Federal Student Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

Eligibility for federal student aid may be suspended if the offense occurred while receiving federal student aid (grants, loans, or work-study). When completing the FAFSA, it will be asked if the applicant had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while receiving federal student aid. If the answer is yes, the applicant will be provided a worksheet to help determine whether the conviction affects eligibility for federal student aid.

If eligibility for federal student aid has been suspended due to a drug conviction, eligibility may be regained early by successfully completing an approved drug rehabilitation program or by passing two unannounced drug tests administered by an approved drug rehabilitation program. If eligibility is regained during the award year, notify the financial aid office immediately so aid may be reinstated if eligible.

If convicted of a drug-related offense after submitting the FAFSA, eligibility may be lost for federal student aid, and the student may be liable for returning any financial aid received during a period of ineligibility.