



Title IV Drug Conviction

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Students convicted of possession or sale of drugs

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for financial aid. Convictions only count against financial aid if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving federal financial aid—they do not count if the offense was not during such a period. If a conviction was reversed, set aside, removed or occurred while the student was a juvenile it does not make the student ineligible.

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
1st offense	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from date of conviction
2nd offense	2 years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
3+ offenses	Indefinite period	

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when they successfully complete a qualified drug rehabilitation program.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it only after successfully completing a rehabilitation program described below; or if a 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. In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to certify to the financial aid office that they have successfully completed the rehabilitation program.

Standards for a qualified drug rehabilitation program

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least 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.