

# NOTICE OF FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PENALTIES FOR DRUG LAW VIOLATIONS

Vantage College is committed to maintaining a safe and healthful environment for members of the College community by promoting a drug-free environment as well as one free of the abuse of alcohol. Violations of this policy will be handled according to existing policies and procedures concerning the conduct of faculty, staff and students.

## **Federal Financial Aid Penalties for Drug Violations**

The following notice provides information about the Title IV federal financial aid penalties associated with drug-related offenses under section 484(r) of the Higher Education Act. It also describes how to regain eligibility for such financial aid after conviction of a drug-related offense.

As prescribed in Section 484(r), a student convicted of any offense under any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of a controlled substance during a period of enrollment when he or she was receiving any grant, loan, or work assistance under Title IV will be ineligible to receive such assistance for the following period of time:

- For one year from the date of conviction for the first offense involving the possession of a controlled substance
- For two years from the date of conviction for the second offense involving the possession of a controlled substance
- Indefinitely from the date of conviction for the third offense involving the possession of a controlled substance
- For two years from the date of conviction for the first offense involving the sale of a controlled substance
- Indefinitely from the date of conviction for the second offense involving the sale of a controlled substance

## **Student Responsibilities if Convicted During Period of Enrollment**

According to the US Department of Education,

If a student is convicted of a drug offense after receiving Federal aid, they must notify the Office of Financial Aid immediately.

That student will:

- Be immediately ineligible for further aid and will be required to pay back all aid received after the loss of eligibility.
- Be required to self-certify their eligibility for Federal aid with regard to drug convictions on the FAFSA.
- If a student has been convicted of a drug offense while applying to receive Title IV Federal financial aid, they are required to report the conviction on the corresponding item number of the FAFSA.

For additional information on this requirement call a Federal representative at 1-800-433-3243.

**Regaining Eligibility**

A student whose eligibility has been suspended under the previous provision may resume eligibility before the end of the prescribed ineligibility period by one of the following means:

- The student satisfactorily completes a drug rehabilitation program that complies with criteria the Secretary of Education prescribes and includes two unannounced drug tests.
- The conviction is reversed, set aside, or otherwise rendered nugatory.

It is the student's responsibility to certify to the Office of Financial Aid that they have successfully completed a rehabilitation program.