of post-secondary education. Where student's personal and family resources are not sufficient to cover costs and students need additional financial support, they are expected to apply for OSAP.

Principles of the Student Access Guarantee:

The Ministry and Centennial College will partner government and institutional support to permit access to post-secondary education through the Student Access Guarantee following these principles:

- no *qualified* Ontario student should be prevented from attending Ontario's public colleges and universities due to lack of financial support programs
- students *in need* should have access to the resources they need for their tuition, books and mandatory fees
- students *must apply for OSAP* to officially determine their level of unmet need and additional tuition and book costs
- students enrolled in first entry programs are not required to submit an application to receive SAG consideration

A qualified student is a student who is academically qualified according to the institution's academic requirements for a particular program, applies for assistance from the Ontario Student Assistance Program, and meets the unmet need and additional tuition/book cost requirements.

The Ministry has provided some guidelines for institutions to consider when developing their internal SAG program:

- the Ministry will provide an electronic listing to all institutions identifying students that must be considered – this list will have calculated and identified '*unmet need*'
- the Ministry will provide as part of this electronic list, applicable tuition and book shortfalls for each student which represents a student's Student Access Guarantee amount
- institutions are required to provide all eligible students enrolled in first entry programs of study, the amount of their identified SAG
- institutions may provide this aid in various formats including bursaries, scholarships, work-study and employment between terms – *Centennial will be providing the majority of this additional aid in the form of a bursary, payable to the eligible student.*

SAG Program Eligibility Parameters:

Centennial College is pleased to partner with the Ministry in providing additional support to students identified with additional costs not recognized by the limitations of the OSAP program under this new Student Access Guarantee program.

Plans to develop and distribute the SAG for 2010 – 2011 have been assigned by the Ministry as a directive to be implemented at the institutions. The Ministry had increased the thresholds for tuition and books for the 2010-2011 cycle. To better reflect increases to these costs, institutional requirements have also been adjusted accordingly for 2010 - 2011. Centennial College, in developing our SAG Program for 2010-2011, continues to determine our *internal eligibility policy criteria and distribution should best support those students identified by the Ministry with the most need attending our institution.*

To meet the objectives of *supporting our most financially vulnerable students*, the parameters indicated below will identify the students eligible for consideration of the Centennial College SAG Bursary for 2010-2011.

- ***student must apply for OSAP*** – in order to determine need, the vehicle for determining eligibility is the OSAP program assessment
- ***student must have an ‘unmet need’ under the OSAP program*** – approximately 30% of students applying for OSAP do not receive the level of funding required based on Ministry program maximums – this is called ‘*unmet need*’. These students are identified as requiring resources that OSAP will not cover and SAG is intended to support the students on OSAP assistance with unmet need
- ***students must be enrolled in programs with tuition costs that exceed \$4,912/year*** – this is a Ministry requirement for the tuition student access guarantee
or
- ***students must have program book costs in excess of \$1,046/year*** – this is a Ministry requirement for the additional book costs for students in any program
- ***students must sign their Ministry OSAP Confirmation of Enrolment and negotiate their 2010-2011 OSAP loans*** – students are required to negotiate OSAP if they are deemed eligible for the Student Access Guarantee. Failure of a student to negotiate their OSAP removes the requirement for Centennial College to provide Student Access Guarantee funding.

SAG Program Delivery:

Centennial College has chosen to continue to *'mirror'* the policy and procedures that currently are followed under OSAP delivery to assist with the delivery of the SAG. These decisions will ensure the eligible students receive the SAG Bursary when it will optimally assist them as well support our internal departmental obligations.

Eligible Students Identified and Communication of SAG Eligibility to students:

This process has been greatly enhanced by the Ministry 'SAG Tracking Tool' that, based on OSAP application, identifies those students eligible for SAG consideration.

- Analysis of the Ministry download of students identified with unmet need and tuition and/or book shortfalls
- Students identified with and outstanding unmet need/tuition-book shortfall balance of a minimum of \$100 will receive a SAG Bursary to the value of the amount identified. Students with an outstanding unmet need/tuition-book shortfall less than \$100 will not be considered for SAG purposes, (*this is mirroring the Ministry procedure not to produce any grant or bursary cheques that are not a minimum of \$100*)
- This identification of eligible students is an on-going process that will adhere to the *Ministry OSAP application deadlines*. Providing students apply for OSAP and are deemed eligible based on the above criteria, a SAG Bursary will be provided before the student completes their academic year.
- Fall only students will have their SAG bursaries available approximately the end of October. Due to the timing and administrative requirements in the SFS Office, it will not be necessary to notify this group of students until the communication piece email and/or letter advising them that their SAG is available for pick-up.
- Fall/Winter and Fall/Winter/Summer students will be notified in December that they will be able to pick up their SAG bursaries along with their January OSAP entitlements.
- Summer only students will have their SAG bursaries available approximately the end of June. Due to timing and administrative requirements in the SFS Office, it will not be necessary to notify this group of students until the communication piece email and/or letter advising them that their SAG is available for pick-up.

New for 2010 – 2011:

Although Centennial College, from the inception of SAG, historically paid all SAG recipients without the need for an application, the Ministry has mandated that all student enrolled in first entry programs are now eligible for SAG without the added barrier of an application process. Centennial is happy to continue providing all our eligible SAG recipients their financial support based on the Ministry advice.

SAG Statistics for 2009-2010 cycle:

An analysis of the (actual) eligible Centennial students for Student Access Guarantee eligibility for 2009-10:

Fall 2009 Semester Student Eligibility:	89	\$	22,826	
Winter 2010 Semester Student Eligibility	807	\$	585,485	
Summer 2010 Semester Student Eligibility	300	\$	115,297	*

Centennial College SAG Expenditure 2009-2010:

1,196 students shared \$723,608

- At the time this report was written, the Summer 2010 are still in processing and therefore final figures are subject to change.

SAG Program Student Appeals

Centennial College is dedicated to providing the additional support as outlined in the Student Access Guarantee Program. We understand that there are students that will not be eligible in meeting the criteria as outlined in this program.

There is no avenue to ‘*appeal*’ the SAG eligibility requirements, as it is being implemented under the specific eligibility criteria noted herein. In following *the Ministry directive that institutions should provide flexibility where students demonstrate financial need*, Centennial as part of our **Multi-Year Agreement**, will continue to implement programs designed to address the outstanding financial needs of all of our students, which provides the avenue for consideration of financial need, i.e. Special Hardship Bursaries and our other bursary programs that target specific need such as our Child Maintenance Bursary and Disability Support Program Bursary.

Student Access Guarantee Reporting:

The College will report to the Ministry the SAG Bursary expenditure as required for 2010-11 academic year.

Centennial College in partnership with the Ministry, will allocate the resources necessary to provide these very valuable resources to students and has provided viable programs to address the financial challenges of our most vulnerable students.

Centennial College Access Guarantee – Book Bursary Program

Centennial College Student Access Guarantee Commitment:

In addition to the Ministry mandated SAG institutional requirement, the College is committed to providing an institutional Centennial College Access Guarantee – Book Bursary, to extend our support for book cost consideration for other financially needy students NOT necessarily identified by the SAG. Centennial College will further support the Minister’s Tuition Framework by providing an additional Centennial College Access Guarantee institutional bursary, specifically to target book costs for students who have identified outstanding need, meet the financial terms of eligibility and are not necessarily identified by the Ministry SAG.

CCAG Program Parameters:

- student must be enrolled fulltime in a Ministry approved post-secondary programs
- student does not need to be an OSAP recipient or applicant
- student must make fee arrangements for the pending semester to be eligible to apply for the CCAG-BB
- student must use the value of the CCAG-BB for textbooks only assigned for the semester in which they are enrolled

Communication of CCAG-BB:

Identified eligible students are sent an email prior to the online bursary launch and the notice is posted on *myCentennial* for general advice.

CCAG-BB Program Delivery:

Centennial provides an online opportunity for students to access this resource once each semester. Students who are successful are identified to the Bookstore and the student must present their current timetable and photo identification at the Bookstore to redeem their CCAG-BB within stated deadlines.

A student may only receive one CCAG-BB per academic cycle.

CCAG-BB Statistics for 2009-2010 cycle:

An analysis of the (actual) eligible Centennial students for our CCAG-BB for 2009-2010:

Fall 2009 Semester Student Eligibility	975	\$ 269,393
Winter 2010 Semester Student Eligibility	928	\$ 253,016
Summer 2010 Semester Student Eligibility	588	\$ 161,101

Centennial College Access Guarantee- Book Bursary

Total Expenditure 2009-2010: 2,491 students shared \$683,510

Centennial College Access Guarantee – Book Bursary Program expenditure is *in addition* to the Ministry mandated SAG/Multi-Year Agreement requirements and is a program developed and provided to support the financial success of our students!

CCAG-BB Program Appeals

This is a first come first served, based on need program that does not have appeal opportunities. Once the financial pool is exhausted, the opportunity does not exist for consideration for the unsuccessful student until the next semester opportunity is available.

There are some instances that prevent an eligible student from entering the CCAG-BB opportunity due to College technical glitches. Any instance where a student is erroneously prevented from accessing the CCAG-BB will have an opportunity to have the issue reconsidered and authorized to receive the CCAG-BB.