



Training Corner

Everything you need to know about student eligibility for SNAP benefits.

September is “going back to school” month and a good time to review student eligibility for SNAP benefits and how DTA defines a student and determines eligibility. To be considered a student, an individual must be between the ages of **18 and 49** and enrolled **at least half-time** in an institution of **post-secondary education***, a vocational or technical school at any level, a program that provides for completion of a secondary school diploma or the equivalent, or a school at any level for individuals with physical or mental disabilities.

* Post-secondary education – an institution that requires the completion of a secondary school diploma or the equivalent.

What are the eligibility requirements for students? (106 CMR 362.410)

| Is the Client a Parent or Caretaker? |
|--|
| A single parent responsible for a child under age 12, <u>regardless of availability of child care</u> ; or |
| Caring for a child age 6 to 12 where adequate child care is not available to enable the student to attend both school and work 20 hours a week; or |
| Caring for a dependent child under the age of 6; or |
| Receiving TAFDC benefits |

| Is the Client Employed? |
|---|
| Working at least a 20 hours a week averaged monthly; or |
| Self-employed earning at least the federal minimum wage (as of 9/2012, \$7.25) multiplied by 20 hours; or |
| Participating in a federally or state-funded work study program |

Other student eligibility requirements:

- Attending a Community College in Massachusetts and participating in certain Perkins program. (FO 2010-28)
 - √ Verified by completion of the Community College Enrollment Verification form (CCE-I) or documentation from the educational institution verifying student eligibility status.
 - Be assigned to or placed in an institution of higher learning through: a program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974; an employment and training program under the Food and Nutrition Act; or an employment and training program operated by a state or local government.
 - √ Verified by documentation from the educational institution verifying student eligibility status.
-

(Continued on page 4)



Training Corner *(Continued from Page 3)*

What is the definition of student continuous enrollment?

The enrollment status of a student begins on the first day of the school term of the institution. Such enrollment continues through normal periods of class attendance, vacation and recess unless the student graduates, is suspended or expelled, drops out, or does not intend to register for the next normal school term (excluding summer school). (106 CMR 362.420)

What educational income is excluded?

The following educational loans, grants and scholarships are **excluded from calculations**:

106 CMR 363.230 (D)

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Any grant or scholarship to a student, the terms of which preclude its use to meet current living costs; | (4) Student financial assistance for attendance costs, such as, but not limited to, tuition, fees, equipment or books, under programs developed pursuant to the Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act; |
| (2) Any grant or loan to an undergraduate student for educational purposes made or insured under any program administered by the U.S. Secretary of Education; | (5) Work-study income of undergraduate students under a federally assisted work-study program. |
| (3) Student financial assistance provided under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 or under the Bureau of Indian Affairs Education Assistance programs; | <i>Note: use the Education Income and Expenses form (EDUC-I) or financial letter from the college to verify financial aid or education loans. Refer to (FO 2004-9)</i> |

Important: Students that do not meet these eligibility requirements are nonhousehold members and not eligible for SNAP. Their income and resources are **not** considered in determining the household's eligibility and benefit level. (106 CMR 361.230)

Diversity Quote

"Diversity has been written into the DNA of American life; any institution that lacks a rainbow array has come to seem diminished, if not diseased."

Joe Klein