

Notice of penalties associated with drug-related offenses

As stated in the Lone Star College Board Policy: Anyone registered in, or in attendance at, one of the LSC's Colleges is prohibited from the possession, use, or distribution of unauthorized drug and alcohol. Descriptions of the applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law and of the health risks associated with the use of unauthorized drugs and the abuse of alcohol will be made available to students. Any student seeking assistance and/or resources for drug and alcohol use may contact an LSC counselor. LSC counselors maintain a current community resource information on area counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation programs. LSC counselors can discuss alcohol and other drug use with students and can advise student about referrals and hot to help a friend who may have a problem.

Under Texas Controlled Substance Act, the potential penalty for possession or distribution of a controlled substance depends on which penalty group the drug is in, how much of the drug is possessed, the presence of a minor, and a number of other factors. Penalties range from fines to state jail, to state prison depending on the offense.

For students who are attempting to receive Federal Title IV Aid (FSA Funds) a conviction of possession or sale of drugs during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving federal student aid the following penalties apply:

	Possession of Illegal drugs		Sale of illegal Drugs
1st offense	Ineligible for aid for 1 year from the date of conviction		Ineligible for aid for 2 years from the date of conviction
2nd offense	Ineligible for aid for 2 years from the date of conviction		Ineligible for aid for an indefinite period
3+ offenses	Ineligible for aid for an indefinite period		

If the student was convicted of both possessing and selling illegal drugs, and the periods of ineligibility are different, the student will be ineligible for the longer period. Schools must provide each student who becomes ineligible for FSA funds due to a drug conviction a clear and conspicuous written notice of his loss of eligibility and the methods whereby he can become eligible again.

A student regains eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends; or when he or she successfully completes a qualified drug rehabilitation program that includes passing two unannounced drug tests given by such a program. Further drug convictions will make him ineligible again.

Students denied eligibility for an indefinite period can regain eligibility after completing any of the following 3 options:

1. Successfully complete a rehabilitation program, as described below, which includes passing two unannounced drug tests from such a program;
2. Having the conviction reversed, set aside, or removed from the student's record so that fewer than two convictions for sale or three convictions for possession remain on the record; or
3. Successfully completing two unannounced drug tests which are part of a rehab program (the student does not need to complete the rest of the program).

In such cases, the nature and dates of the remaining convictions will determine when the student regains eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to certify to you that he has successfully completed the rehabilitation program; as with the conviction question on the FAFSA.

Standards for a qualified drug rehabilitation program

A qualified drug rehabilitation program must include at least two unannounced drug tests and satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

- Be qualified to receive funds directly or indirectly from a federal, state or local government program.
- Be qualified to receive payment indirectly or indirectly from a federally or state-licensed insurance company.
- Be administered or recognized by a federal, state, or local government agency or court.
- Be administered or recognized by a federally or state-licensed hospital, health clinic, or medical doctor.