

## STUDENTS CONVICTED OF POSSESSION OR SALE OF DRUGS

(Source: pp. 1-14 and 1-15, Federal Student Aid Handbook 2012/2013)

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for Federal Student Aid (FSA) funds.

Convictions only count against a student for aid eligibility purposes (FAFSA question 23) if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Federal Student Aid—they do not count if the offense was not during such a period, unless the student was denied federal benefits for drug trafficking by a federal or state judge. Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record does not count, nor does one received when she was a juvenile, unless she was tried as an adult.

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

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

If the student was convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, the student will be ineligible for the longer period.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends or when he successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program or passes two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make him ineligible again.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain it after successfully completing a rehabilitation program (as described below), passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program, or if a conviction is 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. In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to certify to Olivet Nazarene University that he or she has successfully completed the rehabilitation program.

When a student regains eligibility during the award year, Olivet Nazarene University will evaluate the student's eligibility and if eligible, award Pell grant, TEACH, and Campus-based aid for the current payment period and Direct loans for the period of enrollment.

***Standards for a qualified drug rehabilitation 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.
- Be administered or recognized by a federally- or state-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor.

If a student certifies that he has successfully completed a drug rehabilitation program, but Olivet Nazarene University has reason to believe that the program does not meet the requirements, Olivet Nazarene University will verify the requirements for the program before paying a student any FSA funds.