



**State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families**

**Charlie Crist**  
*Governor*

**George H. Sheldon**  
*Secretary*

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**TO:** ACCESS Florida Operations Managers  
ACCESS Florida Program Offices

**FROM:** Nathan Lewis, Chief, Program Policy    **(Signature on File)**

**SUBJECT:** Students In Institutions of Higher Education

**EFFECTIVE:** Upon Receipt

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This memorandum clarifies food stamp eligibility for students in institutions of higher education. We have added this information to the policy manual in the recent manual updates.

**Policy:**

To be eligible for food stamp benefits, a student must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Be age 17 or under or 50 or older;
2. Be physically or mentally, unfit. An individual is physically or mentally unfit if they are:
  - o Receiving temporary or permanent disability benefits from government or private sources; or
  - o Obviously physically or mentally, unfit. Individuals meet this criteria, if the impairment is so severe that they are not only unable to do their previous work but cannot, considering their education and experience, hold any other kind of job in the national, state, or local economy.

If the unfitness is not obvious, get written or verbal verification from a physician, physician's assistant, nurse, nurse practitioner, designated representative of the physician's office, licensed or certified psychologist, social worker, or other medical personnel. Assist the individual in providing the verification.

3. Be receiving Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA);
4. Be enrolled in the school because of participation in TANF related work programs at the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) under Title IV of the Social Security Act;
5. Be working at least 20 hours per week and paid for the work (with no allowance for substitution of wages equal to 20 times the Federal minimum wage), or self-employed at least 20 hours per week and receiving payment for the work at least equal to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours per week.

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6. Be participating in a State or federally financed work-study program during the regular school term. The student must have approval for work-study when they apply for food stamp benefits and anticipate actually participating in work-study during the school term. This exemption does not continue during term breaks of more than a full month unless the student participates in work-study during the break.
7. Be participating in an on-the-job training program. This exemption applies only while the employer is training the individual;
8. Be responsible for care of a dependent household member under age 6;
9. Be responsible for care of a dependent household member age 6 to 12 when adequate child care is unavailable to allow the student to attend class and comply with the requirements of working 20 hours per week or attend class and participate in a State or federally financed work study.
10. Be single parents enrolled in school full-time and responsible for care of a dependent child under age 12 when there is only one natural, adoptive, or step-parent in the same food stamp household; or
11. Be assigned in school to comply with requirements of JTPA, Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET), the Trade Act, or State or local government E & T program where components are the same as required in the FSET program.

If there are policy questions, circuit/region offices may contact Connie Mathers at (850) 921-5578.

cc: Director (Jennifer Lange)  
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