

Student Eligibility Requirements

Federal and State Eligibility Requirements

1. **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** A student must file a FAFSA to establish eligibility for federal, state and institutional funded grant and loan programs. The State of Iowa has a filing deadline of July 1 in order to be considered for state-funded financial assistance.
2. **Regular student in an eligible program:** A regular student is someone who is enrolled for the purpose of obtaining a degree or certificate.
3. **Elementary or secondary enrollment:** A student who is concurrently enrolled in high school and at Ellsworth Community College is not considered a "regular student," nor is he/she eligible for financial aid.
4. **Academic qualifications:** Students must be accepted for admission and matriculated by the ECC Admissions Office in order to receive financial assistance.
5. **Satisfactory Academic Progress:** A student must attend classes on a regular basis and meet Ellsworth Community College's satisfactory academic progress standards.
6. **Citizenship:** A student must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen. For any student who fails the Social Security match for citizenship or the Department of Homeland Security match for permanent residency on their FAFSA application, the Financial Aid Office requires confirmation or documentation of status as specified by federal regulations.
7. **Social Security Administration:** If a student's application fails the Social Security match on their FAFSA application, the Financial Aid Office is required to resolve the discrepancy. Typically such discrepancies can be resolved by submitting a copy of the student's Social Security card to the Financial Aid Office.
8. **Selective Service Registration:** General registration requirements apply to males who are at least 18 years old and were born after Dec. 31, 1959. Any student who is required to register but fails to do so is ineligible for federal student aid.
9. **Defaulted student loans and overpayments of federal student aid:** A student must certify that he/she is not in default on a federal student loan and does not owe an overpayment on a federal grant or loan.
10. **Conviction for possession or sale of illegal drugs:** A federal or state drug conviction can disqualify a student for financial aid funds. A student self-certifies on the FAFSA application that he/she has never been convicted of possessing or selling drugs for an offense that occurred while he/she was receiving federal student aid. A student who is unsure if the nature and date of a conviction is disqualifying him/her from receiving financial aid should contact the Department of Education at 1-800-433-3243 for clarification.
11. **Verification of FAFSA application date:** A student selected for verification must comply with the guidelines as outlined below. Students may be selected for verification by the U.S. Department of Education or Ellsworth Community College. The verification process is mandated by the U.S. Department of Education. Some students are selected for specific reasons and others are randomly chosen. The process is designed to ensure that the data on the FAFSA correlates with the information reported on the federal income tax return.

If the student is notified by the Financial Aid Office to complete the verification process, the following must be noted:

- A. The student and parent/spouse are responsible for providing supporting data including:
 - 1. Completed verification worksheet(s)
 - 2. Copies of tax return transcripts for both student and parent/spouse
 - 3. Other required documentation as requested by the Financial Aid Office
- B. This data is urgent and must be provided **immediately**.
- C. Failure to provide this data by the end of the first semester can result in the loss of campus-based federal funds to the student.
- D. Financial assistance will **not** be credited to the student's account until this process is completed.

Campus-based federal funds will not be reversed if a student fails to complete the verification process in a timely matter.