



Office of National Drug Control Policy
U.S. Department of Education



FAFSA Facts

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

How do drug-related convictions affect my student loan eligibility?

In general, if you are convicted of a drug-related felony or misdemeanor that took place **while you were receiving Federal student aid**, you will become ineligible to receive further aid for a specified period of time upon conviction.

You can shorten this period of ineligibility by:

- ❖ Successfully completing an approved drug rehabilitation program that includes passing two unannounced drug tests, **or**
- ❖ Passing two unannounced drug tests administered by an approved drug rehabilitation program, **or**
- ❖ Having the conviction reversed, set aside, or otherwise rendered invalid.

How long am I ineligible to receive Title IV, HEA program funds (Federal student aid) if I don't pursue early reinstatement of eligibility?

The length of time you are ineligible depends on the type and number of convictions you have had for drug-related offenses committed **while you were receiving aid**. The law recognizes two broad categories of drug offense: "possession of illegal drugs" and "sale of illegal drugs." The table below lists the period of ineligibility by type and number of offenses.

| Offense | Possession of Illegal Drugs | Sale of Illegal Drugs |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| First | 1 year of ineligibility from date of conviction | |
| Second | 2 years of ineligibility from date of conviction | Indefinite period of ineligibility* |
| Third or more | Indefinite period of ineligibility* | Indefinite period of ineligibility* |

*Under the law, an indefinite period of ineligibility continues unless your conviction is overturned or otherwise rendered invalid or you meet one of the two early reinstatement requirements specified above.

If you do not wish to pursue early reinstatement of your eligibility for Federal student aid, you can calculate the date at which you would regain eligibility for Federal student assistance by completing the Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet, available at:

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/drugworksheets/attachments/StudentAidEligibilityWorksheetEng1314.pdf>

When am I considered to be 'receiving aid'?

You are considered to be receiving aid beginning on the day that classes start for any term you have applied for, been approved for, and for which you have accepted an offer for Federal student aid.

Summer breaks do not count as time receiving aid if you are not enrolled in classes. However, holiday breaks during the academic year count as time enrolled.

The chart at right will help clarify when you are considered to be receiving Federal student assistance.

What about convictions for offenses that took place when I was not receiving aid?

Convictions for a Federal or State drug offense (either sale or possession) count against a student for Title IV eligibility.



Your financial aid office will make this determination. You may be required to provide written documentation.

What if I have other questions?

For more information, please call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).