

STUDENTS CONVICTED OF POSSESSION OR SALE OF DRUGS

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for FSA funds. The student self-certifies in applying for aid that he is eligible.

Convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Federal Student 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 FSA 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	Indefinite period

If the student was convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, the student will be ineligible for the longer period.

Schools must provide each student who becomes ineligible for FSA funds due to a drug conviction a clear and conspicuous written notice of his loss of eligibility and the methods whereby he can become eligible again.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when he successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program or passes two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make him ineligible again.

The period of ineligibility begins as of the date of the conviction. A conviction is defined as a conviction that is on a student’s record at the time the student’s eligibility is being determined. A conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student’s record is not relevant.

An illegal drug is a controlled substance as defined by section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act [21 U.S.C. 801(6)] and does not include alcohol or tobacco. Students may obtain additional information on eligibility by contacting the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-433-3243.

Standards for a qualified drug rehabilitation program

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least two unannounced drug tests and 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.

WCC Alcoholic Beverages Policy

The use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on the College campus.

WCC Drugs Prevention Policy

The unlawful possession, use or distribution of any drug or controlled substance is prohibited on the College campus or as part of any College-sponsored activities. Students and employees of the College in violation of the above policy relating to drugs or a controlled substance are required to participate in a drug prevention program designated by the College with the intention of correcting the drug or drug-related problem of the person at their own expense. The College will determine when the person has satisfactorily corrected the problem. Refusal to effectively participate in the program will result in immediate dismissal as a student or employee of the College.

Effects of Alcohol

Excessive drinking can cause high blood pressure, which can lead to heart disease, strokes and heart attacks. Since alcohol is processed by the liver, heavy drinking can wear the liver down, causing it to become fatty or diseased by cirrhosis or liver cancer. Individuals under the effects of alcohol may experience a loss of sensation, motor control and judgment, which can cause them to injure themselves or others or to make poor decisions that they would not otherwise make.

Effects of Drugs

There are three serious conditions, aside from death, that can result from ingesting too much of a drug. These conditions, according to the Bowles Center, include respiratory failure, heart attack and coma. Some prescription drugs, when taken in excess, can also cause hangover-like symptoms after the drug leaves the body. In addition to causing symptoms common to drunkenness, some drugs, such as cocaine, LSD, barbiturates and tranquilizers can cause rapid heartbeat and seizures. Tremors and heart palpitations are two long-term effects caused by prolonged drug abuse.