

Financial Aid Consequences for Drug Conviction

Owner: Financial Aid

Pertains to: Students

Related policies/documents: [Financial Aid Overview](#) (Undergraduate Bulletin); [Financial Aid Overview](#) (click on Graduate Bulletin)

Short Description

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for Title IV (federal) aid funds. A student can regain eligibility after meeting one of several conditions.

Students Convicted of Possession or Sale of Drugs

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for Title IV (Federal) aid funds. A conviction will only disqualify a student for funding if the offense occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV aid. Also convictions that are reversed, set aside, or removed from a student's record do not count, nor does any conviction received while the student was a juvenile, unless they were tried as an adult.

A student who has been convicted of selling or possessing illegal drugs as previously described, cannot be awarded Title IV aid. The chart below outlines the periods of ineligibility for Title IV funding, depending on whether the conviction was for sale or possession and whether the student had previous offenses.

	Possession of Illegal Drugs	Sale of Illegal Drugs
1st offense	One year from date of conviction	Two years from date of conviction
2nd offense	Two years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
3+ offenses	Indefinite period	

If a student becomes ineligible for Title IV aid due to a drug conviction, the Financial Aid Office will notify that student of the loss of eligibility and explain methods by which the student may regain eligibility for aid.

Regaining Eligibility after Receiving a Drug Conviction

A student regains eligibility for Title IV aid the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when they successfully complete a qualified drug rehabilitation program or passes two unannounced drug tests administered by such a program, or by having the conviction reversed, set aside or removed from the student's record.

It is the student's responsibility to certify that they have successfully completed a qualified drug rehabilitation program or passed the required drugs tests and notify and document to the Financial Aid Office of the completion of these requirements.

Standards for a Qualified Drug Rehabilitation Program

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include 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.

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