

Emails to Financial Aid Directors
August 25, 2026 and August 26, 2026

Subject: Updates re: UPSKILL Mississippi Grant Program – 2026-27

Directors,

SFA is now accepting applications for the UPSKILL Mississippi Grant program. See the joint announcement from Accelerate MS and SFA

here: <https://acceleratems.org/news/acceleratems-mississippi-office-of-student-financial-aid-launch-upskill-mississippi-grant/>.

Adults enrolling in eligible programs at a Mississippi community college may apply now by completing the 2026-27 MAAPP. Students who have already completed a 2026-27 MAAPP may apply by logging into their MAAPP Dashboard and updating their application. The MAAPP deadline is September 15, so please help us get the word out to students enrolled in eligible programs this semester.

This program is new to all of us, and we've had to move quickly to set it up for fall, so please be patient with us as we work out any kinks in administration. We've already received several questions I'd like to go ahead and address.

Question #1: Cost of Attendance vs. Tuition and Required Fees: Since UPSKILL only covers up to the amount of tuition and required fees, instead of reporting the student's full Cost of Attendance, should we report only the student's tuition and required fees?

Answer #1: No, you will report the student's budget and aid package information using the same online MAAPP form you use to report FAITH (eventually this may be batch-reported in the Enrollment file). The form includes the following fields:

- Term
- Enrolled
- Total Term Cost of Attendance
- Tuition/Required Fees
- Housing
- Food
- Books/Supplies
- Personal/Miscellaneous
- Travel/Transportation
- Other
- Total Grant Aid from All Sources
- Federal Grants
- Institutional Grants
- Other Grants
- Additional Holiday Room/Board Cost

You should provide all information requested, because the law requires us to collect these data points. We will use the COA to determine the award amount for FAITH, and we will use the Tuition/Required Fees to determine the award amount for UPSKILL.

Question #2: Do we know specifically what constitutes “required fees” for purposes of UPSKILL?

Answer #2: We will likely need to address this in the Rules moving forward. In the interim, you should consider required fees to include any fee charged to every single student in the student's selected program.

Question #3: SAP and Verification: How will SAP status and incomplete verification requirements factor into the award process? How will you know whether a student is currently ineligible for federal aid due to SAP or has outstanding verification requirements when making the UPSKILL award decision? Should we hold off on reporting the award package information for students who have incomplete verification requirements or who are not currently meeting SAP until their federal aid eligibility has been resolved?

Answer #3: SFA will make a provisional UPSKILL award offer to any student over 24 who self-identifies as eligible for UPSKILL on the application. SFA will not disburse funds for UPSKILL until we receive both the Enrollment Verification Report and the student's Award Package Information form in MAAPP. To be eligible for UPSKILL, the Rules require a student to 1) complete the FAFSA including verification and 2) be making SAP. The school should use the Co-Op (COOP) field on the Enrollment Verification Report (attached) to report that a student is not making SAP (use code "I" = "Ineligible SAP"). Upon receiving the Enrollment Verification Report, SFA will cancel the provisional award offers for any UPSKILL applicants who are not meeting SAP or are enrolled in an ineligible program determined by the six-digit CIP code. The school should not complete the Award Package Information form in MAAPP if the student has not completed verification.

Question #4: For purposes of UPSKILL program eligibility, is eligibility determined solely by the six-digit CIP code reported on the Enrollment Verification Report? For example, our school has EMT-Basic, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic credentials that are all legitimately reported under CIP 51.0904. Since 51.0904 is on the approved list, would all credentials reported under that CIP be considered eligible for UPSKILL, or is eligibility also restricted by the specific program/credential description?

Answer #4: SFA will only look for the six-digit CIP code, so any certificate or degree program with an eligible CIP code will be considered eligible regardless of the program's name/description.

As mentioned above under Question #3, the Enrollment Verification Report format document has been updated to include the "I" code for the COOP field. The "I" code has also been added to the COOP field on the Grade Report. Both file format documents have been updated online here: <https://www.msfinancialaid.org/colleges-high-schools/college-staff/submit-verify-student-info/>.

Question #5: Do you have a screenshot of where on the application that the student would update it to apply if an application has been previously submitted?

Answer #5: See below. As soon as a student logs into MAAPP, they see the Overview screen of their dashboard. There is an alert that links to the Academic tab, where they can apply. We recommend that each institution use the list of eligible CIP codes to notify adult students (over 24) enrolled in those programs to apply for UPSKILL or update their application if they have already applied.

Overview Applicant Academic FERPA Documents Awards Select Aid Year 2026-2027

MILESTONES

⚠️ You may be eligible for the UPSKILL Mississippi Grant. Visit the [Academic](#) tab to apply.

✓ MAAPP Submitted on 4/18/2026

— Program(s) Applied For:

- [MESG - MS Eminent Scholars Grant](#)
- [MTAG - MS Tuition Assistance Grant](#)

✓ FAFSA Submitted

○ Student Documents Received

○ Awards Offered

MISSING DOCUMENTS View All

Student's MS Driver's License Still Needed

RECENT MESSAGES View All

Email #5 Missing Docs 8/18/2026
A missing documents 5 email has been sent to your primary email address. At this time...

Text #5 Missing Docs 8/18/2026
A Missing Documents 5 text has been sent to your cell phone provided on your applicati...

Email #4 Missing Docs 7/21/2026
A missing documents 4 email has been sent to your primary email address. At this time...

Text #4 Missing Docs 7/21/2026
A Missing Documents 4 text has been sent to your cell phone provided on your applicat...

Email #3 Missing Docs 6/23/2026
A missing documents 3 email has been sent to your primary email address. At this time...

Overview Applicant **Academic** FERPA Documents Awards Select Aid Year 2026-2027

High School Profile

High School	Other	Highest Combined SAT Score	N/A
High School Graduation Date	December 2002	SAT Test Date	N/A
Unweighted High School GPA	1.80	National Merit Finalist	N/A
ACT Superscore	N/A	National Achievement Finalist	N/A
Highest ACT Composite Score	N/A	Help Curriculum	N/A
ACT Test Date	N/A		

College Profile (Click the icon to edit institution)

Request Grade Verification

Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Spring 2027
N/A	Hinds Community College	Hinds Community College
General Major	General Studies	You may be eligible for the UPSKILL Mississippi Grant.
Graduation Date	May 2028	Apply Now
Cumulative GPA	3.85 - Hinds Community College	
Degrees Completed	N/A	

Edit Info

Question #6: For students that will be enrolling for the Spring semester, if they did not submit the application before Sept.15, will they only be eligible to apply for the next fall once the application for the new year comes out on Oct. 1? I know with FAITH that they can submit the next-year application to get eligibility for the Spring.

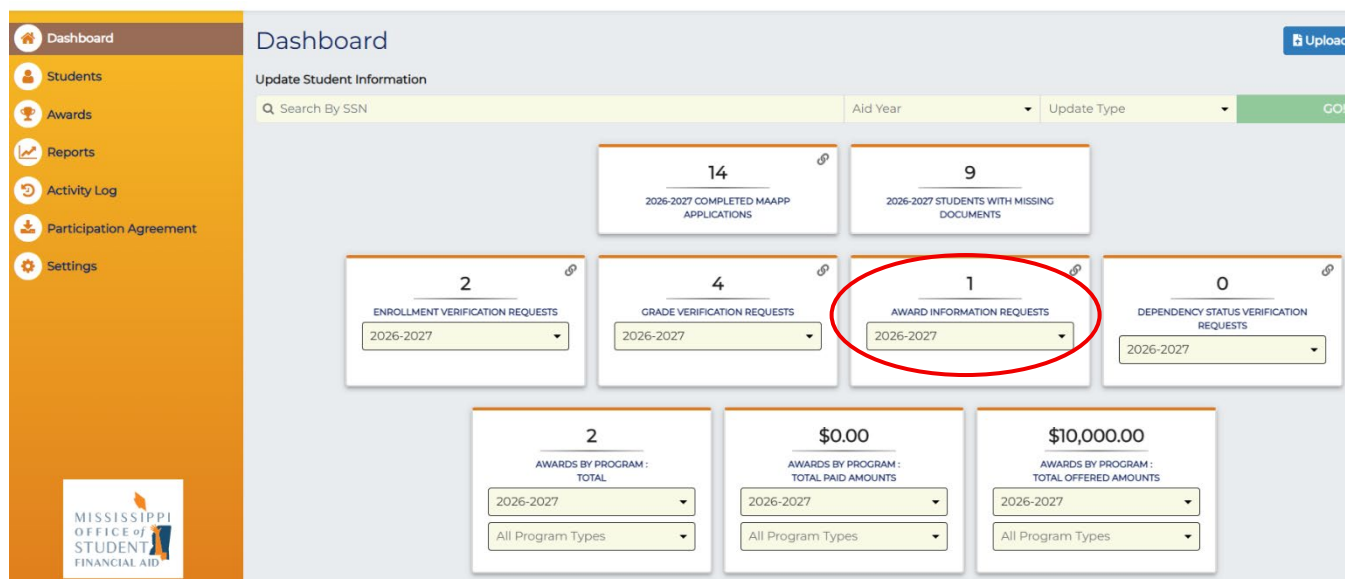
Answer #6: Students interested in receiving UPSKILL at any time during the 26-27 academic year should apply by Sept. 15, which is the published deadline for applying. The only reason we allow FAITH applicants to complete the next-year application is because there currently is no application deadline for FAITH.

Question #7: Will the students have eligibility for this for the Summer?

Answer #7: Yes, if an approved program includes a summer term, the student can receive UPSKILL in the summer.

Question #8: Is it possible for us to have a window on the dashboard like we have with the grade verification request so that we can see which students have submitted an application?

Answer #8: Students who apply for UPSKILL and complete their application (with supporting documents, etc.) will be offered an award and will appear on your award report - this is the primary way you will know they have a complete application. Also, at the time they are offered an UPSKILL award, an Award Information Request will go on the student's account. The student will appear alongside FAITH students in the Award Information Request metric on your dashboard.



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