

## Federal Student Aid (Title IV funds) and Drug Convictions

*The following excerpts are taken from the 2014-15 Federal Student Aid Handbook (Vol 1, Page 15-16):*

- A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for FSA funds.
- Convictions only count against a student for aid eligibility purposes 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 unless the student was denied federal benefits for drug trafficking by a federal or state judge. 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	--

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.

- A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when he successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program that includes passing two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make him ineligible again.
- Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it after successfully completing any of the following three options:
  1. Successfully completing a rehabilitation program (as described below, which includes passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program);
  2. Having the conviction 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; or
  3. Successfully completing two unannounced drug tests which are part of a rehabilitation program (the student does not need to complete the rest of the 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.

*Please contact Birthingway if you have any questions regarding drug convictions and loss of Title IV eligibility.*