

What is Student Legal Services?

Established in 1979, Student Legal Services has four full-time, licensed attorneys to provide free legal services to enrolled UCF students.

We assist students with:

- ◆ Most criminal matters.
- ◆ Traffic tickets.
- ◆ Simple wills.
- ◆ Landlord tenant matters.
- ◆ Consumer issues.
- ◆ Chapter 7 bankruptcies.
- ◆ Uncontested divorces.

Students are only responsible for paying any court costs, fees incidental to litigation, fines, penalties, or amounts of any judgments awarded against you.

We cannot represent students against other students, students against UCF or the State of Florida, students in their income producing activities, and students in university disciplinary matters.

This brochure is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice.

Like UCF Student Legal Services on Facebook! Or follow us on Twitter @UCFStudentLegal!

Having a problem?

Have Questions?

Come see us!



STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

Serving Students since 1979



STUDENT LEGAL
SERVICES

You can find us at:
Ferrell Commons 142

Phone: 407-823-2538

Fax: 407-823-5305

E-mail: stulegal@ucf.edu

<http://sls.sdes.ucf.edu/>

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

Drug Convictions & Financial Aid



Ferrell
Commons 142

UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA

Drug Convictions Can Impact Financial Aid

Can a Knight lose his or her student loan money due to a drug conviction?

Yes! The Higher Education Act provides that students become ineligible for federal student aid programs upon any conviction for an offense involving the possession or sale of illegal substances while the student is receiving financial aid. These federal programs include: Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans, Federal Work Study programs, and PLUS Loans.

How long can a Knight be barred from getting federal aid?

	Possession of Illegal Sub-	Sale of Illegal Substances
1st Offense	1 year from date of conviction	2 years from the date of conviction
2nd Offense	2 years from the date of conviction	Indefinite Period
3+ Offenses	Indefinite Period	Indefinite Period

Illegal substances include, for example, marijuana, prescription medication that was not prescribed to you and street drugs.

Can a Knight do anything to reduce the ineligibility period?

Yes. If the student successfully completes a qualifying drug rehabilitation program, he or she will regain eligibility upon the date of completion of the program. The program is required even if the student does not have an addiction issue. To qualify, the program must: (1) include at least two unannounced drug tests; and (2) be recognized as a federal, state or local government agency run program.

If a Knight successfully completes a pre-trial diversion program, does that count as a conviction?

No. As long as the State dropped the charges after completion of the program, there has not been a conviction.

What if a Knight has adjudication withheld?

If a Knight has adjudication withheld, it does not count as a conviction in this context. Per Federal Regulations, a conviction is only a conviction on the student's record.

Are other convictions also not counted?

Yes. Convictions that have been reversed, set aside or removed from a student's record do not count. (NOTE: In the state of Florida, you are ineligible to ever seal or expunge a record if you have been convicted.) Juvenile delinquency findings also do not count. Only convictions that occur while a student is receiving financial aid count toward the ineligibility requirement!

How will Financial Aid find out about a Knight's conviction?

You are required to reveal it. Question 23 on the FASFA asks, "Have you been convicted of possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid (grants, loans, and/or work study)?" Failure to answer the question or a "yes" answer triggers further inquiry.

BEWARE: Lying on the FASFA is considered a crime and can carry a fine of up to \$10,000, if discovered. It can also lead to your dismissal from UCF.

CAUTION!!!

If you receive a Notice to Appear (a/k/a a "written arrest"; these are often handed out at tailgating events), sometimes, instead of appearing in court, you are given an option of paying a fine. For some notices, you are accepting an adjudication of guilt if you choose to pay the fine which would count as a conviction for financial aid purposes!

The current Notice to Appear being used by UCF Police contains a provision that adjudication is withheld if a fine is paid which would not count as a conviction. However, we urge students to come in to SLS for a consultation if they receive a Notice or are arrested! We can help!

STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

You can find us at:
Ferrell Commons 142

Phone: 407-823-2538

Fax: 407-823-5305

E-mail: stulegal@ucf.edu