

Expanded SNAP for College Students during COVID:

Proofs Needed to Qualify



This chart summarizes DTA’s guidance on SNAP eligibility and verification rules for college students, including recent changes made due to COVID that expanded SNAP access for students. For more information about SNAP and special eligibility rules for college students, including outreach and Know Your Rights fliers and DTA’s Feb 2021 guidance, visit [MassLegalServices.org/Food4Students](https://www.masslegalservices.org/food4students).

A. Community college students may be SNAP eligible if	
Student has a declared major .	→ Copy of any college document that shows their major. No further documentation needed.
If NO declared major ...	→ Student needs to meet one of the options below.
B. 4-year college and 2-year private college students may be eligible if	
Student receives any of the following in financial aid :	→ Financial aid award letter or other proof of a Work Study award (proof of work study wages is <u>not</u> required), or
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Study • MASSGrant • Maximum Pell Grant¹ 	→ Financial aid award letter including MASSGrant or the maximum Pell Grant, or
<u>OR</u>	→ Copy of Dept. of Higher Ed email letter sent to student ² , or
Student has an Expected Family Contribution of \$0	→ Any proof that the student’s Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is \$0.
	<i>NOTE: If the student has a hard time getting proof, DTA’s guidance says “a self-declaration will be accepted as a last resort.”</i>
C. All other students (not listed above) may be eligible if	
Student receives TAFDC or has a child under 12 (some special rules apply)	→ DTA doesn’t need proof (they have information in the case record already, or it can be self-declared).
Student has an incapacity or disability (short or long term)	→ If DTA already has proof of a disability benefit (such as SSDI/SSI), no further proof needed → Proof enrolled through the Mass Rehab Commission (if applicable) <u>or</u> → Statement from health care provider.
Student working for pay average of 20 hrs/week	→ Proof of wages and work hours.
Attending less than half time	→ Can be self-declared unless questionable.
In school through SNAP ET, WIOA or other training program	→ Tell DTA and DTA will evaluate.

Mass Law Reform Institute, February 2021

¹ Pell Grant Maximums: \$3,172/semester full time, \$2,379/semester ¾ time, \$1,586/semester part time

² Attached is the sample Dept. of Higher Ed (DHE) letter emailed in early February 2021 that also qualifies students who got the email.