

Selective Service and Financial Aid Eligibility

WHAT IS SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION?

Selective Service registration provides the federal government with a list of men from which to draw in case of a national emergency that would require a rapid expansion of our Armed Forces.

WHO MUST REGISTER WITH SELECTIVE

All men between the ages of 18-26 are required to register under the law. The exceptions to this rule are very few and include: nonimmigrant aliens on student, visitor, or diplomatic visas, men on active-duty in the U.S. Armed Forces; and cadets and midshipmen in the Service Academies and certain other U.S. military colleges. All other men must register upon reaching age 18 (or before age 26, if entering and taking up residence in the U.S. when already older than 18). Disabled men, clergymen, and men who believe themselves to be conscientiously opposed to war must register because there is no draft in effect, nor is there a program to classify men at this time. Should the Congress and the President reinstate a draft, a classification program would begin to determine a registrant's suitability for military service, and for registrants to claim exemptions, deferments, or postponements. To be inducted, men would have to meet the physical mental and administrative standards established by the military services.

WHAT IF I DON'T REGISTER?

Under the law, if you do not register, you could be prosecuted, fined or jailed. Registration is also a requirement to qualify for federal job training benefits and most federal employment. If you were born after December 31, 1959, you must be registered with Selective Service to qualify for federal student loans or grant programs. This includes Pell Grants, College Work Study, Direct Student/Plus loans and Perkins Loans.

HOW CAN I REGISTER?

The quickest way to register is online at the Selective Service website: <http://www.sss.gov>. You will be able to print out a registration acknowledgement immediately. A second way is to indicate on your FAFSA that you wish to be registered. As part of the processing of your FAFSA, the application processor will forward your registration information to Selective Service automatically.

I'M ALREADY REGISTERED. HOW CAN I FIND OUT MY SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION NUMBER?

Check online at: <http://www.sss.gov> or call the Selective Service registration information line at 1- 847-688-6888.

WHAT IF I AM OVER AGE 26 AND HAVEN'T REGISTERED?

Once you reach age 26, it's too late to register. Even though you may not be prosecuted, you may be denied student financial assistance, federal job training, and most federal employment unless you can provide convincing evidence to the agency providing the benefit you are seeking, that your failure to register was not knowing and willful. If you failed to register and are over age 26, you will receive a

message on your FAFSA indicating that Selective Service has no record of your registration and that you must resolve this issue before you can receive Federal Student Aid.

If you are now being denied federal student aid because you failed to register before age 26, you must first obtain a Status Confirmation Letter from Selective Service. After obtaining the Status Confirmation Letter, submit it to the Financial Aid Office along with a written statement detailing the reasons for your failure to register. Offer as much evidence supporting your case and as much detail as possible.

HOW CAN I REQUEST A STATUS CONFIRMATION LETTER FROM SELECTIVE SERVICE?

Request a Status Confirmation Letter online at: <http://www.sss.gov> or call 1-847-688-6888. On the request form you will describe, in detail, the circumstances you believe prevented you from registering and provide copies of documents showing any periods when you were hospitalized, institutionalized, or incarcerated occurring between your 18th and 26th birthdays. If you are a non-citizen, you may be required to provide documents that show when you entered the United States. You will receive a written response from Selective Service in about 6 weeks. This response must be submitted to the financial aid office along with your written statement and any other documents you feel supporting your case.

FINAL DECISION

The Financial Aid Office, not Selective Service, will determine whether you have shown sufficiently that your failure to register was not knowing and willful. The final decision regarding your eligibility for financial aid will be made by the Financial Aid Office according to guidelines furnished by the U.S. Department of Education. Any decision made by the Financial Aid Office concerning your federal aid eligibility is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.