

Notice of Financial Aid Penalties Associated with Drug Offenses

Student with criminal convictions have limited eligibility for federal student aid.

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for federal financial aid funds. The student self-certifies in applying for aid that he is eligible. Drug convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV aid—they do not count if the offense was not during such a period. Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student’s record does not count, nor does one received when she was a juvenile, unless she was tried as an adult. The chart below illustrates the period of ineligibility for federal funds, 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	

For more information about students with criminal convictions, go to <http://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/criminal-convictions#probation-parole>.