

Drug Conviction Policy

- A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for federal student aid
- Any student who loses federal student aid eligibility due to drug violations, will be notified by e-mail by the Financial Aid Office, of the ways in which eligibility can be regained.
- Students may regain eligibility to receive federal aid by successfully passing two unannounced drug tests conducted by a drug rehabilitation program that complies with criteria established by the Secretary of Education. Students must provide documentation of this completion to the Financial Aid Office.

Notice to Students Concerning Penalties for Drug Violations HEOA section 488(g) HEA section 485(k)

The HEOA under new subsection (k) of section 485 of the HEA requires institutions to provide to every student upon enrollment a separate, clear and conspicuous written notice with information on the penalties associated with drug-related offenses under existing section 484(r) of the HEA. It also requires an institution to provide a timely notice to each student who has lost eligibility for any grant, loan, or work-study assistance as a result of penalties under 484(r)(1) of the HEA a separate clear, and conspicuous written notice that notifies the student of the loss of eligibility and advises the student of the ways in which to regain eligibility under section 484(r)(2) of the HEA.

Regaining Eligibility after a Drug Conviction HEOA sections 485(a)(7)(C) and (a)(9) HEA sections 484(r)(2)(B) and (t)

The HEOA adds a new provision at section 484(r)(2)(B) of the HEA that allows a student whose eligibility has been suspended due to a drug conviction to resume eligibility if the student successfully passes two unannounced drug tests conducted by a drug rehabilitation program that complies with criteria established by the Secretary.

The HEOA adds a new section 484(t) of the HEA that now requires the Secretary, by August 14, 2009, to analyze data from the FAFSA for students denied Federal assistance based on a drug conviction while receiving Federal aid. The results from the analysis must be made available continuously on the Department's website and the Digest of Education Statistics. Each fiscal year, the results must also be provided to Congress.