



## Alaska Education Grant

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2006-Fall 2017 Outcomes Report

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## Executive Summary

The Alaska Education Grant (AEG) is in its thirteenth year providing financial access to postsecondary education to Alaska's low-income students.

Since the program began in the 2005-2006 academic year (AY),

**16,993** students have received the AEG award, totaling

**\$36** million of students' postsecondary expenses

All AEG recipients are from low-income families, and most are minority or nontraditional students:

**100%** of fall 2017 AEG recipients were low-income students

**41%** were first-generation students

**73%** had independent status, according to information from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

**23%** of AEG recipients at the University of Alaska were Alaska Native or American Indian students, compared to 16% of UA students overall

**62%** of AEG recipients enrolled at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) in fall 2016 were 25 or older, compared with 42% of the UAA undergraduates overall

In a fall 2017 survey of AEG recipients:

**61%** of students who reported they had graduated with a credential said the AEG had a role in their ability to graduate

**51%** of respondents to the survey said the AEG influenced the number of hours needed to work while attending school

**48%** that it influenced their decision to enroll full-time versus part-time

**40%** of reported the program impacted their decision to enroll in a degree or certificate program

AEG recipients earn **\$3,000-\$6,000** more annually (on average) in wages working in the Alaska workforce than their peers the year after their last FAFSA.

Since AEG recipient outcomes were last reported in 2013, ACPE has implemented several program changes to reprioritize selection for AEG awards. Beginning in the 2016AY, the AEG program now prioritizes students from families with the highest need first.

However, AEG students continue to face financial uncertainty due to insufficient funding to provide grants to all students that meet the eligibility criteria. **41%** of AEG recipients from the 2016AY who submitted a FAFSA for the 2017AY were not selected for continued award.

## Alaska Education Grant Eligibility Requirements

The Alaska Education Grant (AEG) provides need-based financial assistance to Alaska students attending qualifying postsecondary institutions in Alaska, and is funded through the Alaska Higher Education Investment Fund. AEG awards range from \$500-\$4,000 per student in an academic year. To be eligible for an AEG award, students must:

- Be an Alaska resident and U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Be admitted into an undergraduate degree or vocational certificate program at a qualifying Alaska institution<sup>1</sup>
- Be enrolled at minimum half-time
- Not have earned a baccalaureate degree
- Meet [satisfactory academic progress](#) requirements

Students who meet these requirements are awarded based on their financial need and prior receipt of the grant. Students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and are selected for award based on the following prioritization criteria:

1. Student's financial need, determined by their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculated from information provided in the FAFSA<sup>2</sup>
2. Status as recipient of the AEG in the previous academic year, beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year
3. Student's enrollment intensity that term, with full-time students prioritized over part-time students
4. FAFSA filing date, beginning with the earliest date

More students are typically eligible for the AEG than the amount of grant funding available for that academic year. Therefore, the selection criteria above were developed to prioritize awards to the neediest students and to enable students with qualifying need to take actions that would increase their likelihood of receiving an award, such as filing their FAFSA earlier.

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<sup>1</sup> A list of qualifying Alaska postsecondary institutions for AEG is available at <https://acpe.alaska.gov/Alaska-Postsecondary-Institutions>.

<sup>2</sup> Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated from information from the FAFSA and is one measure of the student's or family's ability to pay for higher education. It is based on taxed and untaxed income, assets, and benefits (like Social Security), family size, and the number of family members who will attend college during the year. Source: U.S. Department of Education, <https://fafsa.ed.gov/help/fftoc01g.htm>.

## Alaska Education Grant Awards

2006-2018 academic year (AY) total awards disbursed (as of 3/16/2018): **\$35,955,249**

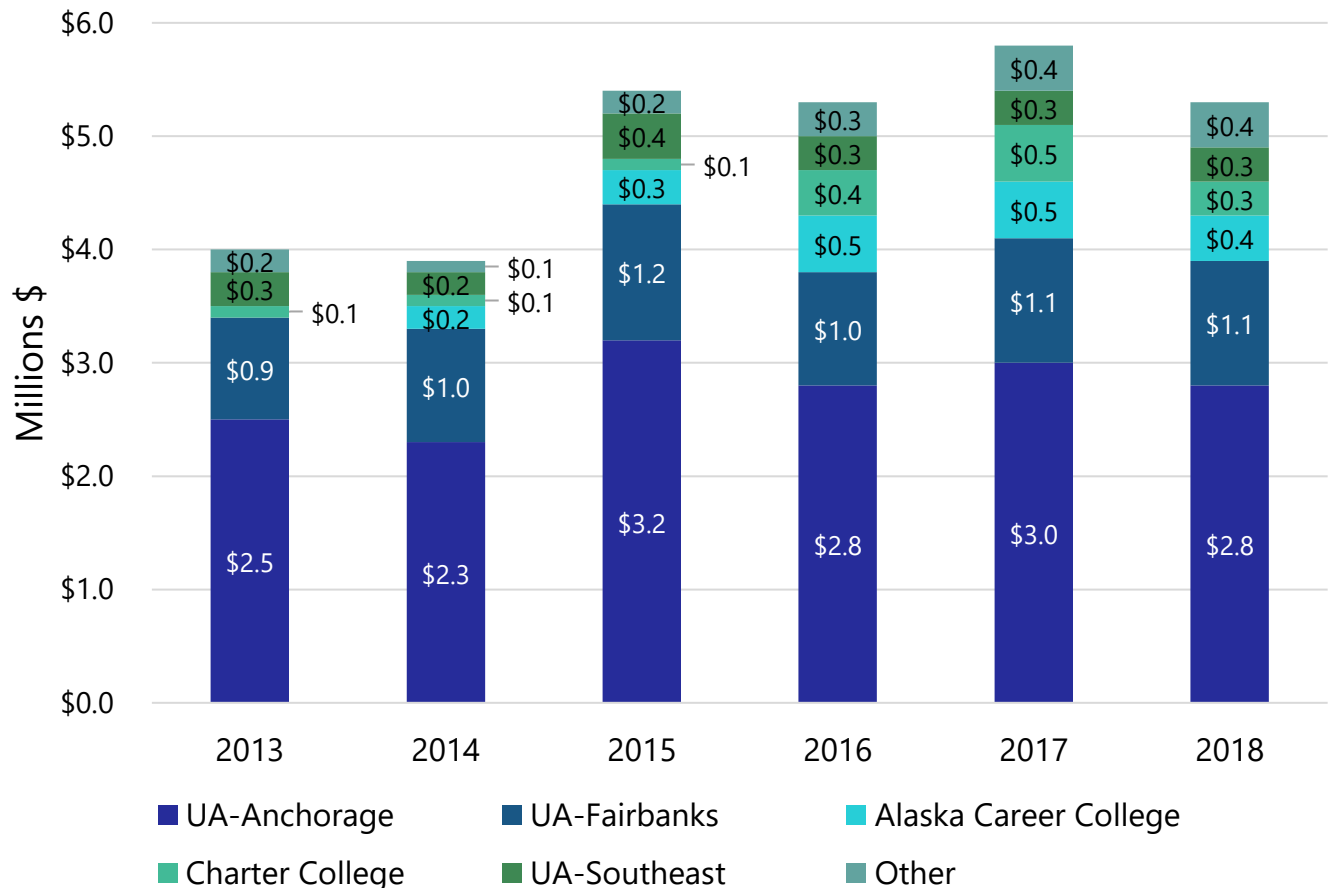
2006-2018AY total AEG recipients (unique headcount): **16,993**

**Figure 1.** 2013-2018AY AEG Awards and Recipients (Not a Unique Headcount)

Year	Total Awarded	Recipients Each Year
2013	\$3,936,545	3,616
2014	\$3,882,835	2,831
2015	\$5,438,247	3,869
2016	\$5,263,386	2,711
2017	\$5,715,265	2,544
2018	\$5,554,806*	2,013

\* Funding totals for the 2018AY are estimated based on twice the fall award amount as of 3/16/2018

**Figure 2.** AEG Awards Each Academic Year by Alaska Postsecondary Institution



**32%** of AEG recipients from 2011-2014AY were eligible at some time during the next three years after their first award but were not awarded at least once during that time due to insufficient funds.

Since the 2015-2016AY program changes were implemented, students still face uncertainty about receiving an award, even if they are otherwise qualified. Out of the 2,711 AEG recipients in 2015-2016AY, 1,552 filed a FAFSA and had \$0 Expected Family Contribution (EFC) the next academic year. **41%** of those students were not paid during 2016-2017. See Figure 3 for the reasons that 2016AY AEG recipients did not receive a second grant award in the 2017AY.

**Figure 3.** Status of 2016AY AEG Recipients with \$0 EFC Not Awarded for the 2017AY

<b>Student Status</b>	<b># Students</b>	<b>Proportion</b>
Insufficient AEG funds before student enrollment was certified by a qualifying Alaska institution	344	22%
FAFSA did not list a qualifying Alaska institution	102	7%
Student was not enrolled in a qualifying program	109	7%
Less than half-time enrollment	44	3%
Unsatisfactory <a href="#">academic progress</a>	28	2%
Student lost certification—payment was cancelled	11	1%
Student was not a state resident	3	<1%
Student had no unmet cost of attendance	2	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>41%</b>

Student enrollment is not certified by qualifying institutions until after funds are available for disbursement. Therefore, ACPE cannot verify how many students would have met all requirements for AEG awards if the program expanded to award more students. Figure 29 in the Appendix lists the information available at each stage of the application process for AEG awards.

## AEG Student Demographics, 2006-2018AY

This section describes student characteristics from the beginning of the program.

Average age of first AEG receipt: 28 years old

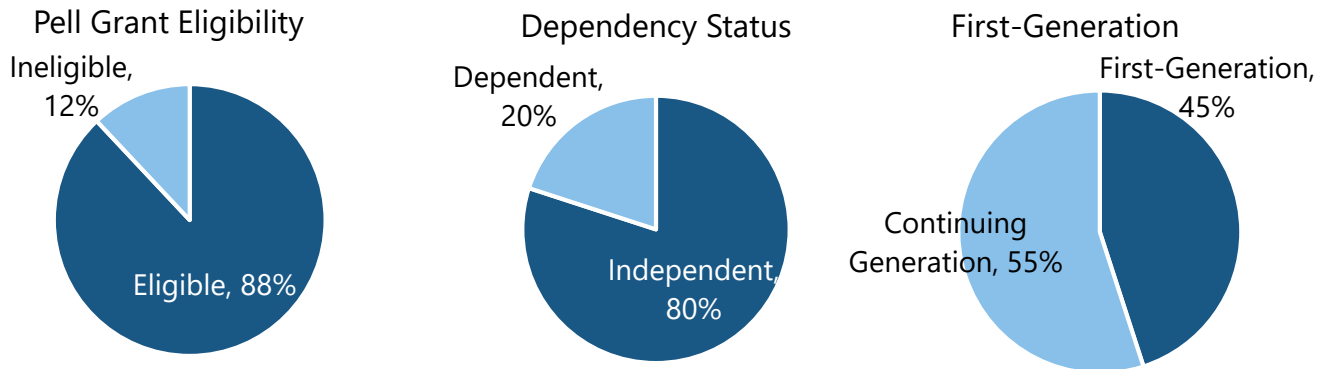
Oldest age of first AEG receipt: 72 years old

**80%** of AEG recipients were independent students when they filled out their first FAFSA (Figure 4). Students are considered independent if they are 24 or older.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> For students younger than 24, a full list of criteria considered for students' dependency status is available at <https://studentaid.gov/dependency>.

**45%** of AEG recipients were first-generation students (neither parent has graduated from college, Figure 4).

**Figure 4.** AEG Recipient Demographics, 2006-2018AY



In a fall 2017 survey, AEG recipients from 2011-2018AY were asked whether they would recommend the program. Two AEG recipients who self-identified as the first in their family to go to college highlighted the role the program had in supporting their education as first generation students.

#### AEG Survey Highlight: First-Generation Students' Experiences with AEG

Would you recommend the Alaska Education Grant?

"Without the grant I would not be the only person in my family to graduate college."

"The Alaska Education Grant has helped me get into college. I am very happy that I can attend college and be a role model to my siblings as the first child to go to college out of my family. This benefitted me this semester and having the support has been the greatest opportunity. I would most definitely recommend Alaska Education Grant to many people."

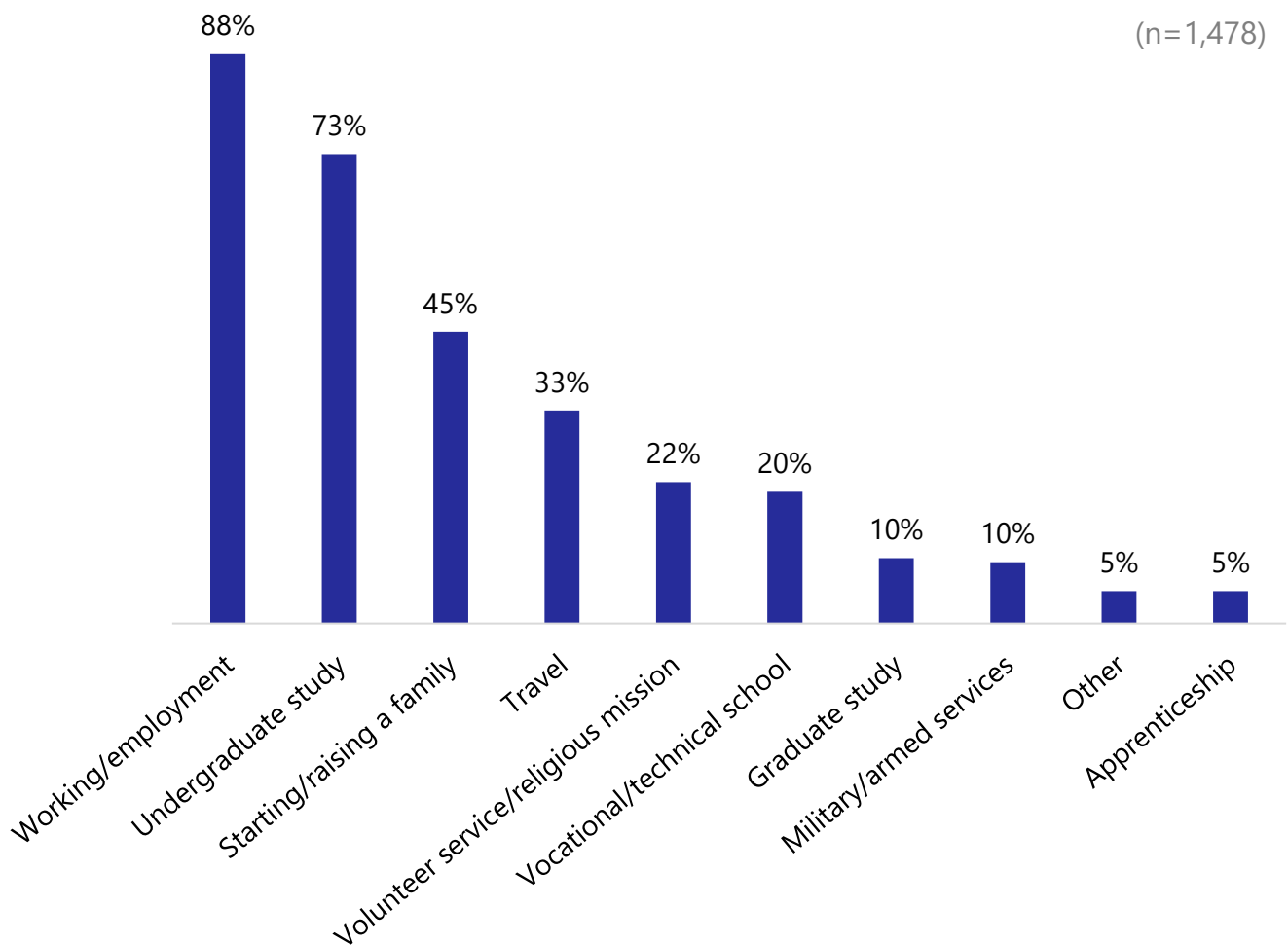
Students are less familiar with the Alaska Education Grant than the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS), which is another financial aid program administered by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE). When asked about their experience with the Alaska Education Grant, 19% of respondents to the fall 2017 survey of AEG recipients said that they have never heard of the AEG program, while less than 1% of Alaska Performance Scholarship survey respondents indicated they had not heard of the APS program.

This is likely because AEG students qualify from their family's financial circumstances based on information from the FAFSA, while APS students work towards their eligibility during high school through their academic performance and earn scholarship eligibility. This difference in

students' awareness between these programs is key to understanding how different groups of students learn about available financial aid and make a decision about whether to apply for continued receipt of AEG with early FAFSA submission.

AEG recipients were asked in the 2017 survey, "Which of the following have you participated in since graduating from high school? Check all that apply." Most reported working (88%) and attending undergraduate studies (73%), and almost half reported starting or raising a family (45%). Figure 5 shows the proportion of all respondents for each survey item.

**Figure 5.** AEG Survey Responses: "Which of the following have you participated in since graduating from high school? Check all that apply."



When asked whether they would recommend the AEG to others, several students recommending the program shared their experience with the AEG while raising a family and attending postsecondary education.



## AEG Survey Highlight: Students with Families and their Experiences with AEG

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Would you recommend the Alaska Education Grant?

"It has made my educational journey possible. Without this grant I would not be able to attend school full-time and stay home with my 1 year old son. I appreciate it very much."

"I was a single parent of two small children. I had no degree or skill. I was working minimum wage at a daycare and needed a jump start to get ahead which was seemingly impossible. This grant saved me and my family."

"It was helpful to me because I did not have to worry about how I was going to support my family while going to school. The peace of mind provided by the grant is really what made my getting the degree possible. Without all the funding I have received, I would not have been able to go to school. I am a single mother of 3 and still need to be able to support them. Thank you for the help in making this a possibility."

"I am 62 years old, a single mother of 5 adopted children setting an example to continuing my education and think that [the AEG] is encouragement... that the opportunity would and could be for anyone of any age."

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## AEG Recipients at the University of Alaska Anchorage

Each year, approximately 80% of AEG recipients are enrolled at the University of Alaska, with a majority attending at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). In order to summarize cost of attendance and enrollment characteristics for a typical AEG student, this section of the report highlights information specific to the UAA campus.

According to enrollment data collected by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) from the National Center for Education Statistics, 22% of undergraduates at UAA in 2015-2016 received the Pell Grant, compared with 100% of AEG recipients.

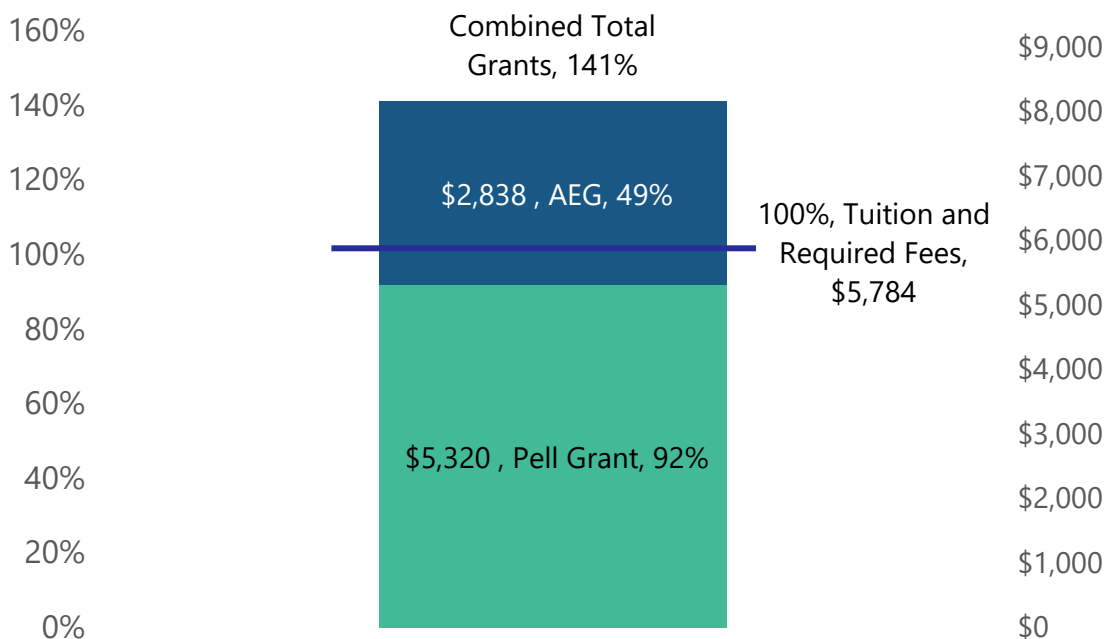
In 2016-2017AY, the average AEG award for full-time undergraduates at UAA was \$2,838, while the average Pell Grant award for those students was \$5,320. In-state tuition and required fees for UAA full-time, first-time undergraduates for the 2016-2017AY was \$5,784 (Figure 6).

Combined, a typical AEG recipient would have 141% of tuition and fees covered with federal and state grants, with the remainder AEG award available for room, board, and other costs of attendance (Figure 7).

**Figure 6.** Cost of Attendance at UAA in 2016-2017AY for Full-Time, First-Time, In-State, Degree/Certificate-Seeking Undergraduates

	Student Cost	Avg. Pell Grant	Avg. AEG	Estimated Remaining Cost
Tuition and Required Fees	\$5,784	92%	49%	\$0
On-Campus Total Cost (Room, Board, Other)	\$25,098	21%	11%	\$16,940
Off-Campus Total Cost (Not with Family)	\$26,688	20%	11%	\$18,530
Off-Campus Total Cost (With Family)	\$14,960	36%	19%	\$6,802

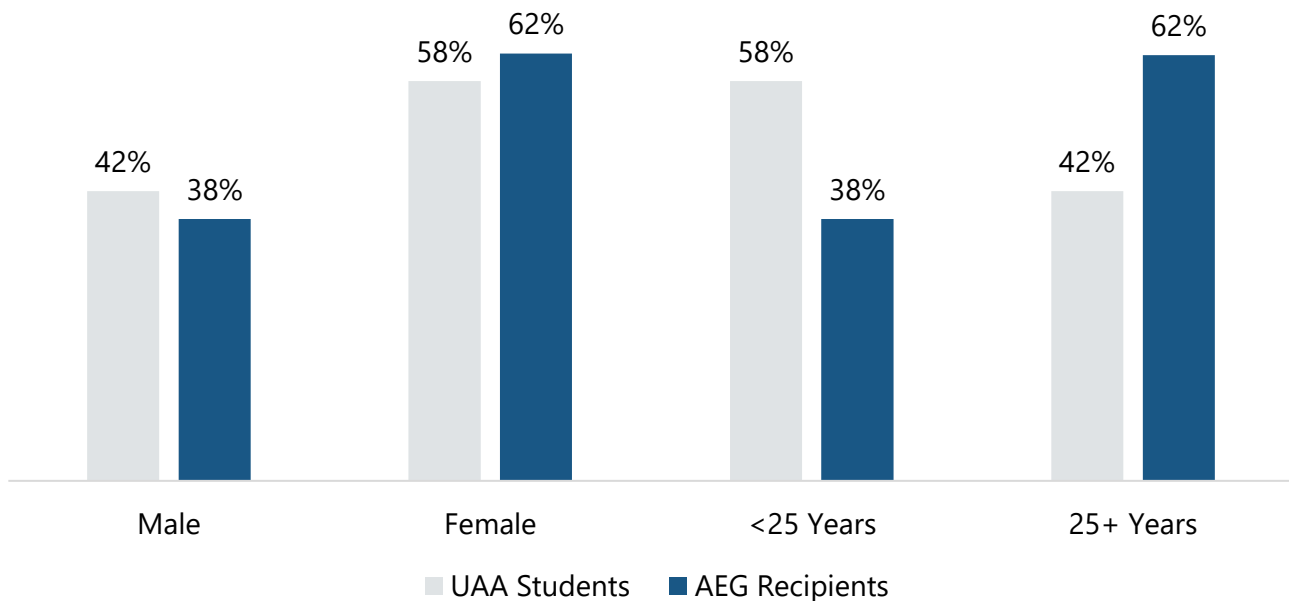
**Figure 7.** The Average AEG Award Supports Costs Beyond Tuition and Fees at the University of Alaska Anchorage, 2016-2017AY



AEG students enrolled at UAA in the 2016-2017 academic year include higher rates of racial and ethnic minorities than the UA student body. 56% of UAA students were White compared with 49% of AEG recipients at UAA during 2016-2017AY.

AEG students tend to be older—42% of undergraduates enrolled at UAA in fall 2016 were 25 and older compared with 62% of undergraduate AEG recipients at UAA that same year (Figure 8).

**Figure 8.** Undergraduate Student Demographics at UAA, Fall 2016



## AEG Program Changes

Before the 2015-2016 academic year, students were awarded based on a calculation of unmet financial need. Specifically, those past AEG award amounts and prioritization were based on calculating a standard cost of public postsecondary attendance in Alaska, as measured by the average cost of attendance at the University of Alaska, less the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and other financial aid received.

However, schools and education stakeholders provided feedback on the AEG award criteria, stating that the selection award criteria did not allow students to work towards eligibility for the award, and that it unnecessarily prioritized [independent](#) students over dependent students.<sup>4</sup> As a result, ACPE initiated program changes which were implemented for the 2015-2016 academic year. The new selection criteria used EFC from the FAFSA to more efficiently and effectively support students taking initiative towards postsecondary success by encouraging the following:

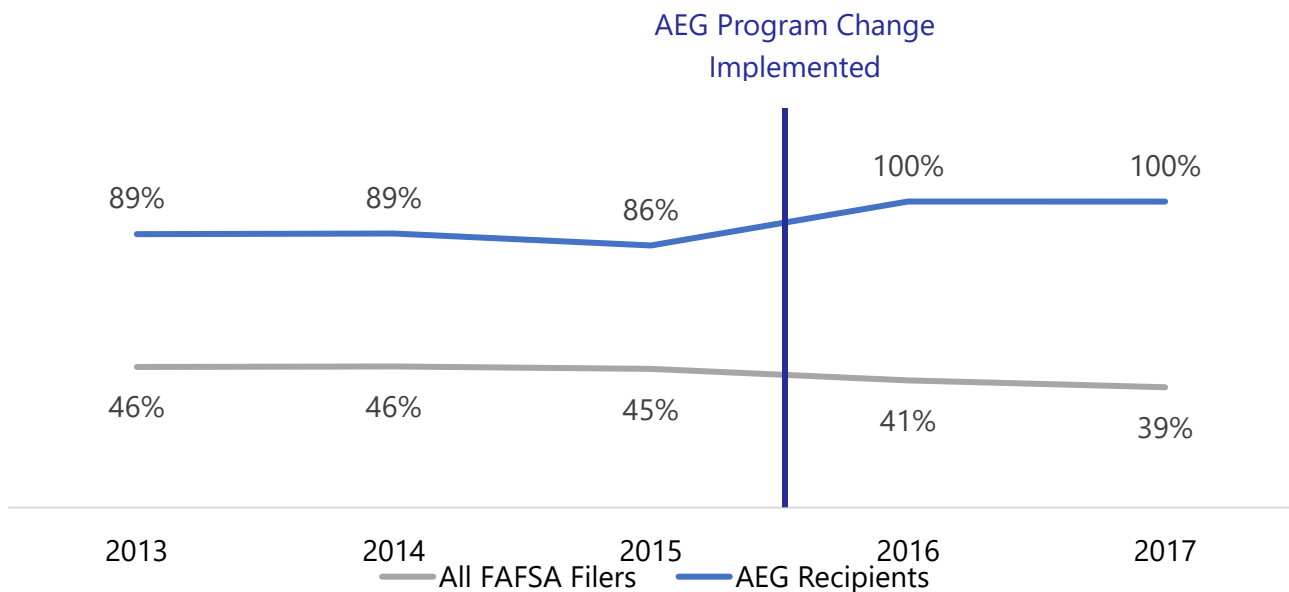
<sup>4</sup> Before the program changes in 2015-2016AY, a student's unmet financial need was based on a calculation that included the average cost of attendance at the University of Alaska. This cost of attendance calculation differed based on a student's dependency status, with the assumption that independent students faced higher costs of attendance if they lived off-campus, for example. Therefore, independent students were prioritized for AEG awards by their higher calculated unmet need.

- Completing the FAFSA early to ensure students improve their chances to receive scholarships and federal grant aid, and to make informed decisions regarding financial aid
- Deciding to enroll in an eligible postsecondary program
- Enrolling in more credit hours per term (for example, full-time over part-time), a behavior closely associated with certificate and degree completion
- Continuing enrollment or persistence in postsecondary programs

Other changes to the program included an increase in the base award amounts, from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for full-time students and from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for half-time students.

Since the program changes beginning 2015-2016 academic year, a higher percentage of AEG recipients are Pell-eligible, according to their FAFSA (Figure 9). This is because Pell-eligibility is also based primarily on EFC calculated from the FAFSA.

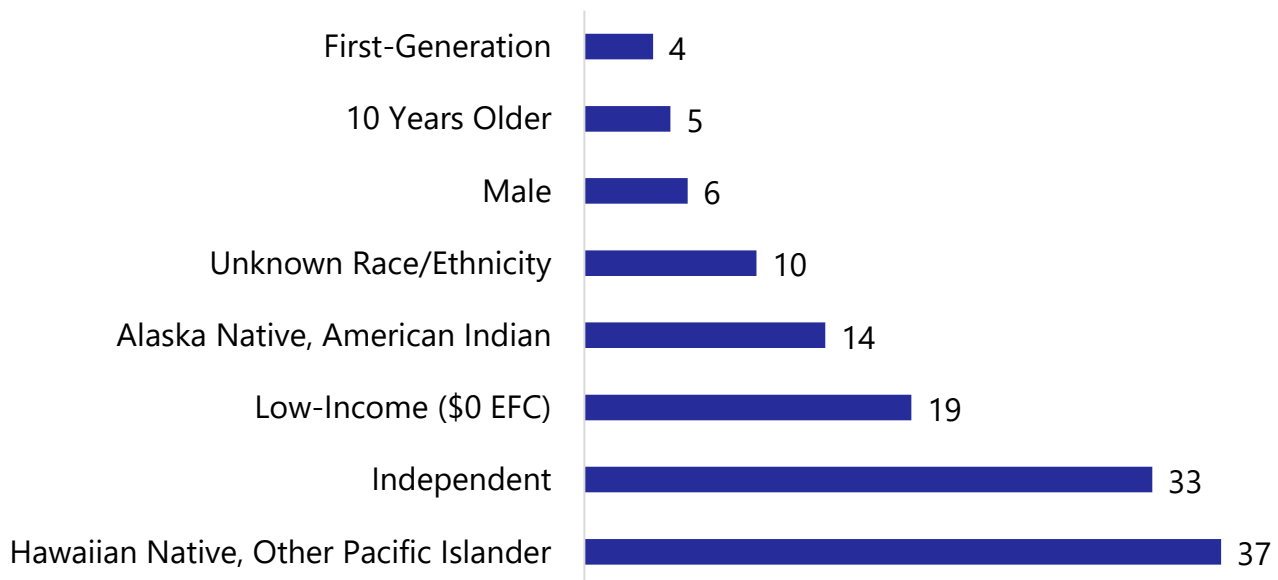
**Figure 9.** Proportions of Pell-Eligible Students by Academic Year Before and After AEG Program Changes



However, similar proportions of independent students were awarded before and after the changes were implemented, despite expectations that independent students would be slightly deprioritized under the new selection criteria for the award.

Although completing the FAFSA early is generally beneficial to students, low-income, minority, and non-traditional students submitting FAFSAs for the 2016-2018 academic years filed comparatively later than other students (for example, White, continuing generation, or younger students, Figure 10). Later FAFSA filing decreases a student's chances of receiving the AEG among students with \$0 EFC.

**Figure 10.** Average Number of Days Later that Students Filed their FAFSA, Relative to Other Students



## Fall 2017 AEG Students

**2,013** students were awarded fall term 2017 (as of 3/16/2018).

The average fall 2017 AEG award is \$1,380. 25% (501) of fall AEG recipients were awarded over \$1,500 for either:

- Enrolling in 15 or more credits that term, or,
- Being graduates of qualifying small AK high schools.<sup>5</sup>

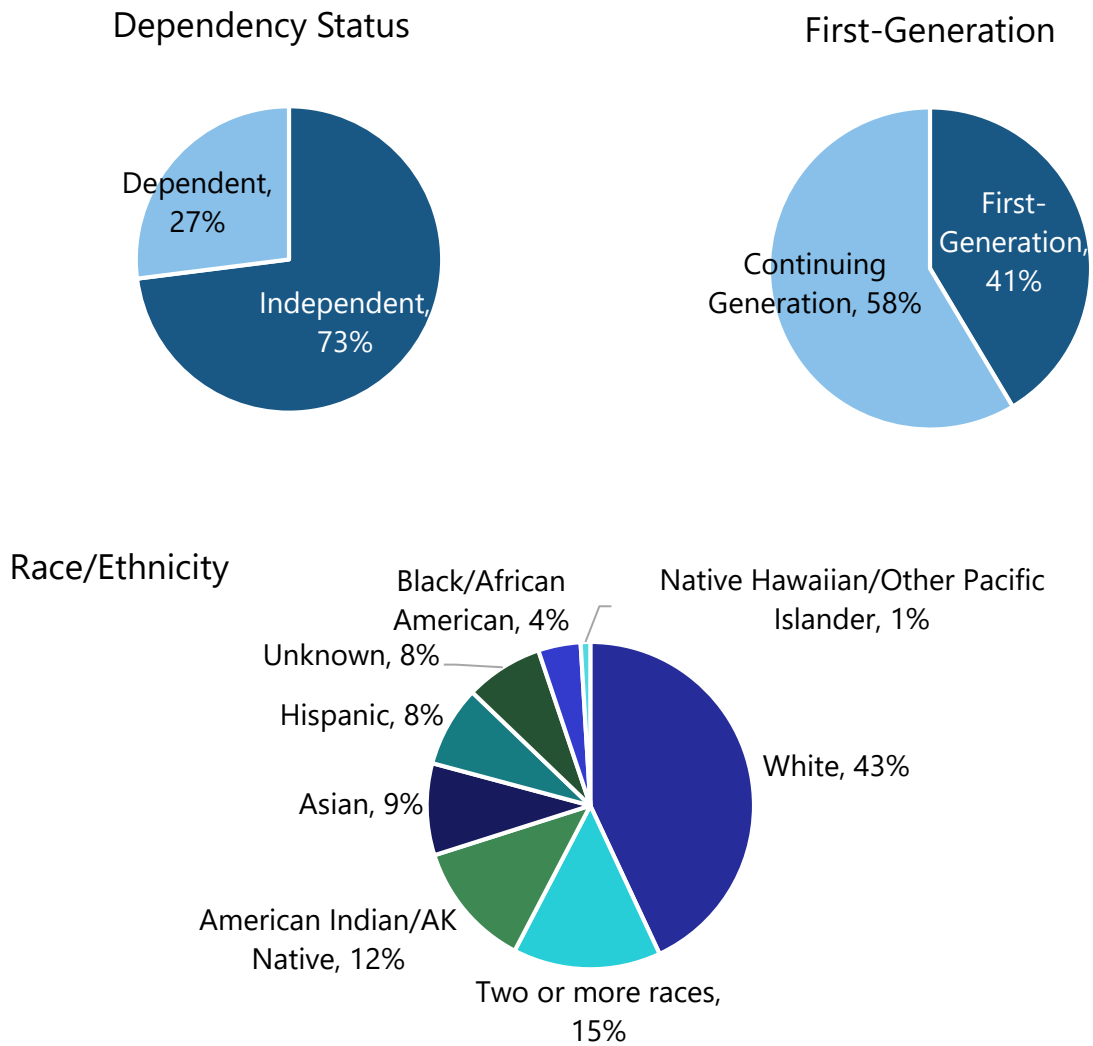
Each year AEG funds are exhausted before reaching all students eligible for the award. 4,982 students are Alaska residents, listed a qualifying Alaska institution, and have \$0 EFC on their 2018AY FAFSA—therefore are eligible to continue the certification process for the AEG (Figure 29 in the Appendix). Approximately **40%** of those students received AEG funds in fall 2017.

**100%** of fall 2017 AEG recipients were also eligible for the Pell Grant. An estimated \$10,331,251 in federal Pell Grants were awarded to fall 2017 AEG recipients for the 2018AY.

AEG awards many independent, minority, and first-generation students (Figure 11).

<sup>5</sup> ACPE regulations for granting additional awards for AEG are within 20 AAC 16.034. URL: <https://acpe.alaska.gov/Portals/3/ASLCREGS07312016.pdf>

**Figure 11.** AEG Recipient Demographics, Fall 2017



**68% Female, 32% Male**

**73% Independent**

**100% Pell-eligible**

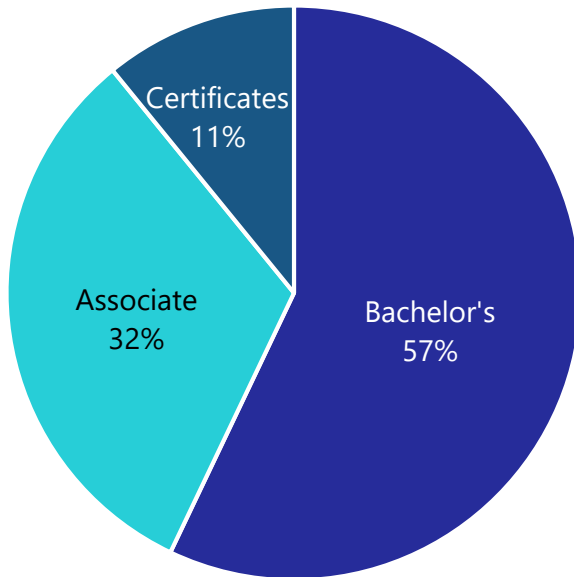
**41% First-Generation**

Average age of AEG recipients: 28 years old

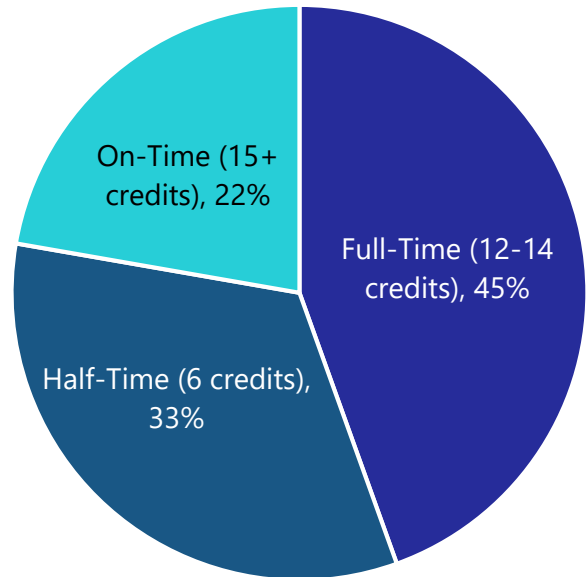
Oldest AEG recipient: 63 years old

**57%** of AEG students are enrolled in a bachelor’s degree program, and **32%** are enrolled in an associate degree program (Figure 12). **45%** were enrolled full-time (12-14 credits), **33%** half-time (6 credits), and **22%** on-time (15+ credits, Figure 13).

**Figure 12.** Fall 2017 AEG Recipient Postsecondary Program Type

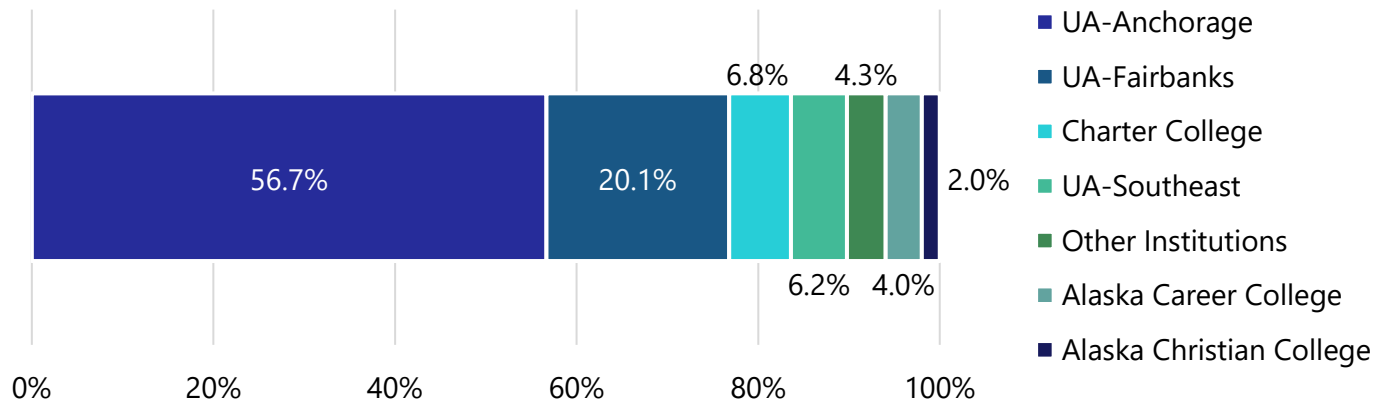


**Figure 13.** Fall 2017 AEG Recipient Enrollment Type, by Credits per Term



**83%** of AEG recipients in fall 2017 attend the University of Alaska, and a majority (57%) attend in Anchorage (Figure 14).

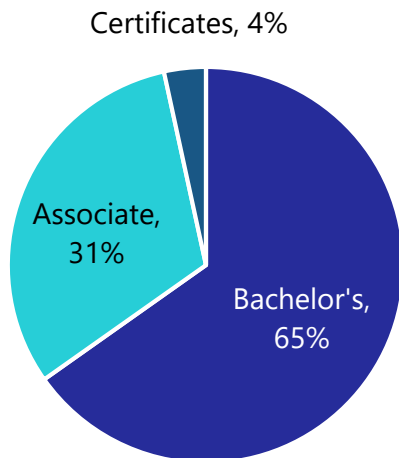
**Figure 14.** AEG Recipient Postsecondary Enrollment by Institution, Fall 2017



## AEG Recipients at the University of Alaska

Figure 15 shows the proportion of degree-seeking AEG recipients enrolled by program last fall.

**Figure 15.** Degree-Seeking Status of AEG Recipients at the University of Alaska, Fall 2017



9% of fall 2017 AEG recipients at the University of Alaska were Hispanic, compared with 7% of students at UA overall. Less than half (48%) of fall 2017 AEG recipients at UA were White. (Figure 16).

**Figure 16.** University of Alaska Students by Race, Fall 2017

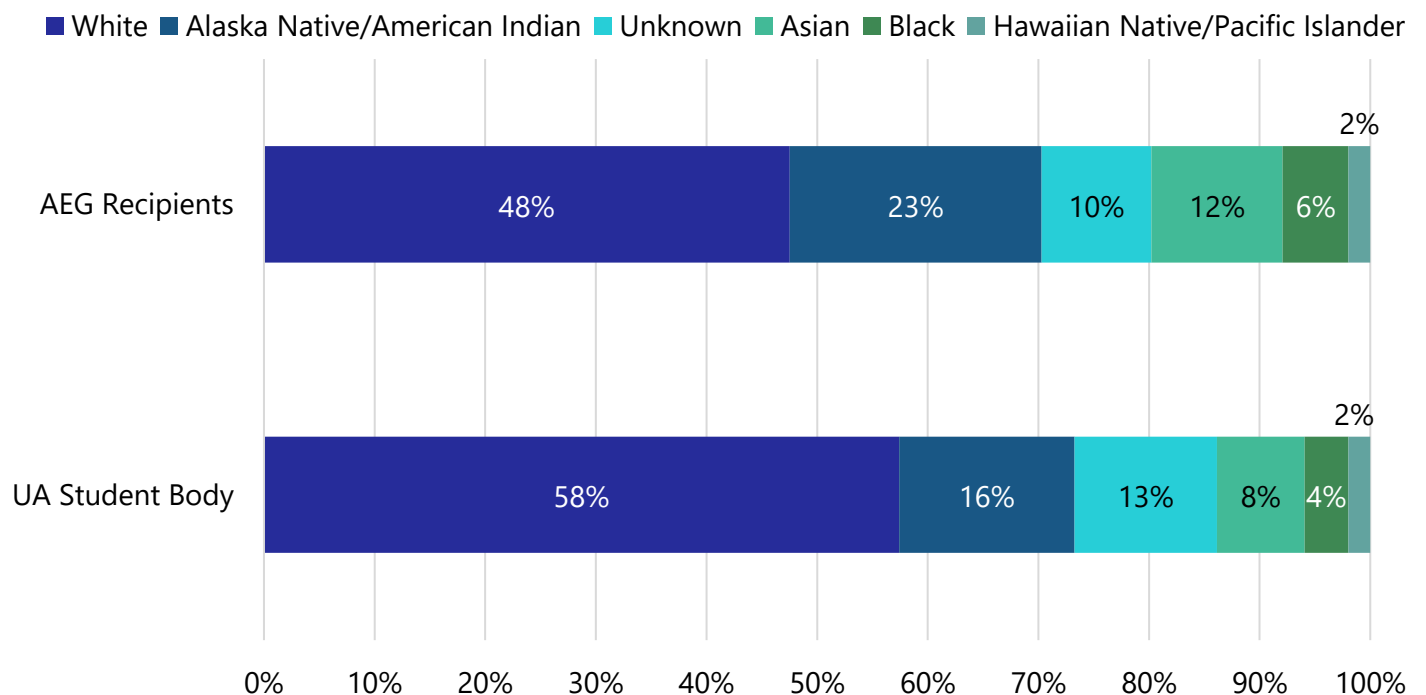




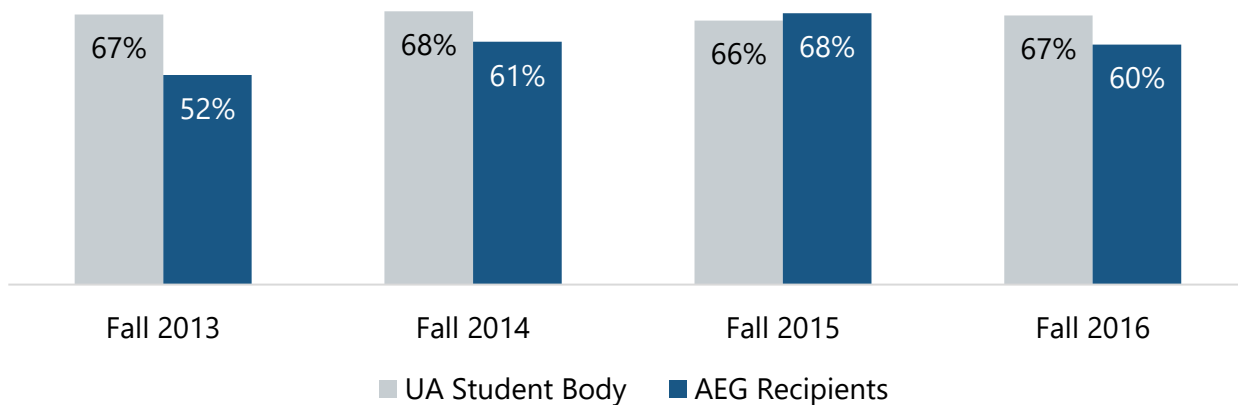
Figure 17 describes AEG recipients' top majors at UA this last fall.

**Figure 17.** Top Majors at the University of Alaska, All Degree Levels, Fall 2017 AEG Recipients

Rank	UA-Anchorage	UA-Fairbanks	UA-Southeast
1	General Program	General Program	General Program
2	Accounting	Biological Sciences	Business Administration
3	Human Services	Social Work	Social Science

Figure 18 shows recent retention rates into the second year at the University of Alaska for students attending their first undergraduate program and are enrolled full-time. The cohort entering fall 2016 was the first after the AEG program changes for the 2015-2016AY.

**Figure 18.** First-Time, Full-Time, Degree-Seeking Freshmen Retention Rates into the Second Year at the University of Alaska

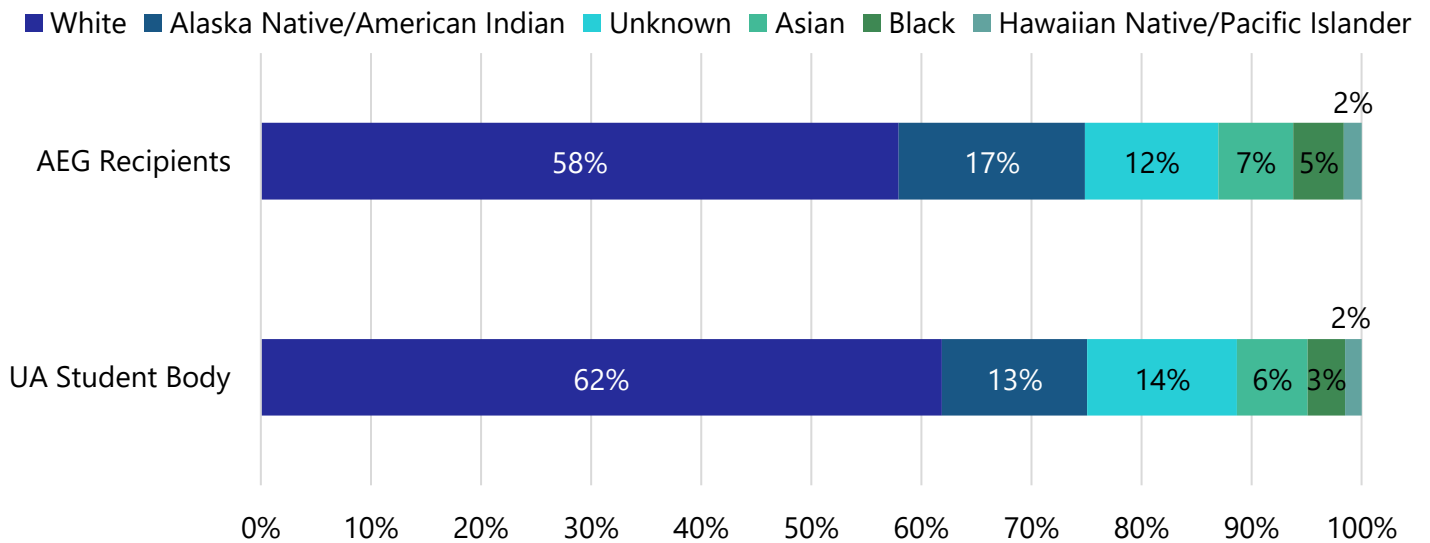


AEG recipient graduation rates for undergraduate degrees, certificates, or occupational endorsements at the University of Alaska vary even more year-to-year. Since AEG awards low-income, often non-traditional students, first-time, full-time retention and graduation rates reflect very few AEG students' outcomes at the University of Alaska. For those few that are first-time, full-time degree-seeking undergraduates, it is reasonable to expect large variations in these rates over time.

As a proportion of degrees, certificates, and endorsements conferred to UA students in the 2016-2017AY, 17% of those awarded to AEG recipients were to Alaska Native/American Indian students compared to 13% of those awarded at UA overall that year (Figure 19). Hispanic

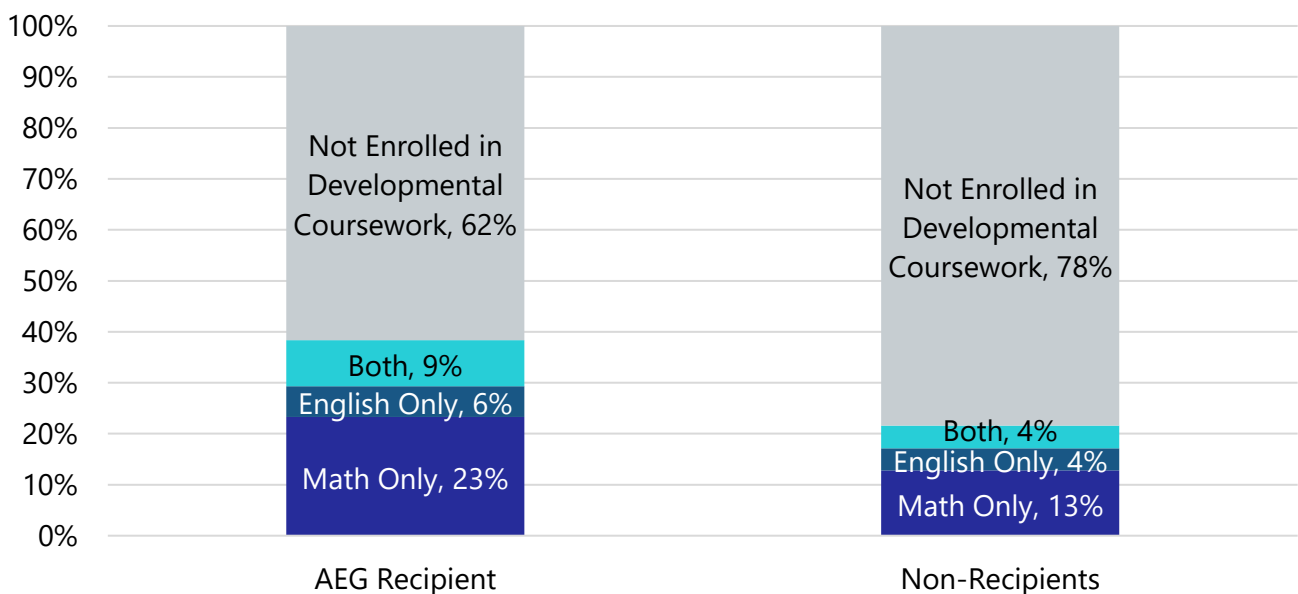
students received 7% of degrees, certificates, and endorsements conferred to AEG students compared with 6% awarded at UA overall in the 2016-2017AY.

**Figure 19.** Proportion of Degrees, Certificates, and Endorsements at UA by Race in the 2016-2017AY.



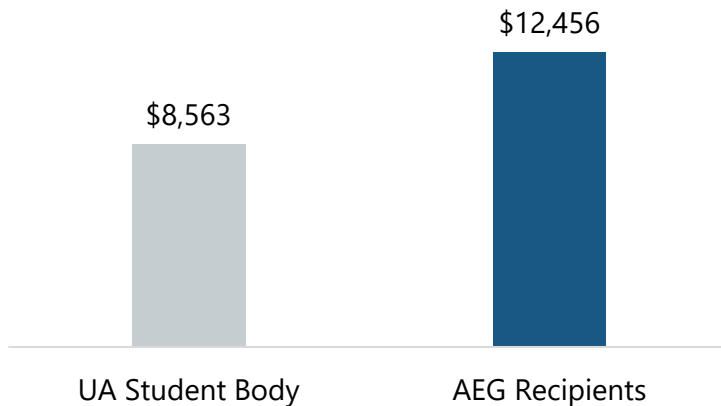
AEG recipients at UA take more developmental coursework than non-recipients. Out of first-time freshmen enrolled at UA during Fall 2017, 38% of AEG recipients took developmental coursework compared with 21% of their peers (Figure 20).

**Figure 20.** First-time Freshmen by Developmental Coursework Status and AEG Receipt at UA Fall 2017



According to the University of Alaska's *Year in Review*, degree-seeking AEG recipients' average total financial aid at the University of Alaska for the 2016-2017 aid year was \$12,456, compared with an average of \$8,563 for the UA student body (Figure 21).

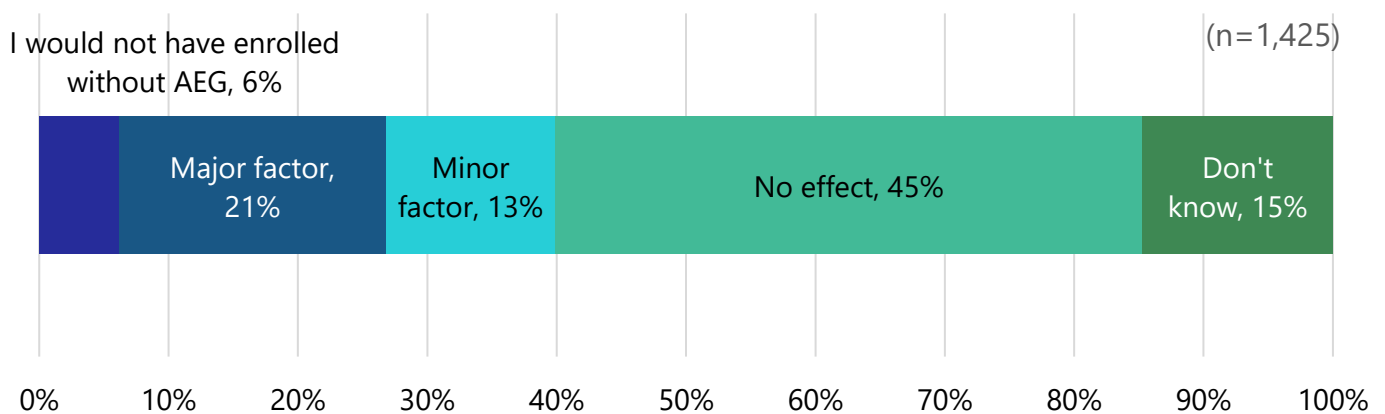
**Figure 21.** Average Financial Aid at the University of Alaska, 2016-2017



## AEG and Postsecondary Enrollment

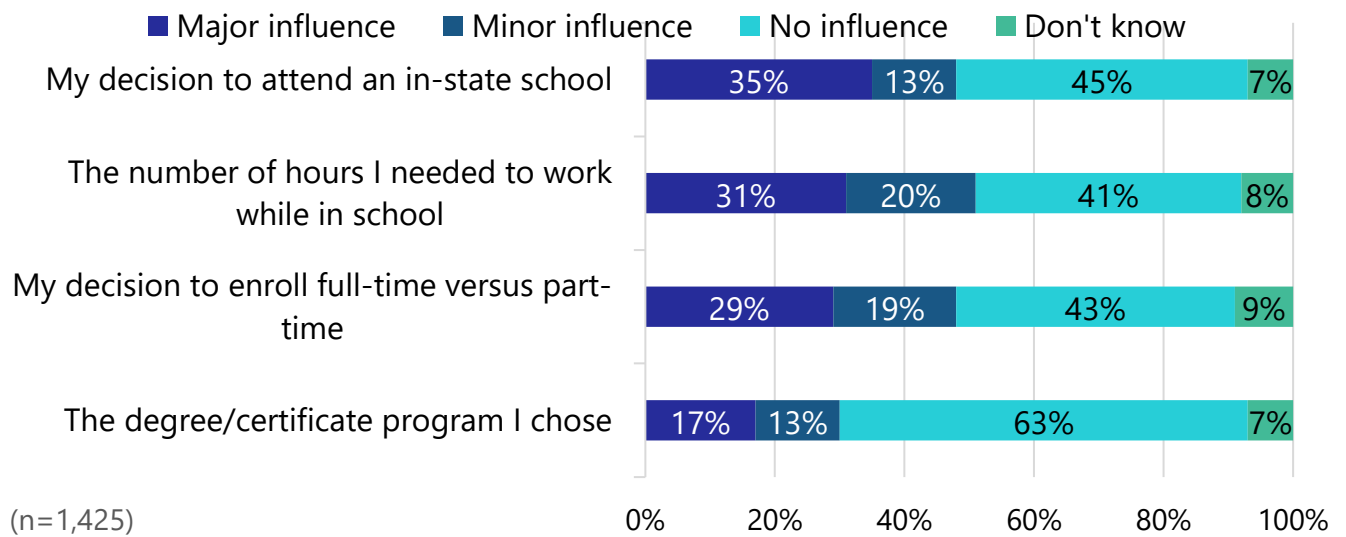
In the fall 2017 survey, **40%** of AEG recipients reported the program impacted their decision to enroll in a degree or certificate program, and **6%** said they would not have enrolled in a degree or certificate program without the AEG (Figure 22).

**Figure 22.** AEG Survey Responses: "How did AEG affect your decision to enroll in a degree or certificate program?"



**51%** of respondents to the survey said that the AEG influenced the number of hours needed to work while attending school, **48%** responded that it influenced their decision to attend an in-state school, and **48%** that it influenced their decision to enroll full-time versus part-time (Figure 23).

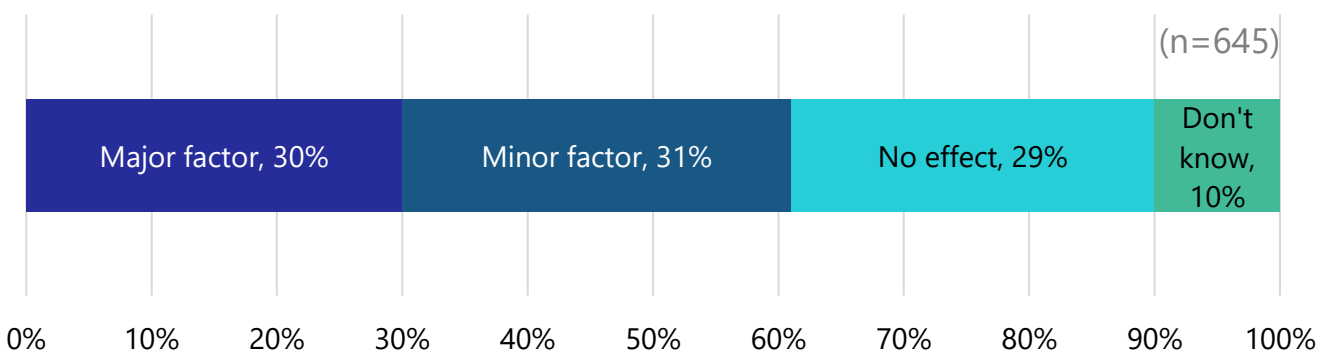
**Figure 23.** AEG Survey Responses: “How much of an influence was AEG in the following decisions regarding your degree or certificate program?”



### AEG and Degree or Credential Completion

When students who self-reported they had graduated from their degree or credential program were asked “How much did the AEG affect your ability to complete your degree or credential?” **61%** said that AEG had a role (Figure 24).

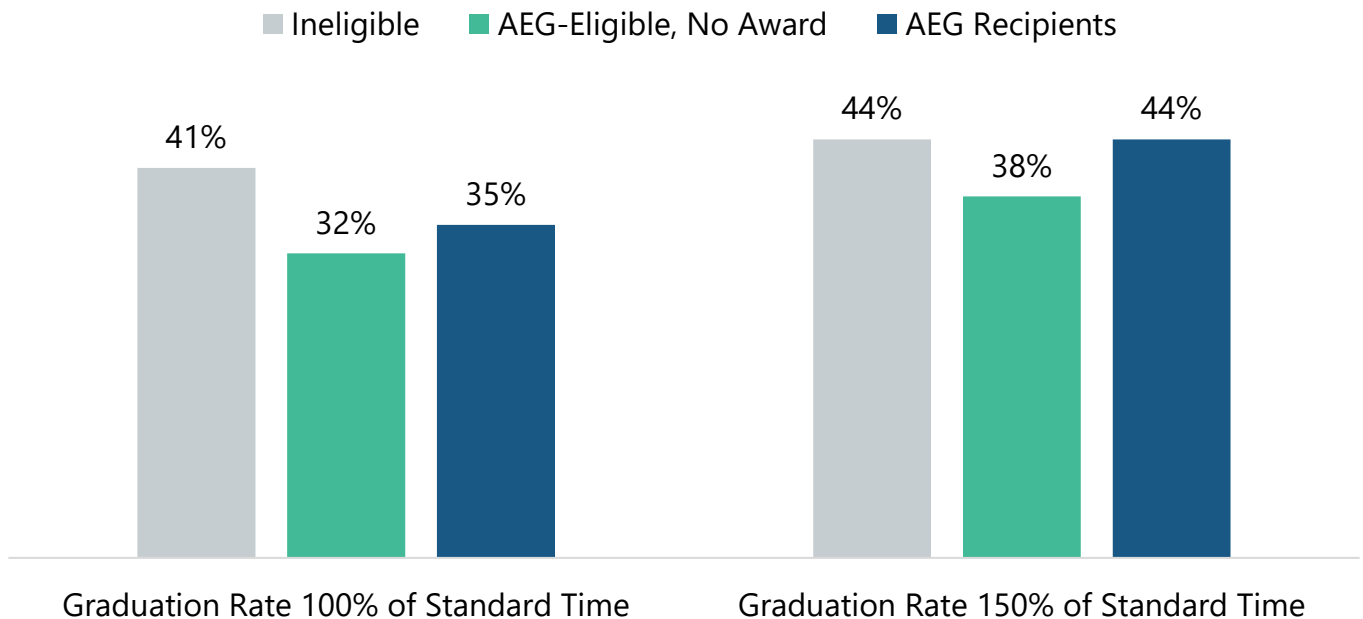
**Figure 24.** AEG Survey Responses: “How much did the AEG affect your ability to complete your degree or credential?”



AEG recipients have higher graduation rates than AEG-eligible students with similar unmet need from the 2011-2015AY (before the 2016AY program changes) enrolling in colleges reporting to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC, Figure 25). Graduation rates for AEG students are measured for students that were eligible at least once during the 2011-2015AY

based on the students' unmet need, within 100% and 150% of standard time (two years and three years at two-year institutions, and four years and six years at four-year institutions).

**Figure 25.** Graduation Rates at 100% and 150% of Standard Time for Alaska Resident FAFSA Filers during the 2011-2015AY (NSC)

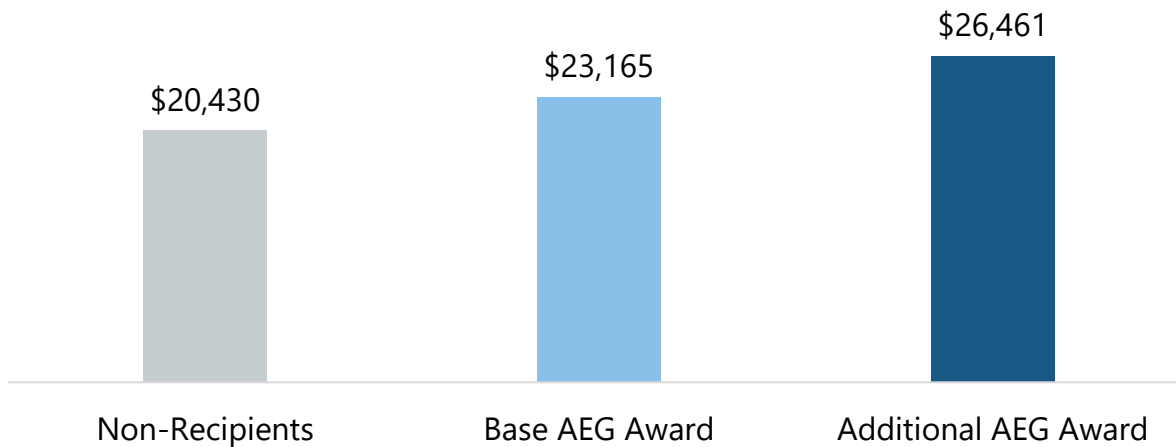


## AEG Students in the Workforce

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) statewide employment and wage data allowed the evaluation of workforce outcomes for AEG recipients, non-recipients, and for students eligible for the grant based on information from their FAFSA, but who did not receive an award due to available funding. Students who attended Alaska postsecondary institutions and received the AEG earn more in average wages annually than non-recipients, and eligible students who did not receive an award. Wages were aggregated for former and current students employed in Alaska with FAFSA records for Alaska institutions. These averages include part-time and seasonal wages earned in Alaska.

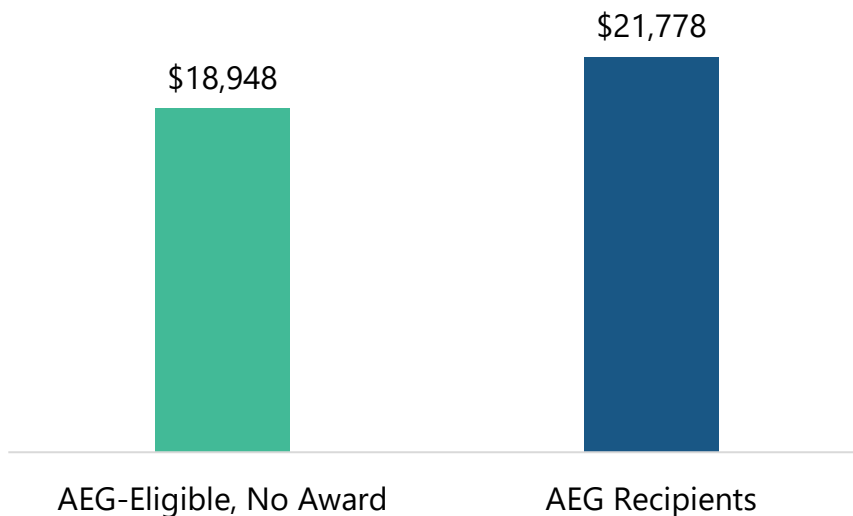
AEG recipients funded at the original base award amount of \$2,000 earned \$2,735 more on average (\$23,165) in the year following students' last FAFSA than non-recipients (\$20,430, Figure 26). Students who have received more than \$2,000 for additional award eligibility at least once during their years receiving the AEG earned \$3,296 more on average (\$26,461) than other AEG recipients (Figure 26).

**Figure 26.** Average Annual Wage in the Alaska Workforce during the Year after the Last FAFSA, AEG Recipients and Non-Recipients



The impact of the program is even more apparent when comparing AEG recipients to students eligible for the grant who did not receive funding towards their postsecondary education costs.<sup>6</sup> Two years after the student's last eligibility for the AEG, recipients earned \$2,830 higher annual wages on average than similar students who did not receive an award (Figure 27).

**Figure 27.** Average Annual Wage in the Alaska Workforce Two Years after Last AEG Eligibility, AEG-Eligible, No Award and AEG Recipients

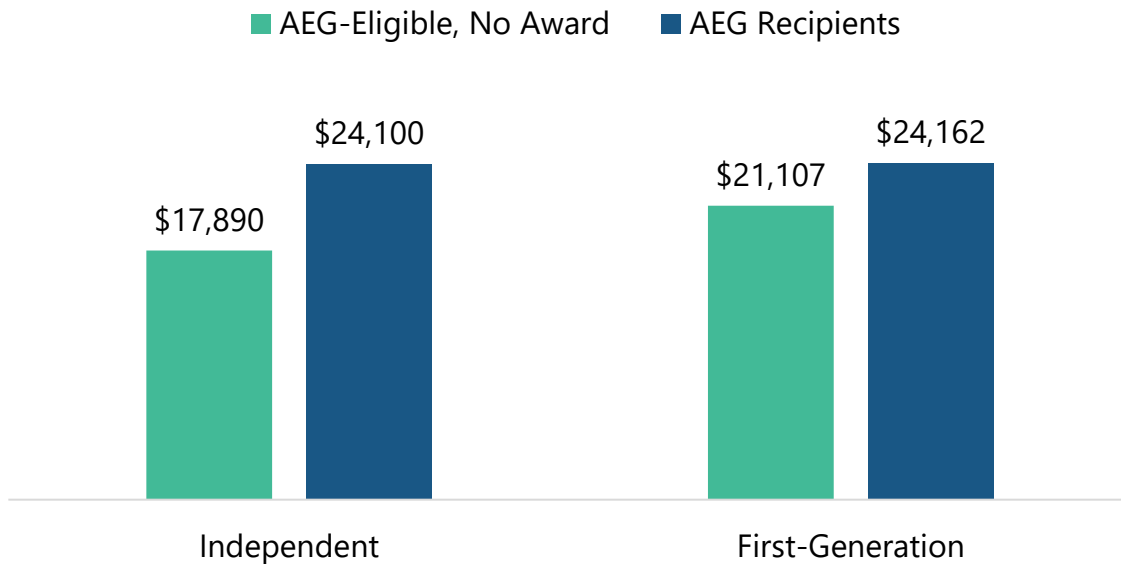


<sup>6</sup> Since the 2015-2016AY program changes affected the definition of AEG eligibility, the average wages calculated for students in Figure 27 and Figure 28 include wages for students who qualify for AEG but do not have the same unmet need or family incomes.

Independent AEG recipients also earned, on average, \$6,210 more in annual wages than independent students eligible for the grant who did not receive funding (Figure 28).

First-generation AEG recipients earned \$3,055 higher annual wages on average than eligible first-generation students who did not receive an award (Figure 28).

**Figure 28.** Average Annual Wage in the Alaska Workforce Two Years after Last AEG Eligibility, Independent and First-Generation Students



## Appendix

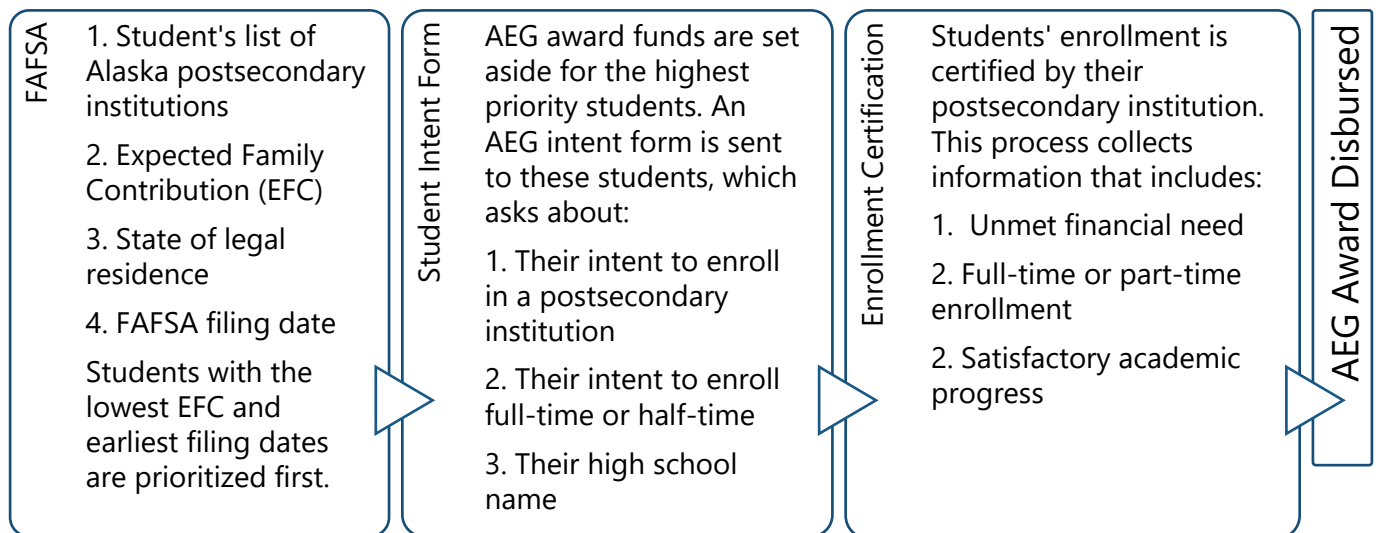
### Definitions

AEG-eligible	After 2015-2016AY, a person is considered eligible if they submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), indicated they are an Alaska resident, listed a qualifying Alaska postsecondary institution on the application, and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0. A full list of requirements for eligibility is available at <a href="https://acpe.alaska.gov">https://acpe.alaska.gov</a> .
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	One measure of the student’s or family’s ability to pay for higher education, calculated from information from the FAFSA. It is based on taxed and untaxed income, assets, benefits, family size, and the number of family members who will attend college during the year. More information about EFC is available at <a href="https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/how-calculated">https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/how-calculated</a> .
Independent	A student is considered independent based on their FAFSA if they are 24 or older or meet certain other criteria. For students younger than 24, a full list of criteria considered for students’ dependency status is available at <a href="https://studentaid.gov/dependency">https://studentaid.gov/dependency</a> .
Satisfactory academic progress	An institution’s academic requirements for acceptable student progress in their degree or certificate program.

### Data Notes

ACPE’s fall 2017 AEG disbursement data includes disbursements on or before March 16, 2018, and was generated through ACPE’s grants and scholarships database, the Alaska Student Aid Portal, used for managing the grant program. Figure 29 summarizes information available about AEG-eligible students—which affects their prioritization for the award—during each stage of the certification process.

**Figure 29.** Student AEG Eligibility Certification Process





First, students submit their application for AEG (FAFSA). If they are prioritized for an AEG award ACPE sends them a form to confirm which institution they intend to enroll in and at what enrollment intensity (for example, half-time or full-time enrollment). This allows for further prioritization of eligible students and for that student's information to be sent to their postsecondary institution to complete the certification process (Figure 29).

Email invitations for the 2017 AEG survey were sent out via SurveyMonkey. 1,906 students with an AEG disbursement history responded to the survey sent to all valid e-mail addresses on file (16,328) for those students from the FAFSA within the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP), which was a 12% response rate. A drawing for a \$100 gift card to Amazon.com was included to incentivize survey completion and reduce nonresponse bias. Survey responses were not weighted for this analysis. Quotes from the 2017 AEG survey included in AEG Survey Highlight sections of this report were responses to the open-ended part of the question, "Would you recommend the Alaska Education Grant?" Some responses were edited for clarity.

Information about University of Alaska (UA) students within this report is from four sources. AEG award disbursement information is from ASAP. Demographic and average aid information in the "AEG Recipients at the University of Alaska Anchorage" (pg. 8-10) section of this report combines information from ASAP and public information available through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) from the National Center for Education Statistics. Summary enrollment information within "AEG Students at the University of Alaska" (pg. 15-18) is from the UA Year in Review report tables (last updated 3/6/2018) published by UA Institutional Research, Planning and Analysis: <http://alaska.edu/ir/reporting/>. Developmental coursework data (pg. 17) was provided by UA at ACPE's request.

Alaska high school graduates' student records from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development are matched at ACPE's request with postsecondary enrollment records provided by colleges and universities to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). Graduation rates using NSC data were calculated four and six calendar years after first beginning enrollment date (measured as of 5/1/2018) on record for students at four-year institutions, and two and three calendar years after first beginning enrollment date for students at two-year institutions, but does not consider total enrollment time or full or part-time status at those institutions. Graduation rates are calculated for Alaska resident FAFSA filers during the 2011-2015AY. Figure 30 shows the full population count summarized in Figure 25. Records include only recent Alaska high school graduates beginning with the Class of 2011.

**Figure 30.** Full Population Count of AEG-Eligible, No Award and AEG Recipients between 2011-2015AY within NSC Data Measured from Beginning Enrollment Date within 100% and 150% of Standard Time to Degree Completion

	<b>AEG-Eligible,</b>		
	<b>Ineligible</b>	<b>No Award</b>	<b>AEG Recipients</b>
100% of Standard Time	7,653	3,382	1,024
150% of Standard Time	2,937	1,210	362

Postsecondary institutions participating with NSC enroll 98% of all students in public and private US institutions. For more information: [studentclearinghouse.org](http://studentclearinghouse.org)

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development provided aggregate wages and employment status. Average wages were calculated the year after their last FAFSA application or two years after their last AEG eligibility for students beginning with the 2011AY cohort.

Figure 31 lists the population studied in Figure 26.

**Figure 31.** Students' Alaska Employment Status the Year after their Last FAFSA

	<b>Count</b>	<b>Employed</b>
Non-Recipients	2,547	68%
Base Award	403	72%
Additional Award	47	77%

#### 2017 AEG Student Survey Questions

1. What year did you graduate from high school? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Alaska Education Grant is a program offered to Alaskans with qualifying unmet financial need to support their education beyond high school. Which of the following best describes you?
  - I received the Alaska Education Grant (AEG)
  - I qualified for the Alaska Education Grant (AEG) but did not use it
  - I qualified for the Alaska Education Grant (AEG) but did not receive it
  - I've heard of the Alaska Education Grant (AEG) but didn't know if I was eligible
  - I've never heard of the Alaska Education Grant
3. Which of the following have you participated in since graduating from high school? Check all that apply.
  - Working/employment
  - Undergraduate study
  - Graduate study
  - Vocational/technical school
  - Apprenticeship

- Starting/raising a family
  - Military/armed services
  - Volunteer service/religious mission
  - Travel
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
4. When did you first hear about the Alaska Education Grant?
- When I was attending high school
  - During the FAFSA application process
  - When I contacted my college or university's financial aid office
  - When I researched financial aid opportunities
  - When I received an e-mail that I qualified for the AEG
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was your primary goal for continuing your education? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How did AEG affect your decision to enroll in a degree or certificate program?
- I would not have enrolled without AEG
  - AEG was a major factor in my decision to enroll
  - AEG was a minor factor in my decision to enroll
  - AEG had no effect on my decision to enroll
  - Don't know
7. How much of an influence was AEG in the following decisions regarding your degree or certificate program?

	Major influence	Minor influence	No influence	Don't know
My decision to enroll full-time versus part-time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My decision to attend an in-state school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The degree/certificate program I chose	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The number of hours I needed to work while in school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. Have you received a degree or credential?
- No, but I am still attending a program of study
  - No, I am no longer attending a program of study
  - Yes
9. How much did the AEG affect your ability to complete your degree or credential?
- AEG was a major factor
  - AEG was a minor factor

- AEG had no effect
- Don't know

10. How familiar are you with the following aspects of the AEG?

	Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Not familiar
Requirements to fill out FAFSA annually	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Colleges/universities/career training institutions where AEG can be used	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The agency administering AEG (ACPE)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How to find out if I'm eligible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Where to find information on AEG	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. Would you recommend the Alaska Education Grant?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your responses will be used to evaluate and support the Alaska Education Grant Program.

12. If you would like to be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card, please leave your e-mail address below. \_\_\_\_\_