

## F06. FA Student Eligibility<sup>1</sup>

<b>Applies to:</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Overseer:</b>	Financial Aid Director
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### Policy Statement:

A student is eligible to receive Title IV, HEA program assistance if the student meets all of the requirements listed in this policy.

### Procedure:

#### Eligibility Requirements

An eligible student:

1. Is enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a student in our Launch, AAS, or BS programs
2. Is not enrolled simultaneously in either an elementary or secondary school
3. Is a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen (refer to [Citizenship Requirements](#) below)
4. Has a valid Social Security Number
5. Meets one of the following academic criteria
  - Has a high school diploma
    - This can be from a foreign school if it is equivalent to a U.S. high school diploma
  - Has a recognized equivalent of a high school diploma
    - Recognized equivalent includes:
      - a) TASC certificate (GED)
      - b) A certificate or other official completion document from a state-sanctioned test
      - c) An academic transcript of a student who completed at least a two-year program that is accepted for full credit toward a bachelor's degree
  - Was home-schooled and either
    - Obtained a secondary school completion credential (e.g. TASC/GED) for home school (other than a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent) provided for under State law
    - Has completed secondary school education in a home school setting that qualifies as an exemption from compulsory attendance requirements under State law (If State law does not require a home-schooled student to obtain the school completion credential.)
    - Has been determined by Elim to have the ability to benefit from the education or training offered by Elim based on the satisfactory completion of 6 semester hours, 6 trimester hours, 6 quarter hours, or 225 clock hours that are applicable toward a degree or certificate offered by Elim.
6. Maintains Elim's satisfactory academic progress requirements (see SAP policy)
7. Does not owe a refund on a federal student grant
8. Is not in default and certifies that he/she is not in default on a loan made under any Title IV loan program\*
  - Has not obtained loan amounts that exceed annual or aggregate loan limits for any Title IV loan program

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<sup>1</sup> TRACS Accreditation Standard II.17.12

- Does not have property subject to a judgment lien for a debt owed to the United States; and
  - Is not liable for a Title IV grant overpayment
9. Has not been convicted of an offense involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs\*
10. Has not been convicted of or has not pled guilty to a crime involving fraud in obtaining Title IV funds
- Note: A student who has been convicted or pled guilty to fraud becomes eligible for a Title IV loan after they complete the repayment of such Title IV funds to the Secretary or the loan holder.*
11. Satisfies the program-specific requirements for the following programs
- FWS program (see FWS policy)
  - FSEOG program (see FSEOG policy)
  - William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan programs
  - Federal Pell Grant program
12. Additional requirements apply to specific Title IV programs
- For the Direct Loan program,
    - The student is enrolled for no longer than one twelve-month period in a course of study necessary for enrollment in an eligible program, is taking at least 6 credits per semester, and is not incarcerated
  - For FWS
    - The student is enrolled or accepted for enrollment in at least 6 credits
  - For FSEOG
    - The student does not have a baccalaureate or first professional degree
  - For the Federal Pell Grant Program, the student
    - Does not have a baccalaureate or first professional degree; and
    - Is not incarcerated in a Federal or State penal institution

\*Some exceptions apply, see applicable sections below

### Citizenship Requirements

To be eligible to receive Title IV assistance a student must be

- a U.S. citizen\* or an eligible noncitizen; or
- have a valid Social Security number (with the exception of students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau)

If not a citizen, a student may be eligible as a non-citizen if they

- Provide evidence from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service that he/she
  - Is a permanent resident of the U.S.
  - Or is in the U.S. for other than a temporary purpose to become a citizen or permanent resident
    - a) With a I-551, I-515, or I-551C form—a Green card
      - Permanent Resident card, Resident Alien card, or Alien Registration Receipt card
    - b) An Arrival-Departure Record (I-94 or I-94A) from the Department of Homeland Security with any of the following
      - “Processed for I-551. Temporary Evidence of Lawful Admission for Permanent Residence. Valid until \_\_\_\_\_. Employment Authorized.”
      - Refugee, Asylum Granted, Indefinite Parole, Humanitarian Parole or Cuban-Haitian Entrant
    - c) Is in the U.S. for other than a temporary purpose, and to become a citizen or permanent resident

- d) T-visa (for victims of human trafficking) or parents have a T-1 nonimmigrant status
- e) Battered Immigrant-qualified alien

\*A student who is a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau is considered eligible to receive FWS, FSEOG, and Federal Pell Grant.

If the Social Security Administration does not confirm a student's citizenship, the student can establish U.S. citizenship by submitting documentary evidence of their citizen status to Elim.

Before a student is denied Title IV assistance for failing to establish citizenship, Elim will give the student at least a **30-day** notice to produce evidence of U.S. citizenship. If a student fails to submit the documentation by the set deadline, Elim will not disburse to the student or certify the student as eligible for any Title IV program funds for that period of enrollment or award year.

**Note:** A social security card or a driver's license are not acceptable for documenting citizenship or national status.

### Social Security Number

All FAFSA applicants must have a Social Security Number except for residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

- If the student's social security number is not verified by the SSA or Elim believes the verified social security number is inaccurate, the student can provide evidence to the Financial Aid Office (such as their social security card). Elim will give a student at least **30 days**, or until the end of the award year, whichever is later, to produce that evidence.
  - Elim will not deny, reduce, or terminate a student's eligibility for Title IV funds because verification of their social security number is pending.
  - Elim will not disburse any Title IV funds to a student until Elim is satisfied that the student's reported social security number is accurate.
  - If the student shows the accuracy of a social security number that is not the number the student included on the FAFSA, Elim will notify the Secretary of the student's accurate social security number.
- Nothing in this section permits the Secretary to take any compliance, disallowance, penalty, or other regulatory action against
  - Any institution of higher education concerning any error in a social security number, unless the error was the result of fraud on the part of the institution; or
  - Any student concerning any error in a social security number, unless the error was the result of fraud on the part of the student.

### Student at Default

A student who is in default on a Title IV loan and/or failed to repay such a loan may be eligible to receive Title IV funds if the student

- Repays the loan in full; or
- Makes arrangements that are satisfactory to the holder of the loan and by the individual Title IV program regulations to repay the loan balance: \* and
- Makes at least six consecutive monthly payments under those arrangements\*
  - Voluntary payments are those payments made directly by the borrower and do not include payments obtained by Federal offset, garnishment, or income or asset execution.

\*A student who reestablishes eligibility one of these ways, cannot do so again using either of these options.

A student who is not in default on a Title IV loan, but inadvertently received loan funds that exceeded the annual or aggregate loan limits, may be eligible to receive Title IV program assistance if the student either

- Repays in full the excess loan amount; or
- Makes arrangements, satisfactory to the holder of the loan, to repay that excess loan amount

A student who has property subject to a judgment lien for a debt owed to the United States may nevertheless be eligible to receive Title IV assistance if they either

- Pay the debt in full; or
- Make arrangements, satisfactory to the United States, to pay the debt

A student who receives an overpayment under a Title IV grant program may nevertheless be eligible to receive Title IV assistance if either

- They pay the overpayment in full
- They make arrangements with the holder of the overpayment debt to pay the overpayment
- The overpayment amount is less than \$25 and is neither a remaining balance nor a result of the application of the over-award threshold; or
- The overpayment is an amount that a student is not required to return (see Return of Title IV/Refund Repayments Policy)

A student is not liable

- For a Federal Pell Grant overpayment received in an award year if Elim can eliminate that overpayment by adjusting future Federal Pell Grant payments in that same award year
- For an FSEOG overpayment received in an award year if Elim can eliminate that overpayment by adjusting future Title IV program (other than Federal Pell Grant) payments in that same award year

A student who otherwise is in default on a Title IV loan or owes an overpayment for a Title IV grant is not considered to be in default or owe an overpayment if they either

- Obtain a judicial determination that the debt has been discharged or is dischargeable in bankruptcy; or
- Demonstrate to the holder of the debt that
  - When the student filed the petition for bankruptcy relief, the loan or demand for the payment of the overpayment, had been outstanding for the required period
  - The debt otherwise qualified to be voided under bankruptcy law
- For a student who has been convicted of, or has pled nolo contendere or guilty to a crime involving fraud in obtaining Title IV program assistance, has completed the repayment of such assistance to either
  - The Secretary; or
  - The holder, in the case of a Title IV program loan

#### Financial Aid History

If a student transfers from another institution to Elim during the same award year, Elim will request and obtain from the Secretary, through NSLDS, the following information

- Whether the student owes an overpayment on any Title IV program grant
- The student's Scheduled Federal Pell Grant Award and the amount of Federal Pell Grant funds disbursed to the student for that award year
- Any outstanding principal balance of loans made to the student under each of the Title IV loan programs; and
- The amount of and period of enrollment for loans made to the student under each of the Title IV loan programs for that academic year

Elim will not make a disbursement to that student unless the requested information is received from NSLDS and that information allows for disbursement to the student.

#### Selective Service

As of the 2021-2022 school year, male students are no longer required to register for selective service before the age of 26. Failing to register with the Selective Service will no longer impact a student's Title IV aid eligibility.

#### Conviction for Possession or Sale of Illegal Drugs

In December 2020, The FAFSA Simplification Act amended Section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) and enacted into law the elimination of the prohibition on receiving Title IV aid for students with drug-related convictions. A student having a drug conviction while receiving Title IV aid will no longer impact a student's Title IV aid eligibility if they meet all other eligibility requirements.

For further information, refer to the Penalties for Drug Law Violations Policy.