

Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

Students convicted of possession or sale of drugs

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for Federal Student Financial Aid. The student self-certifies in applying for aid that he/she is eligible for federal funds. You are not required to provide the documentation of the conviction unless we have conflicting information in the school records.

Convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Federal Student Financial Aid—they do not count if the offense was not during such a period. Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside or removed from the student's record does not count. One received when he/she was a juvenile does not count unless he/she was tried as an adult.

The chart below illustrates the period of ineligibility for Federal Student Financial Aid, depending on whether the conviction was for sale or possession and whether the student had previous offenses. (A conviction for sale of drugs includes convictions for conspiring to sell drugs)

	Possession of illegal drugs	Sale of illegal drugs
1st offense	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from date of conviction
2nd offense	2 years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
3+ offenses	Indefinite period	Indefinite period

If the student was convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, the student will be ineligible for the longer period.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when he/she successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program. Further drug convictions will make him/her ineligible again.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain eligibility for federal assistance only after successfully completing a rehabilitation program as described below or if a conviction is reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record so that fewer than two conviction for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record. In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to certify to the university that he/she has successfully completed the rehabilitation program; as with the conviction question on the FAFSA, you are not required to confirm the reported information unless we have conflicting information in our school records.

When a student regains eligibility during the award year, the university may award Pell, Teach, and Campus-based aid for the current payment period and Direct loans for the period of enrollment.

Standards for a qualified drug rehabilitation program

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least two unannounced drug tests and must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

- o The program must be qualified to receive funds directly or indirectly from a federal, state, or local government program, or
- o The program must be qualified to receive payment directly or indirectly from a federally or state-licensed insurance company, or
- o The program must be administered or recognized by a federal, state, or local government agency or court, or
- o The program must be administered or recognized by a federally or state-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor.

A Student that undergoes the drug rehabilitation program and is seeking federal aid eligibility must provide a copy of the completed drug rehabilitation program to the financial aid counselor.