

Line of Duty Special Rule – Maximum Pell Grant Eligibility

The Higher Education Act Line of Duty Special Rule allows students to receive the maximum Pell Grant award regardless of their calculated Student Aid Index (SAI). This special provision applies to students whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while serving in the military or as a public safety officer.

If you meet the requirements below and your Student Aid Index (SAI) is greater than zero, please contact the Shasta College Financial Aid Office so we can review your eligibility for the Special Line of Duty Rule.

Eligibility Requirements

- The student is the child of a parent or guardian who died in the line of duty while either: (a) serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001; or (b) actively serving as and performing the duties of a public safety officer.
- The student was less than 33 years old as of January 1 prior to the applicable award year. For example, for the 2026–27 award year, the student must have been under age 33 as of January 1, 2026.

What “Line of Duty” Means

“Line of duty” generally refers to a death that occurred while the parent or guardian was actively performing official duties as a military service member or as a public safety officer. Public safety officers may include law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, or other qualifying public safety personnel.

Contact Us

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