

SNAP Rules Change for Higher Education Students FAQs

Why are student rules changing now?

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, a law was passed that made more students temporarily eligible for SNAP. These rules applied to students with an Expected Family Contribution of \$0 and students eligible to participate in State or Federally financed work-study. Now, the COVID-19 public health emergency is coming to an end. This means the temporary student rules will begin phasing out in June 2023.

Who is considered a student?

For SNAP purposes, you are a student if you are enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education. This means you are enrolled in:

- A regular curriculum at a college or university, such as a bachelor's degree program; or
- A business, technical, trade, or vocational school that normally requires a high school diploma or a General Education Degree (GED).

The institution of higher education determines what is considered half-time enrollment. Your college, university, or school can tell you your enrollment status.

What do you need to do?

- If you apply for SNAP on or before June 9, 2023, and you are considered a student, you may qualify under the temporary student rules.
- If you apply for SNAP on or after June 10, 2023, and you are considered a student, you **must** meet a student exemption and all other SNAP eligibility requirements.
- If your certification period ends in April, May or June, and you recertify for SNAP by June 30, 2023, and you are still considered a student, you may still qualify under the temporary student rules. Complete your recertification as normal.
- If you recertify for SNAP *after* June 30, 2023, and you are still considered a student, you **must** meet a student exemption and other SNAP eligibility requirements.

What are the student exemptions?

If you recertify after June 30, 2023, you might still be eligible for SNAP. Generally, students attending an institution of higher education more than half-time **must** meet a student exemption to be eligible for SNAP.

Students qualify for a student exemption if they:

- Are under age 18 or are age 50 or older.

- Have a physical or mental disability.
- Work at least 20 hours a week in paid employment.
- Participate in a State or federally financed work study program.
- Participate in an on-the-job training program.
- Care for a child under the age of 6.
- Care for a child age 6 to 11 and lack the necessary childcare enabling you to attend school and work 20 hours a week or participate in work study.
- Are a single parent enrolled full-time in college and taking care of a child under 12.
- Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- Are assigned to, placed in, or self-placed in a college or other institution of higher education through certain employment and training programs, such as the SNAP Employment & Training program.

What happens if you do not meet a student exemption?

If you are a student and do not meet a student exemption at the initial application, your application may be denied. If at your next recertification, you no longer meet a student exemption, your benefits may decrease or end.

If you lose your SNAP benefits, how can you get them back?

If you are a student and start meeting a student exemption, **you can get SNAP benefits again.** You can reapply for SNAP online, in-person, or over the phone by calling 1-877-423-4746. You can also get SNAP benefits again if something changes and there are reasons you no longer need to meet a student exemption. For example, you may get SNAP benefits back if you are enrolled less than half-time or are no longer a student.

If you have questions or need more information, please call us at 1-877-423-4746.