



Drug Related Convictions Policy

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for federal student aid. Convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving financial aid. A conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record does not count, nor does one received when the student was a juvenile, unless he or she was tried as an adult.

The information below illustrates the period of ineligibility for financial aid 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.)

For a drug possession conviction, eligibility is suspended:

- One year from date of conviction for 1st offense
- Two years from date of conviction for 2nd offense
- Indefinite period for 3+ offenses

For a drug sale conviction, eligibility is suspended:

- Two years from date of conviction for 1st offense
- Indefinite period for 2nd offense

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.

Regaining eligibility after a drug conviction

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

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it only after successfully completing a rehabilitation program as described below.

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:

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