

**Texas County Technical College
Bolivar Technical College
Effective 07/01/2011**

Institutions of higher education are required by law to provide students with a separate, clear, and conspicuous notice advising students of the penalty for convictions of drug-related offenses. If our institution wishes to receive any Title IV federal aid, we are required by federal law to distribute this notice to every student enrolled on our campus. This should not be viewed as a message specific to an individual student or group of students, but rather our response to new federal regulations.

Federally-mandated notice to ALL enrolled students regarding the ramifications of drug convictions on Federal Student Aid eligibility.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS ON FEDERAL AID FOR STUDENTS CONVICTED OF POSSESSION OR SALE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for Federal Student Aid funds. Convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving federal financial aid. Also, a conviction that was reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record does not count, nor does one received when the student was under the age of 18 unless the student was tried as an adult. Federal financial aid programs include: Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Subsidized and Unsubsidized Ford Direct Loans, Parent PLUS loans, or Federal Work-Study.

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.)

	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
3rd offense	Indefinite period	

If a student is 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 the student successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program, or passes two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make the student ineligible again.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain eligibility after successfully completing a rehabilitation program (as described below), including 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. If a student has lost his/her eligibility to participate in Federal Financial Aid programs due to drug convictions, it is the student's responsibility to certify to the Student Financial Assistance Office that the rehabilitation program has been successfully completed.

If a student regains eligibility during the award year, he/she may receive Pell Grant for the current payment period and Ford 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 must 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.