



The University of Mississippi

Office of Financial Aid

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Policy Name: Student Eligibility for Federal Title IV Funds

Purpose: This document contains the Office of Financial Aid's current policies and procedures for Student Eligibility for Federal Title IV Funds.

Disclaimer: This policy is subject to change, without notice, in order to comply with administrative and regulatory requirements. All policies and procedures below are in accordance with the [Federal Student Aid Handbook](#).

Policy Contents:

- 2.0 Student Eligibility Overview
- 2.1 Eligibility Requirements

Definitions and Terms:

COA – Cost of Attendance
FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
FSA – Federal Student Aid
FSEOG – Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant
OFA – Office of Financial Aid
SSA – Social Security Administration
TEACH - Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant
UM – University of Mississippi

Part 2.0

Student Eligibility Overview

A student must meet certain eligibility criteria to receive Federal Title IV funds (Pell Grant, FSEOG, TEACH, Work-Study, and Direct Loans,). Some requirements are federal (i.e., U.S. citizenship, maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress, not being in default of a student loan), some are determined by UM (i.e., admission/enrollment status).

Students must submit a FAFSA in order to determine eligibility. The following list provides basic student eligibility requirements. The list is not exhaustive. Although each type of financial aid has individual awarding criteria, there are general conditions that must be met to receive Federal Title IV aid.

Basic student eligibility requirements:

- Must be enrolled as a regular student in an eligible academic program (typically degree-seeking, although exceptions exist for teacher certification/recertification).
- Must declare a major within the timeframe established in UM's policy (please refer to the academic catalogue).
- Cannot also be enrolled in elementary or secondary school.
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent (e.g. GED) or been home-schooled at the secondary level.
- Must make satisfactory academic progress. (Refer to OFA policy ["1.2 Satisfactory Academic Progress"](#) for more information.)
- Must meet enrollment status requirements (full-time, half-time, etc., as specified by the aid program.)
- Must have attendance verified, at least once in each class, to confirm enrollment level (see OFA policy on ["Go to Class"](#) and [Class Attendance Verification](#) web page for more information).
- Must have resolved any drug conviction issue. (Refer to policy ["Convicted of Possession/Sale of Drugs"](#)).
- Must not be currently incarcerated. (There are exceptions to this rule. Incarcerated students may qualify for FSEOG and Federal Work-Study, if available. They are also eligible for Federal Pell Grants if not incarcerated in a federal or state prison.) Also, parents are not eligible for a Direct PLUS loan if incarcerated.
- Must be confirmed as a U.S. citizen through the SSA database, OR be approved as a U.S. permanent resident or other eligible non-citizen through a match with Department of Homeland Security records.
- Cannot be in default on an FSA loan or owe an overpayment on an FSA grant. For a parent to receive a PLUS Loan, neither the parent nor the student may be in default or owe an overpayment on an FSA loan or grant (although a parent in default on a PLUS loan does not make a student ineligible for aid).
- Must have a valid Social Security Number with a name and date of birth that matches information in the SSA database.
- Must be registered with Selective Service if required to do so by law.

If any issues need to be resolved regarding these items, the student's FAFSA will be flagged, which blocks awarding and disbursement of Title IV aid. To resolve these issues, a student may contact the OFA or review the "FAFSA Fixes" information available at <http://finaid.olemiss.edu/fafsa-fixes/>.