

I've been convicted of a drug offense. Does this mean I won't get any financial aid?

The question on the FAFSA (#23) regarding drug offenses asks about convictions for possessing or selling illegal drugs (not including alcohol and tobacco) if the offense occurred during a period of enrollment for which you were receiving federal student aid (grants, loans, and/or work-study). When answering the drug conviction question, **do not count** convictions that have been removed from your record. Also, **do not count** convictions that occurred before you turned 18, unless you were tried as an adult.

Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet

- To determine whether a drug offense affects your eligibility go to the Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/before013.htm>.

After you fill out the Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet, your responses will result in one of these answers:

Answer	Means
1, No	Eligible. Your eligibility for federal student aid is not affected.
2, Yes (partially during the year)	Partially eligible. You will become eligible for federal aid during the school year. You can become eligible earlier in the school year if you complete an acceptable drug rehabilitation program.
3, Yes/Don't Know	Ineligible / don't know. You are not eligible for federal aid for this school year unless you complete an acceptable drug rehabilitation program. You may still be eligible for state and school aid.

Even if you are not eligible for federal aid, you may be eligible for state aid or aid from your school financial aid office. If you become eligible for federal financial aid (for example, if your eligibility date arrives or if you complete an acceptable drug rehabilitation program), notify the financial aid administrator at your school. If you are convicted of possessing or selling drugs after you submit your FAFSA, you must notify your financial aid administrator immediately. You will lose your eligibility and be required to pay back all aid you received after your conviction.

What is an acceptable drug rehabilitation program?

An acceptable drug rehabilitation program must include two unannounced drug tests. It must also:

- Be qualified to receive funds from federal, state, or local government, or a state-licensed insurance company.
- Or
- Be administered or recognized by a federal, state, or local government agency or court, or a state-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor.