

MASSGrant Ineligible Conditions Information

The information below, describes each reason that may be listed on a student's 2011-2012 MASSGrant letter of ineligibility. Please read the descriptions carefully and follow the instructions to correct each discrepancy, on-line at <http://www.osfa.mass.edu>, or by submitting required documentation to the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA), as may be necessary.

A student and/or an institution has three (3) weeks from the date on the first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility to the student to clear the discrepancies that initially make that student ineligible for a MASSGrant. Should the student become eligible for a MASSGrant after all discrepancies are cleared, he/she will receive an Award Notification letter from the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance. The institution will also have on-line access to the change in the student's eligibility status.

PRIOR BACHELOR'S DEGREE

MASSGrant awards are made to students who have not completed their first bachelor's degree or its equivalent. If a student does not have a prior bachelor's degree or its equivalent and the information he/she reported on the 2011-2012 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was incorrect, he/she can go the "Students" section of OSFA's website at <http://www.osfa.mass.edu>, log on to the MASSAid system, select "My MASSGrant" and correct the "PRIOR BACHELOR'S DEGREE" discrepancy on-line. At the time that the student corrects the "PRIOR BACHELOR'S DEGREE" discrepancy, OSFA's on-line MASSGrant system automatically re-determines the student's eligibility for the MASSGrant program and can issue a revised and printable notification regarding eligibility. **The "PRIOR BACHELOR'S DEGREE" discrepancy must be corrected within three (3) weeks of the date on the student's first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility.**

INELIGIBLE SCHOOL

To receive a MASSGrant, a student must attend an eligible participating school in Massachusetts or an approved school in a state that has reciprocity agreement with the Commonwealth. States that have reciprocity agreements with Massachusetts include CT, NH, PA, RI, VT, ME and the District of Columbia. A student can go to the "Students" section of OSFA's website at <http://www.osfa.mass.edu>, log on to the MASSAid system, select my "My MASSGrant" correct their "INELIGIBLE SCHOOL" discrepancy by reporting a MASSGrant eligible school that they will be attending during the fall and spring terms of the academic year 2011-2012. When a student corrects his/her "INELIGIBLE SCHOOL" discrepancy and report another institution that he/she will be attending, OSFA's on-line MASSGrant system automatically re-determines that student's eligibility for the MASSGrant program and make available a revised and printable notification regarding that eligibility. **The "INELIGIBLE SCHOOL" discrepancy must be corrected within three (3) weeks of the date on the student's first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility.**

NAME/SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER MISMATCH

The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance has received information from the Federal Processing Center that they were unable to match the name and Social Security number that the student reported on their 2011-2012 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the Federal Social Security database. The student may access and correct his/her 2011-2012 FAFSA data at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> When the student accesses the Department of Education's web site, he/she simply clicks the "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA" option and follows the instructions. If the student needs assistance with making FAFSA corrections on-line, he/she can contact the Federal Student Information Center at 1-800-433-3243. The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance continues to receive electronic FAFSA corrections from the Federal Processing Center and updates students' MASSGrant records, as appropriate. **A student's "SOCIAL SECURITY" discrepancy must be corrected within three (3) weeks of the date on the student's first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility.**

STUDENT/PARENT NOT CURRENTLY MEETING MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance notifies a student when Massachusetts residency information provided on their 2011-2012 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for parent and/or student is either discrepant or insufficient. To prove Massachusetts residency, the student and/or parent must provide evidence that they will have lived in the State for a period of at least twelve (12) months prior to the start of the academic year 2011-2012. For academic year 2011-2012, students and/or their parents are required to submit copies of **both** their 2009 and 2010 state tax returns as proof of their residency in Massachusetts. In cases where actual 2009 and 2010 state tax returns are not available, OSFA may accept alternate forms of documentation. When sending documentation to OSFA to clear Massachusetts residency discrepancy, the student is required to print, by clicking the following 2011-2012 [Massachusetts Residency Reply Form](#) link, complete and include it with the documentation. Alternate types of documentation are listed on the Massachusetts Residency Reply Form. The student will need to indicate on the Residency Reply Form the type of documentation that is being submitted for student and/or parent. **The student's and/or parents' Massachusetts residency discrepancy must be resolved with OSFA within three (3) weeks of the date on the student's first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility.**

LESS THAN FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

A student must be enrolled on a full-time basis in order to receive a MASSGrant. A student who needs to correct his/her enrollment information in order to receive further consideration for the MASSGrant program can go to the "Students" section of OSFA's website at <http://www.osfa.mass.edu>, log on to (firstly, create an account, as necessary) the MASSAid system, select "My MASSGrant" and update enrollment information for the 2011-2012 academic year. At the time that the student updates his/her enrollment status information, the on-line MASSAid processing system automatically re-determines eligibility for the MASSGrant program and provides a revised printable notification of eligibility. **Any new enrollment status information must be received by OSFA within three (3) weeks of the date on the student's first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility.**

DENIAL BASED ON FINANCIAL AID NEED CRITERIA

In order to be considered for a MASSGrant, a student must have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that is between zero (0) and 5273. In the case of a student whose personal and family circumstances have changed since the filing of the 2011-2012 FAFSA or who believes that some of their original FAFSA information is incorrect, he/she may wish to contact the financial aid office at the school for advice and assistance. A student may also correct his/her 2011-2012 FAFSA data by going to the Federal Student Aid website at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. and use a pin number to access his/her record. When the student accesses the Department of Education's web site, he/she clicks the "Make Correction to a Processed FAFSA" option and follows the instructions. The student can also contact the Federal Student Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 to obtain assistance with making corrections to his/her 2011-2012 FAFSA record. OSFA continuously receives electronic FAFSA corrections and those corrections are used to update students' MASSGrant records, as appropriate. **All corrections that can impact a student's eligibility for a MASSGrant must be received by OSFA within three (3) weeks of the date on that student's first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility.**

MISSING INFORMATION

The "Missing Information" discrepancy means that the information that OSFA received from a student's 2011-2012 FAFSA was not sufficient to determine his/her eligibility for a MASSGrant. The student should contact the Federal Student Information Center at 1-800-433-3243, or the financial aid office at his/her school, for assistance. A student can also access and update his/her 2011-2012 FAFSA on-line at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. using their pin number. When the student accesses the Department of Education's site, he/she simply clicks the "Make Corrections to a Processed FAFSA" option and follows the instructions. OSFA continuously receives electronic FAFSA corrections from the Federal Processing Center and those corrections are used to update students' MASSGrant records, as appropriate. **All corrections and updates that can impact a student's eligibility for a MASSGrant must be received by OSFA within three (3) weeks of the date on the student's first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility.**

LATE APPLICATION

In order to be considered as an eligible on-time applicant for the 2011-2012 MASSGrant program, a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must have been received by the Federal Processing Center no later than May 1, 2011. If the receipt date indicated on a student's FAFSA record is incorrect, he/she can write to the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance to request a review of such a FAFSA record. The letter from the student that requests the review must be accompanied by a copy of their first (transaction 01) Student Aid Report proving that their completed 2011-2012 FAFSA application was received by the Federal processor on or before May 1, 2011. **Any correction to the student's 2011-2012 FAFSA receipt date must be resolved with the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance within three (3) weeks of the date on the student's first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility.**

RECEIVED MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTERS OF ELIGIBILITY

MASSGrant awards are limited to a specific number of semesters of eligibility, based on the type of institution and program the student is enrolled in and as follows:

<u>School Program Length</u>	<u>Cumulative Semesters of Eligibility</u>
5 years (only for pre-approved programs)	10
4 years	8
3 years	6
2 years	4
1 year	2

The cumulative number of semesters of eligibility represents the total number of MASSGrant awards a student can receive for attendance at any particular school type and/or program. Any previous MASSGrant awards received, count against any remaining eligibility. A student can review his/her MASSGrant award history on OSFA's web site at <http://www.osfa.mass.edu/>. When students accesses OSFA's web site, they need to select the "Students" option and log on to the MASSAid system to access their record to review their MASSGrant payment history.

CURRENTLY IN DEFAULT OF A MASSACHUSETTS STATE LOAN

Students who are in default of a Massachusetts State loan are not eligible to receive assistance from Massachusetts state financial aid programs, until such a status is cleared. The student needs to contact the loan servicer, Educational Computer Systems Inc. (ECSI), at 1-888-549-3274 for further information regarding their Massachusetts State loan default. **Students who need to resolve their loan default status must do so within three (3) weeks of the date on their first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility.**

DRUG QUESTION (#23) ON 2011-2012 FAFSA

A student who either provided a "YES" answer to question #23 of the 2011-2012 FAFSA OR did not answer question 23 at all is not eligible to receive a MASSGrant, until all matters relating to question #23 are resolved with the Federal Processing Center. The student should contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243. **The above matter must be resolved within three (3) weeks of the date on the student's first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility, in order for the student to receive further consideration for the MASSGrant program.**

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT AND/OR REFUND OWED ON FEDERAL/STATE FINANCIAL AID

A student who either is in default of a Federal student loan or owe a refund on Federal/State financial aid previously received is not eligible for a MASSGrant or any other State financial aid program. If the student is in default of a Federal student loan or owe a refund on a Federal grant, he/she should contact the financial aid office at his/her institution. If the student owes a refund on previously received Massachusetts State financial aid, he/she should contact the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance at 617-727-9420. **The student has three (3) weeks from the date on his/her first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility to resolve this matter.**

CITIZENSHIP STATUS

A student whose citizenship status information reported on their 2011-2012 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can not be verified by the Federal processor, is not eligible to receive a MASSGrant or assistance from any other State financial aid program. Please contact the financial aid office at your school or the Federal Student Aid Program at 1-800-433-3243 for assistance. **The student has three (3) weeks from the date of his/her first MASSGrant letter of ineligibility to resolve the citizenship status discrepancy.**



MASSGrant Ineligible Conditions Information 2011-2012

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