

Notice of Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Law Violations

2019-20

Overview:

Students convicted of an offense under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs for conduct that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Federal Title IV, HEA program funds or need-based institutional financial aid funds, will lose eligibility for all Title IV, HEA grant, loan, and work-study assistance and for need-based institutional financial aid.

An illegal drug is a controlled substance as defined by section 102(6) of the controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801(6)), and does not include alcohol or tobacco.

Loss of eligibility is as follows:

Conviction for possession of a controlled substance:	Period of ineligibility:
First offense	One year from date of conviction
Second offense	Two years from date of second conviction
Third offense	Indefinite period from the date of the third conviction
Conviction for sale of a controlled substance:	Period of ineligibility:
First offense	Two years from date of conviction
Second offense	Indefinite period from the date of the second conviction

Students may regain eligibility for financial aid as follows:

A student who successfully completes a drug rehabilitation program after the student's most recent drug conviction regains eligibility on the date the student successfully completes the program.

A drug rehabilitation program is one which:

- Includes at least two unannounced drug tests; and
- has received or is qualified to receive funds directly or indirectly under a Federal, State, or local government program;
- is administered or recognized by a Federal, State, or local government agency or court;
- has received or is qualified to receive payment directly or indirectly from a Federally- or State-licensed insurance company; or
- is administered or recognized by a Federally- or State-licensed hospital, health clinic or medical doctor.

Notice regarding financial aid penalties

Institutions must provide to each student, upon enrollment, a separate, clear and conspicuous written notice that advises the student of financial aid penalties for drug convictions. Springfield College does this at the beginning of each term by sending an email, from the Office of Financial Aid, to Springfield

College email address of all enrolled students. While the federal regulation applies to federal Title IV financial aid, Springfield College also applies this penalty to institutional need-based financial aid.

Notice to students who lose eligibility

Students respond to questions regarding drug convictions when completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This information is conveyed to the Financial Aid Office by the federal FAFSA processor. Students who are ineligible for financial aid due to a drug conviction will be notified by the Director of Financial Aid, via U.S. mail or Springfield College email, of the loss of financial aid eligibility. Information on the ways in which the student can regain eligibility is included above.