

Federal Student Aid for Students in Adult Correctional and Juvenile Justice Facilities

Below you'll find answers to questions about how being confined in an adult correctional or a juvenile justice facility affects your eligibility for federal student aid and your options for repaying your federal student loans.

1. Am I eligible for federal student aid while I'm confined in an adult correctional facility or a juvenile justice facility?

While you're confined in an adult correctional facility or juvenile justice facility, your eligibility for federal student aid is very limited:

- **Federal Student Loans**—You're not eligible to receive federal student loans while confined in an adult correctional facility or a juvenile justice facility.
- **Federal Pell Grants**—It depends on where you're confined. If you're incarcerated in a federal or state penal institution, you may not receive Federal Pell Grants. However, if you're incarcerated in a local, municipal, or county correctional facility or committed to a juvenile justice facility, and you otherwise meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements, you can receive Federal Pell Grants.
- **Federal Work-Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)**—Although federal law doesn't prohibit students confined in adult correctional and juvenile justice facilities from receiving FWS and FSEOG, you probably won't be able to receive either type of aid. Generally, it isn't possible for a student to perform an FWS job while confined in an adult correctional facility or juvenile justice facility; and the amount of FSEOG funds available to schools is limited.

If you're confined in an adult correctional facility or juvenile justice facility and the circumstances described in question 3 below apply to you, you may not be eligible for any federal student aid.

Once you're released, most eligibility limitations will be removed unless the circumstances described in question 3 below apply to you. You may apply for aid before you're released so that there isn't a delay in receiving your aid once you start school.

Important note: Even if you're not eligible for federal student aid, you may still be eligible for aid from your state or school.

2. Am I eligible for federal student aid if I am released on probation or parole?

In most cases, yes. If you're on probation or parole or living in a halfway house, you may be eligible for federal student aid unless the circumstances described in question 3 below apply to you.

3. What types of convictions affect my eligibility for federal student aid after my release?

If you were convicted as an adult for the possession or sale of illegal drugs, your future eligibility for federal student aid may be suspended if the offense occurred while you were receiving federal student aid. When you complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form, you'll be asked whether you had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid. If your answer is yes, you'll be provided with a worksheet to help determine whether the conviction affects your eligibility for federal student aid.

If your eligibility for federal student aid has been suspended due to a drug conviction, you can regain eligibility early by successfully completing an approved drug rehabilitation program or by passing two unannounced drug tests administered by an approved drug rehabilitation program. If you regain eligibility while you're in school, notify your school's financial aid office immediately so you can receive aid.

If you've been convicted of a forcible or nonforcible sexual offense and you're subject to an involuntary civil commitment upon completion of a period of incarceration for that offense, you're not eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants.

4. How do I apply for federal student aid?

To apply for federal student aid and most state and institutional aid, you must complete the FAFSA form online at fafsa.gov, through the myStudentAid mobile app, or on paper. Applying for federal student aid is free. **Note:** You must have a Social Security number to access the myStudentAid mobile app or sign the FAFSA form electronically.

If you have questions about applying for federal student aid, contact the education coordinator at your facility or the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend.

5. What address do I provide when applying for federal student aid?

If you apply for federal student aid before you're released, use the mailing address of the facility where you're confined. After your release, you must update your mailing address at fafsa.gov, through the myStudentAid mobile app, or by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 (TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-730-8913).

6. How do I make sure that my federal student loans don't become delinquent or go into default while I'm confined?

If you're unable to make payments on your federal student loans while you're confined, you may be eligible for deferment or forbearance. During a period of deferment or forbearance, you're not required to make payments, but interest may continue to accrue.

Another option to consider is changing to an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan that determines your monthly student loan payment based on your annual income and family size. Under an IDR plan, your required monthly payments may be as low as \$0 per month depending on your individual circumstances.

It's important to make sure that you don't go into default on your loans, since this could have serious consequences after your release and would affect your future eligibility for federal student aid.

For information about avoiding delinquency and default, contact your loan servicer or visit StudentAid.gov/repay-loans/default/avoid. If you don't know who your loan servicer is, check your account in "My Federal Student Aid" at StudentAid.gov/login or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 (TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-730-8913).

7. What can I do if I have defaulted federal student loans?

Work with the holder of your defaulted loans. Options for getting out of default include full repayment of the loans, loan rehabilitation, and loan consolidation. You may not be able to resolve your defaulted loans until after your release. Learn more about getting out of default at StudentAid.gov/end-default.

8. Am I eligible for loan consolidation while I am confined in an adult correctional facility or juvenile justice facility?

No. You may not consolidate your federal student loans into a new federal consolidation loan until after you're released.

9. How can I receive publications about federal student aid?

If you need a print-out of the FAFSA PDF, ask your facility's education coordinator, or contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 (TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-730-8913).

If you'd like to view any other free Federal Student Aid publications, visit StudentAid.gov/resources.

Have questions? Contact or visit the following:

- StudentAid.gov
- a school's financial aid office
- studentaid@ed.gov
- 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) toll free
- TTY for the deaf or hard of hearing: 1-800-730-8913

February 2019