

Students can lose financial eligibility for any grant, loan, or work-study assistance as a result of penalties under 484(r)(1) of the Higher Education Act (HEA). Below is the text and timeline associated with the ineligibility period as well as the ways in which to regain eligibility under section 484(r)(2) of the HEA ([20 U.S.C. 1091\(r\)\(2\)](#)).

Section 484

(r) Suspension of eligibility for drug-related offenses

(1) In general

A student who is convicted of any offense under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance for conduct that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving any grant, loan, or work assistance under this subchapter shall not be eligible to receive any grant, loan, or work assistance under this subchapter from the date of that conviction for the period of time 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.

(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 802(6) of title 21.