

## Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

If you are convicted for a drug offense that occurs while you are a student that is receiving federal Title IV aid, you may experience a loss of your eligibility for federal financial assistance. You also may be liable for returning any financial aid you received during the period of ineligibility.

Federal law provides that a student who has been convicted of an offense under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving financial aid shall not be eligible to receive any federal or institutional grant, loan or work assistance during the period beginning on the date of such conviction and ending after the interval specified in the following:

- Possession, First Offense, 1 year of ineligibility
- Possession, Second Offense, 2 years of ineligibility
- Possession, Third Offense, indefinite period of ineligibility
- Sale, First Offense, 2 years of ineligibility
- Sale, Second Offense, indefinite period of ineligibility.

A student whose eligibility has been suspended based on a conviction for possession or sale of a controlled substance may resume eligibility before the end of the ineligibility period if:

- The student satisfactorily completes a drug rehabilitation program that complies with the criteria prescribed in the federal regulations or by passing two unannounced drug tests administered by an approved drug rehabilitation program.
- The conviction is reversed or set aside.

When applying for federal aid assistance using the FAFSA form you will be asked whether or not you had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid. If the answer is yes you will be provided a worksheet to help you determine whether your conviction affects your eligibility for federal student aid. The Office of Financial Aid will receive this information from the FAFSA and will request information to determine eligibility.

Additional information: : <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/criminal-convictions>