Policy Name: Student Eligibility for Federal Title IV Funds

Purpose: This document contains the Office of Financial Aid’s current policies and procedures for Student Eligibility for Federal Title IV Funds.

Disclaimer: This policy is subject to change, without notice, in order to comply with administrative and regulatory requirements. All policies and procedures below are in accordance with Title 34; Subtitle B; Chapter VI; Part 668; Subpart E of the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR).

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Definitions and Terms:

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
COA – Cost of Attendance
OFA – Office of Financial Aid
TEACH - Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant
UM – University of Mississippi

Part 2.0 Student Eligibility Overview

A student must meet certain eligibility criteria to receive Federal Title IV funds (Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, TEACH, Federal Work-Study, Federal Direct Loans, and Perkins Loans. Some requirements are federal (i.e., U.S. citizenship, maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress, not being in default of a student loan), some are determined by UM (i.e., admission/enrollment status).
The following list provides basic student eligibility requirements. The list is not exhaustive. Although each type of financial aid has requirements, there are general conditions that must be met to receive Federal Title IV aid.

Basic student eligibility requirements:

- Must be enrolled as a regular student in an eligible program.
- Cannot also be enrolled in elementary or secondary school.
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent (e.g. GED) or been home-schooled at the secondary level.
- Must make satisfactory academic progress. (Refer to policy “1.2 Satisfactory Academic Progress” for more information.)
- Must meet enrollment status requirements.
- Must have resolved any drug conviction issue. (Refer to policy “Convicted of Possession/Sale of Drugs”.
- Must not be currently incarcerated. (There are exceptions to this rule. Incarcerated students may qualify for FSEOG and Federal Work-Study if available. They are also eligible for Federal Pell Grants if not incarcerated in a federal or state prison.)
- Must be confirmed as a U.S. citizen through the Social Security Administration (SSA) database, OR be approved as a U.S. permanent resident or other eligible non-citizen through a match with Department of Homeland Security records.
- Cannot be in default on an Federal Student Aid (FSA) loan or owe an overpayment on an FSA grant (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, although a parent in default on a PLUS loan does not make a student ineligible for aid).
- Must have a valid Social Security Number with a name and date of birth that matches information in the SSA database.
- Must be registered with Selective Service if required to do so by law.

If any issues need to be resolved regarding these items, the student’s FAFSA will be flagged, which blocks awarding and disbursement of Title IV aid. To resolve these issues, a student may contact the OFA or review the “FAFSA Fixes” information available at http://finaid.olemiss.edu/fafsa-fixes/.