

**IMPORTANT MEMO FROM YOUR OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID AND STUDENT
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

Pursuant to Section 485 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act that was signed into law on August 14, 2008, schools are required to make their students aware of the Federal Drug Violation Penalties under section 484 (r) :

Section 484 (r):

SUSPENSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES -

(1) IN GENERAL.—A student who has been convicted of any offense under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance shall not be eligible to receive any grant, loan, or work assistance under this title during the period beginning on the date of such conviction and ending after the interval specified in the following table:

If convicted of an offense involving:

The possession of a controlled substance: Ineligibility period is:

First offense 1 year
Second offense 2 years
Third offense Indefinite

The sale of a controlled substance: Ineligibility period is:

First offense 2 years
Second offense Indefinite

All students must self-identify his or her eligibility each year by correctly answering the drug related question on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (fafsa).

(2) REHABILITATION.—A student whose eligibility has been suspended under paragraph (1) may resume eligibility before the end of the ineligibility period determined under such paragraph if—

(A) the student satisfactorily completes a drug rehabilitation program that—

(i) complies with such criteria as the Secretary shall prescribe in regulations for purposes of this paragraph; and

(ii) includes two unannounced drug tests;

(B) the student successfully passes two unannounced drug tests conducted by a drug rehabilitation program that complies with such criteria as the Secretary shall prescribe in regulations for purposes of subparagraph (A)(i); or
(C) the conviction is reversed, set aside, or otherwise rendered nugatory.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the term “controlled substance” has the meaning given the term in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802(6)).

If you have any questions pertaining to the Federal Drug Violation penalties, you may contact the Department of Education at 1-800-433-3243.