

Federal Student Aid Penalties for Drug Convictions

The Higher Education Opportunity Act requires Viterbo University to advise students that a drug conviction for any offense under federal or state law involving possession or sale of illegal drugs, and occurring during a period of enrollment while the student was receiving federal financial aid, can disqualify a student for Federal Student Aid (FSA) funds.

The table below illustrates the period of ineligibility for FSA funds, depending on whether the conviction was for possession or sale, and whether the student had a previous offense(s).

	Possession of Illegal Drugs	Sale of Illegal Drugs
1st Offense	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from date of conviction
2nd Offense	2 years from date of conviction	Indefinite period
3⁺ Offense	Indefinite period	

FSA funds includes, but is not limited to, Federal Direct Loans, Federal Work Study, Federal Pell Grant and Supplemental Opportunity Grant (SEOG).

A student whose eligibility for FSA funds has been suspended based on a conviction for possession or sale of drugs, can regain eligibility the day after the ineligibility period, or, ***before*** the end of the ineligible period if he successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program that includes passing two unannounced drug tests given by the program.

Additional details about the suspension and regaining eligibility will be provided to the student at the time the student completes the FAFSA.