

Notice of Federal Student financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 include a new student eligibility provision. It provides that a student is ineligible for federal student aid if convicted, under federal or state law, of any offense involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance during a period of enrollment in which federal student aid was received. Federal aid can be grants, student loans, and/or college work study. The period of ineligibility begins on the date of the conviction and lasts until the end of a statutorily specified period. The student may regain eligibility early by completing a drug rehabilitation program or if the conviction is overturned.

If convicted of an offense involving **possession** of a controlled substance, the ineligibility period is:

First Offense -- 1 year

Second Offense -- 2 years

Third Offense -- Indefinite

If convicted of an offense involving the **sale** of a controlled substance, the ineligibility period is:

First Offense -- 2 years

Second Offense -- Indefinite