SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND FINANCIAL AID

Drug Convictions and Financial Aid Eligibility

Students convicted of any offense, during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV, HEA program funds, under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs will result in the loss of eligibility for any Title IV, HEA grant, loan, or work-study assistance (HEA Sec. 484(r)(1)); (20 U.S.C. 1091(r)(1)).

PENALITIES FOR DRUG CONVICATIONS

Possession of Illegal Drugs:

First Offense: 1 year from date of conviction

Second Offense: 2 years from the date of conviction

Third and Subsequent Offenses: Indefinite ineligibility from the date of conviction

SALE OF ILLEGAL DRUG

First Offense: 2 years from the date of conviction

Second and Subsequent Offenses: Indefinite ineligibility from the date of conviction

HOW TO REGAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID AFTER A DRUG CONVICTION

There is a way that you can regain eligibility for the Federal programs no matter how many or what type of drug conviction you have. You must successfully complete an acceptable drug rehabilitation program that meets the standards set by Congress and the Department of Education. You will regain eligibility on the date you complete the program.

WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAM?

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

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

Question 23 on the FAFSA form asks if the student has ever been convicted of a drug related offense. Answering this questions falsely, if discovered, could result in fines up to \$20,000, imprisonment, or both.

CONVICTIONS DURING ENROLLMENT

According to the United States Department of Education, if a student is convicted of a drug offense after receiving Federal aid, he or she must notify the Financial Aid Office immediately and that the student will be ineligible for further aid and required to pay back all aid received after the conviction

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