

Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Violations

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 an illegal drugs during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving federal financial aid, shall not be eligible to receive any federal student aid assistance during the period beginning on the date of such conviction and ending after the interval specified in the following table:

Possession of Illegal Drugs	Ineligibility Period
1 st offense	1 Year from date of conviction
2 nd offense	2 Years from date of conviction
3 ^{rd+} offense	Indefinite period

Sale of Illegal Drugs	Ineligibility Period
1 st offense	2 Years from date of conviction
2 nd offense	Indefinite period

If a 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 or she successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program that includes passing two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Any further drug convictions will make he or she ineligible again.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain eligibility after completing any of the following 3 options:

1. Successfully completing a rehabilitation program (as described below, which includes passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program)
2. Having the conviction reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record.
3. Successfully completing two unannounced drug tests which are part of the rehab program (the student does not need to complete the rest of the program)/

Standard for a qualified drug rehabilitation program

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least two unannounced drug tests and 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.

It is a student's responsibility to certify to the financial aid office that he/she has successfully completed the rehabilitation program.