

Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988

A federal or state drug conviction can potentially disqualify you to receive federal financial aid. To determine your eligibility for federal aid, you must indicate on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in question #23 whether or not you have ever been convicted of the sale or possession of drugs. At this time, you are not eligible for federal financial aid because you either did not answer this question, or you answered yes to a drug conviction. To determine your eligibility, you will need to do the following:

If you left question #23 blank on the FAFSA, then you will need to log back into the FAFSA website to answer this question. Your failure to provide an answer to this question makes you ineligible to receive federal student aid. Either indicate that you have not been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (such as grants, loans, and workstudy), or use the worksheet at the link below to determine your answer to this question. You can answer Item 23 on your SAR or you can correct this item by calling 1800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or by going to <https://fafsa.gov>. Please understand that a drug conviction does not necessarily disqualify you from receiving student aid.

If you answered #2 to question #23 on your FAFSA, then you indicated that you were convicted and would be ineligible for part of the year. You will need to follow up with your financial aid counselor after July 1st to determine whether you will have any eligibility for the upcoming year. You can reach your counselor at facounselor@american.edu or 202-885-6500.

If you reported in Item 23 that you have been convicted of an illegal drug offense, use the worksheet link below to determine if your conviction(s) affect your eligibility for federal student aid. If you determine that your conviction(s) do not affect your eligibility for federal student aid, or affect it for only part of the 2018-2019 school year, you must correct Item 23. You can change your answer by using your SAR online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or you can correct this item or get additional help with this question by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-4333243). **YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID WHILE YOUR ANSWER TO ITEM 23 IS '3, YES'** but you may still be eligible to receive state, school, or other non-federal student aid.

Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet for Question #23:

<https://ifap.ed.gov/drugworksheets/attachments/1718StudentAidEligibilityWorksheetforQuestion23EN.pdf>.

Regaining Eligibility for Federal Student Aid

You can regain eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends (i.e., for a 1st or 2nd offense); or when you successfully complete a qualified drug rehabilitation program that includes passing two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make you ineligible again.

The chart below illustrates the period of ineligibility for FSA funds, depending on whether the conviction was for sale or possession and whether there were previous offenses. A conviction for sale of drugs includes convictions for conspiring to sell drugs.

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

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain eligibility after completing any of the following 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 rehab 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 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; or
- Be administered or recognized by a federally or state-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor.

Questions?

You can speak with a financial aid counselor at 202-885-6500 or via email at facounselor@american.edu.