

Loss of Federal Aid Eligibility Due to Drug-Related Convictions

Under the Higher Education Act (HEA), WAU students may become ineligible for federal and state student aid funds upon conviction of offenses (including conspiring to sell drugs) involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs while receiving Title IV Federal Aid and state financial aid. According to the United States Department of Education, a student convicted of a drug offense after receiving federal aid must notify the Student Financial Services office.

Penalties for drug convictions include:

The penalties for the possession of illegal drugs are

First Offense	Ineligible to receive federal aid for 1 year from the date of conviction
Second Offense	Ineligible to receive federal aid for the 2 years from the date of conviction
Third and Subsequent Offenses	Indefinite ineligibility to receive federal aid from the date of conviction

The penalties for the sale of illegal drugs are

First Offense	Ineligible to receive federal aid for 2 years from the date of conviction
Second and Subsequent Offenses	Indefinite ineligibility to receive federal aid from the date of conviction

To regain eligibility for financial aid funds after being denied for an indefinite period by successfully completing one of the following:

1. Completing a qualifying Federal, State, or local government rehabilitation program that includes two unannounced drug tests. The student must pass the two unannounced drug tests.
2. The reversal, setting aside, or removal of a drug conviction from a record which results in fewer than two convictions for the sale or three convictions for the possession of drugs.

If you have any other questions about the possibility of losing your financial aid because of a drug conviction or regaining your aid after a drug conviction, you may contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at 301.891.4005 or by e-mail at finaid@wau.edu.