

Incarcerated Student Policy

12-9-16

Incarceration does not make a student “independent” or a “ward of the court”. The student must fill out the FAFSA based on their accurate dependency status as asked in questions 48-56. A student isn’t considered incarcerated (and thus barred from potential Pell eligibility) if he or she is in a halfway house or home detention or is sentenced to serve only on weekends, or if he/she is confined in any sort of facility prior to the imposition of any criminal sentence or juvenile disposition while awaiting trial.

Cost of Attendance

The cost of attendance for students who are incarcerated in local penal institutions is limited to tuition and fees and the price of books and supplies specifically related to the student’s course of study.

Federal & State Penal Institutions

Students incarcerated in federal and state penal institutions aren’t eligible for Pell Grants.

Local and County Penal Institutions

Students incarcerated in local and county penal institutions are potentially eligible for Pell.

Juvenile Justice Facility

A student confined or incarcerated in a juvenile justice facility is potentially eligible for Pell.

Case-by-case review

A case-by-case review of the incarcerated student’s charges must be made to determine eligibility prior to awarding. A student cannot receive a Pell Grant if he or she is subject to an involuntary civil commitment following incarceration for a sexual offense (as determined under the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program). A student cannot receive Federal Student Aid if they have been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs while they were previously receiving federal student (such as grants, loans or work study).