

Drug Conviction May Disqualify Applicant from Financial Aid Eligibility

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for financial aid funds if the conviction was for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving financial aid.

The chart below illustrates the period of ineligibility for financial aid depending 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.

	Possession of Illegal Drugs	Sale of Illegal Drugs
1 st Offense	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from date of conviction
2 nd Offense	2 years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
3+ Offenses	Indefinite period	

If the student is 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 successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program as defined in federal regulations.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it only after successfully completing a qualified rehabilitation program; or if the conviction is 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.