

Federal Student Aid for Students in Adult Correctional and Juvenile Justice Facilities

Below you'll find answers to questions about how being confined in an adult correctional or a juvenile justice facility affect your eligibility for federal student aid. This information is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice. For more information, see the Department of Education's Student Aid and Corrections page.

1. Am I eligible for federal student aid while I'm confined in an adult correctional facility or a juvenile justice facility?

While you're confined in an adult correctional facility or juvenile justice facility, your eligibility for federal student aid is very limited:

- **Federal Student Loans**—You're not eligible to receive federal student loans while confined in an adult correctional facility or a juvenile justice facility.
- **Federal Pell Grants**—It depends on where you're confined. If you're incarcerated in a federal or state penal institution, you may not receive Federal Pell Grants. However, if you're incarcerated in a local, municipal, or county correctional facility or committed to a juvenile justice facility, and you otherwise meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements, you can receive Federal Pell Grants.
- **Federal Work-Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)**—Although federal law doesn't prohibit students confined in adult correctional facilities or juvenile justice facilities from receiving FWS or FSEOG, your eligibility is limited.

If you're confined in an adult correctional facility or juvenile justice facility and the circumstances described in question 3 below apply to you, you may not be eligible for any federal student aid.

Once you're released, most eligibility limitations will be removed unless the circumstances described in question 3 below apply to you. You may apply for aid before you're released so that there isn't a delay in receiving your aid once you start school.

Important note: Even if you're not eligible for federal student aid, you may still be eligible for aid from your state or school.

2. Am I eligible for federal student aid if I'm released on probation or parole?

In most cases, yes. If you're on probation or parole or living in a halfway house, you may be eligible for federal student aid unless the circumstances described in question 3 below apply to you.

3. What types of convictions affect my eligibility for federal student aid after my release?

If you've been convicted of a forcible or nonforcible sexual offense and you're subject to an involuntary civil commitment upon completion of a period of incarceration for that offense, you're not eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants.

