General Student Eligibility Requirements for Title IV Federal Aid

Summary/Purpose: General student eligibility requirements for Title IV federal aid

A student must meet certain eligibility requirements to receive financial aid. Although each type of financial aid has various requirements, there are general conditions that must be met to receive Federal Title IV aid; however, this list is not exhaustive of every requirement. Five conditions are as follows:

I. Basic student eligibility requirements:
   1. must be enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program that is not elementary/secondary enrollment
   2. must have a high school diploma or equivalent, pass an approved ability-to-benefit test, or have been homeschooled
   3. must make satisfactory progress
   4. must meet enrollment status requirements
   5. must have resolved any drug conviction issue

II. Citizenship requirement
   1. U.S. citizens matched with Social Security Administration (SSA) database or
   2. U.S. permanent residents matched against DHS records

III. Default of Student Loan or Overpayment of FSA grant
   1. A person generally is not eligible for FSA funds if he/she is in default on an FSA loan or he/she owes an overpayment on an FSA grant or loan and he/she has not made a repayment arrangement for the default or overpayment.
   2. 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 (though a parent in default on a PLUS loan does not make a student ineligible for aid).

IV. Social Security Name and Social Security Number Match
   1. The FAFSA collects the student’s Social Security Number (SSN) so that the Department can verify it through a match with the Social Security Administration.
   2. The Social Security Administration and the FAFSA processing system work together to conduct the match verifying that the student’s SSN is valid and that the name and birth date associated with that SSN match the name and birth date provided by the student.

V. Selective Service Requirement
   1. Anyone required to register with Selective Service at any time must have done so to receive aid.
   2. The Department performs a match with Selective Service to confirm a student’s registration.