

**MINA'BENTE SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
**2001 (FIRST) Regular Session**  
**Public Law 26-042**

**Bill No. 132 (COR)**

As substituted by the Committee on Education and amended.

Introduced by:

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**AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 15201, 15A301(a)(1), 15A302 AND 15A401 OF TITLE 17 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED AND TO AMEND UOG'S ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS, RELATIVE TO UOG'S STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND AWARD PROGRAMS.**

1           **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2           **Section 1.**   As recommended by *the University of Guam's Board of Regent's*  
3 *Resolution No. 01-17* appended hereto as "**Attachment A**," § 15A302 of Article 3A,  
4 Chapter 15, Division 3 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated is hereby *amended* to read  
5 as follows:

6                   **"Section 15A302.           Benefits.**   Students entitled to merit awards  
7 pursuant to this Article shall receive the following benefits:

8                           **(a)   Tuition to Attend School.** Tuition and fees for each academic  
9 year to be paid by the Student Financial Assistance Fund for a period of *not*  
10 *more than* four (4) years in an undergraduate program at the University of  
11 Guam. For awards granted under § 15A101(2) of this Article, students shall  
12 receive an *additional* two (2) years of tuition and fees for a graduate degree  
13 upon successful completion of undergraduate studies and admission  
14 requirements for graduate school.

1                   **(b) Stipend.** Award recipients are entitled to a monthly stipend  
2 to be disbursed in nine (9) monthly installments during the academic year, as  
3 follows: (i) First-Year and Second-Year Students: Three Hundred Dollars  
4 (\$300.00) per month; (ii) Third-Year and Fourth-Year Students: Five Hundred  
5 Dollars (\$500.00) per month. For graduate students, Six Hundred Dollars  
6 (\$600.00) per month to be disbursed in nine (9) monthly installments during  
7 the academic year.

8                   **(c) Allowance for Textbooks.** Each student receiving an  
9 award under this Article shall be entitled to an *additional* Two-hundred Fifty  
10 Dollars (\$250.00) per semester for textbooks to be disbursed *prior* to the first  
11 day that classes begin.

12                   **(d) Optional Inter-Session Allowed.**

13                   **(1) Summer.** Each student shall be entitled to tuition,  
14 fees and textbooks for inter-session courses on a full-time basis.

15                   **(2) Between Fall and Spring Semesters.** Each student  
16 shall be entitled to tuition, fees and textbooks for inter-session courses  
17 on a full-time basis. Students attending inter-session between the Fall  
18 and Spring Semesters shall *not* be entitled to an additional stipend.

19                   (e) For those authorized to attend school off-Guam as provided for  
20 herein, the amount of assistance shall *not* exceed the amount of assistance  
21 for a student attending school at the University of Guam."

22                   **Section 2.** Section 15201 of Article 2, Chapter 15, Division 3 of Title 17 of the  
23 Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

24                   **"Section 15201. Students Entitled to Loans.** The Board is  
25 authorized to approve loans for graduate and undergraduate studies or training to  
26 qualified applicants who are admitted to the University of Guam, the Guam  
27 Community College pursuant to the provisions of § 15204 of this Article or to a  
28 United States accredited off-Guam college or university as full-time students on  
29 regular status, or by Distance Learning, that may include classes by means of the  
30 Internet, through a United States accredited college or university or one (1)

1 recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation ('COPA'), or its  
2 successors. The loans provided in this Article are *subject* to the following  
3 limitations:

4 (a) The applicant must be a *bona fide* resident of Guam and a  
5 United States citizen, or a permanent resident alien:

6 (1) applicants who are high school students at the time of  
7 application must have achieved an overall grade point average of *at*  
8 *least* 2.0, or its equivalent, in the applicant's high school studies; *and*

9 (2) applicants who are current or returning college students  
10 with prior college credits at the time of application must have achieved  
11 an overall grade point average of *at least* 2.5, or its equivalent, in the  
12 applicant's undergraduate studies.

13 (3) (a) *If* the applicant is pursuing an academic graduate  
14 or post-graduate degree, the applicant must have achieved a  
15 grade point average of *not less than* 2.5 in undergraduate  
16 studies.

17 (b) *If* the applicant is a graduating senior, final  
18 approval of awards will be based upon successful completion of  
19 graduation requirements, inclusive of a 2.5 grade point average.

20 All awards for graduate studies shall be based upon acceptance into a  
21 graduate program. No awards shall be made for off-Guam studies, *unless* such  
22 course of studies are listed on the University's Career Priority listing. For loans  
23 made *after* January 1, 2000, the applicant must be a five (5) year resident of Guam  
24 for the period *immediately* preceding the starting date of the academic year the  
25 student will use such assistance and meet all other requirements herein.

26 (b) The applicant must agree to the provisions of § 15203 of this  
27 Article.

28 (c) The applicant must be in financial need, which shall be  
29 determined by regulations authorized by § 15105 of Article 1 of this Chapter.

1 In addition, the applicant must complete 'A Free Application for Federal  
2 Student Aid' ('FAFSA') form as documentary evidence of need.

3 (d) The applicant must present to the Board, *prior* to the granting of  
4 the loan, satisfactory proof that the applicant has been admitted to an  
5 accredited college or university as a full-time student to pursue a program of  
6 study in the area for which the loan was applied. No loan shall be continued  
7 beyond the number of years normally required to complete studies in the  
8 specific academic degree program for which the loan was granted, *except*  
9 under exceptional circumstances as determined by the Board.

10 (e) The off-Guam colleges and universities must be United States  
11 accredited, or recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation  
12 ('COPA'), or its successors, and must be on the University's Career Priority  
13 Listing and approved by the Board; *provided*, however, that no loans shall be  
14 granted for studies at an off-Guam institution in an academic program that is  
15 available at the University of Guam."

16 **Section 3.** Section 15A301(a)(1) of Article 3A, Chapter 15, Division 3 of Title 17 of  
17 the Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

18 "(1) One (1) for every fifty (50) graduates or fraction thereof of a school's  
19 graduating class. *If* as a result of the equal scholastic standing of two (2) or more  
20 graduates, there is a tie for the awards granted pursuant to this Chapter, the  
21 University of Guam shall provide a mechanism to break the tie. Awardees are  
22 entitled to four (4) years of education at the University of Guam. *However*, if the  
23 awardee is the top-ranked student academically of that person's graduating class,  
24 and such awardee's major is unavailable at the University of Guam, the awardee  
25 may attend any accredited college or university in the United States, or one (1)  
26 recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation ('COPA'), or its  
27 successors, where such declared major is available. The benefits are according to  
28 the amounts provided in § 15A302 of this Article, plus the cost of airfare for one-  
29 way, economy airline ticket to the school of attendance and one-way ticket to return  
30 to Guam upon completion of studies."

1           **Section 4.** Section 15A401 of Article 4A, Chapter 15, Division 3 of Title 17 of the  
2 Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

3           **"Section 15A401. Students Entitled to Awards.** There are  
4 established professional and technical annual awards for graduate studies. On or  
5 before December 1st of each year, the Board shall conduct a public hearing to  
6 receive the opinion and recommendation of the community, and the Guam  
7 Occupational Information Coordinating Committee, or its equivalent, and may use  
8 findings of any other survey or study to determine those areas in which additional  
9 professional and technical skills are needed. From those hearings the Board shall  
10 establish a list of occupational priorities for Guam *prior* to considering applications  
11 for the awards. The number of awards and occupational priorities to be  
12 recommended shall be submitted to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan no later than* January 1st  
13 of each year.

14           Funds appropriated to provide professional and technical awards, and which  
15 are *not* totally expended, may be used in succeeding years so as to increase the  
16 number of annual awards. The awards provided in this Article are *subject* to the  
17 following limitations:

18           (a) the applicant must be a *bona fide* resident of Guam for a  
19 continuous period of *not less than* ten (10) years *prior* to application, and a  
20 United States citizen, or a permanent resident alien, and must have achieved  
21 an overall grade point average of 3.00 in undergraduate studies *if* pursuing a  
22 master's degree, or 3.33 in a master's degree program *if* pursuing a doctoral  
23 degree, or an irrevocable letter of acceptance from an U.S. accredited  
24 professional school, as recognized by the Council on Post Secondary  
25 Accreditation ('COPA'), or its successors;

26           (b) the applicant must agree to the repayment terms as specified in  
27 §§ 15A403 and 15A404;

28           (c) the applicant must present to the Board, *prior* to granting of the  
29 award, satisfactory proof that such applicant has been accepted by an U.S.

1 accredited college or university, as recognized by COPA, or its successors,  
2 as a full-time student to pursue a program of study in the field applied for; *and*

3 (d) the colleges or universities must be properly accredited as  
4 recognized by COPA, or its successors, and must be approved by the Board;  
5 *provided*, however, that no award shall be granted for studies at an off-Guam  
6 institution in a program that is available at the University of Guam.

7 The Board shall select the recipients of the awards upon the basis of  
8 scholastic ability, financial need and aptitude. The Board may also use work or life-  
9 time experience and achievement criteria in place of the aptitude criteria, *if* because  
10 of such experience, it can be reasonably determined that the applicant will succeed  
11 in a course of study funded by an award herein.

12 In determining financial need, the applicant must submit a Student Aid Report  
13 ('SAR'), which results from the completion of a Free Application for Federal Student  
14 Aid ('FAFSA') as documentary evidence of need.

15 No benefits as specified in § 15A402 shall be continued beyond the number  
16 of years normally required to complete studies in the specific academic degree  
17 program for which the award was granted, *except* under exceptional circumstances,  
18 as determined by the Board."

19 **Section 5.** Section 3(c) of the University of Guam's Merit Award Rules and  
20 Regulations, as amended by Public Law Number 25-145, is hereby *amended* to read as  
21 follows:

22 **"(c) 'Accredited':** any U.S. accredited institution as recognized by  
23 the Council for Higher Education Accreditation ('CHEA')."

24 **Section 6.** Section 3(t) is hereby *added* to the University of Guam's Merit Award  
25 Rules and Regulations, as amended by Public Law Number 25-145, to read as follows:

26 **"(t) 'Co-Signers':** Guam Residents who are financially and legally  
27 responsible."

28 **Section 7.** Section 4 of the University of Guam's Merit Award Rules and  
29 Regulations, as amended by Public Law Number 25-145, is hereby *repealed and*  
30 *reenacted* to read as follows:

1                   **“4.0. NUMBER OF AWARDS.**           Each graduating class of the public  
2 and private high schools on Guam is entitled to one (1) for every fifty (50) graduates  
3 or fraction thereof of a school’s graduating class, (schools with *less than* fifty (50)  
4 graduating seniors that meet all other requirements herein shall be entitled to one  
5 (1) award). *If* there should be a tie of the equal scholastic standing of two (2) or  
6 more graduates, the University of Guam will provide a mechanism to break the tie  
7 using the cumulative numeric grades first going to whatever decimal place is  
8 required to break the tie. *If* a tie still exists, then the SAT scores will be used to  
9 break the tie. Each student must meet the eligibility requirements established in §  
10 15301(a)(1) of Chapter 15 of Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated. The number of  
11 awards will be determined by the *actual* number of diplomas awarded on graduation  
12 day.”

13           **Section 8.** Section 8 of the University of Guam’s Merit Award Rules and  
14 Regulations, as amended by Public Law Number 25-145, is hereby *repealed and*  
15 *reenacted* to read as follows:

16                   **“8.0. ATTENDANCE.**           Awardees are to attend the University of  
17 Guam. *If* the top-ranked Awardee’s academic major program is unavailable at the  
18 University of Guam, the Awardee may attend any four (4)-year U.S. accredited  
19 college or university in the United States, as recognized by the Council for Higher  
20 Education Accreditation (‘CHEA’) where such declared major is available.”

21           **Section 9.** Section 10(c) of the University of Guam’s Merit Award Rules and  
22 Regulations, as amended by Public Law Number 25-145, is hereby *repealed and*  
23 *reenacted* to read as follows:

24                   “(c) A nine (9) monthly stipend based upon the following:

25                           (1) Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for students in their first and  
26 second year under the Merit Award Program.

27                           (2) Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for students in their third and  
28 fourth year under the Merit Award Program.

29                           (3) Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) for graduate students pursuant  
30 to § 10(b).”

1           **Section 10.**           Section 10(d) of the University of Guam’s Merit Award Rules  
2 and Regulations, as amended by Public Law Number 25-145, is hereby *repealed and*  
3 *reenacted* to read as follows:

4           “(d)   Awardees authorized to attend an off-Guam institution shall *not*  
5 exceed the amount of assistance granted for a student attending school at the  
6 University of Guam, but are entitled to the cost of airfare for one-way, economy  
7 airline ticket to the school of attendance and one-way ticket to return to Guam upon  
8 completion of studies.”

9           **Section 11.**           Section 11(g)(1) of the University of Guam’s Merit Award Rules  
10 and Regulations, as amended by Public Law Number 25-145, is hereby *repealed and*  
11 *reenacted* to read as follows:

12           “(1)   *Except* for deferment and change of graduation date requests, special  
13 requests shall be submitted to the Board *no later than* two (2) months (sixty (60)  
14 calendar days) *prior* to the start of the academic term for which the request is to take  
15 effect. Requests received *after* the two (2) months (sixty (60) calendar days) shall  
16 be acknowledged and returned without any action indicating non-compliance with  
17 the deadline requirement.”

18           **Section 12.           Changes to UOG’s Loan and Pro-Tech Rules.**

19 All references to the “*Council on Post Secondary Education (‘COPA’)*” shall be changed to  
20 “*Council for Higher Education Accreditation (‘CHEA’)*” in the University of Guam’s Student  
21 Loan Rules and Regulations and Professional/Technical Award Rules and Regulations, as  
22 amended by Public Law Number 25-145.