

SNAP Eligibility & College Students

- Generally, students attending an institution of higher education more than **half-time** are **only eligible for SNAP if they meet an exemption.**
- **Students who meet an exemption must also meet all other SNAP eligibility requirements.**
- Most college students (attending at least half time) are excluded from receiving SNAP, but **there are a set of exceptions that apply to many nontraditional and low-income students.**
- EXCEPTIONS
 - Student restrictions do not apply to individuals attending college less than half-time, as defined by the school.
 - Restrictions do not apply to individuals who are in programs that do not require a HS diploma and is not a “regular” program of a college or university, even if most other students have one.
 - Example: Yolanda has a GED, but is enrolled in a campus based vocational certificate program that does not require a HS degree. If she meets the income and asset requirements, she is eligible for SNAP benefits and is not considered a “college student.”



EXEMPTIONS

Age or disability status

- Individuals who are 50 years or older or are under 18 years old are exempt from the student exclusion
- a physical or mental disability

Parent or caregiver

- caring for and living with child under 6
- Single parent enrolled full-time with a child under 12 years
- responsible for child between 6 and 11 years old and cannot obtain adequate childcare.

Employed at least 20 hours per week

Receiving any work-study funds

- Students are exempt if participating in federal or state work-study program – even if they work fewer than 20 hours per week.

Receiving TANF benefits

- apply to students who receive other TANF-funded benefits, such as child care, diversion payments, etc. May also apply to students who attended school
- May also apply to students who attended school while receiving such benefits in the past.

Enrolled in certain programs aimed at employment

- SNAP agency has power to decide what to count



Frequently Asked Questions About Student Food Assistance

Community College Students

- Community college students can get SNAP benefits, but eligibility requirements vary by state.

Students Who Live with a Parent or Spouse

- Students who are younger than 22 and live with their parents while they attend school can't apply for SNAP separately from their parents.
- If you live with a spouse or a roommate and buy and prepare food together for at least half of your meals, you are considered a household under SNAP. If that's the case, you must apply together

Students with Meal Plans

- Students with a meal plan that covers half or more of their meals aren't eligible for SNAP benefits, even if they meet all the other requirements.

Students on Break

- If you are eligible for SNAP college student benefits, you still are eligible during summer break and school vacations, as long as you remain enrolled. Once you graduate, or if you're suspended, expelled, or drop out, your eligibility ends.

SNAP and Financial Aid

- College students can apply for SNAP without it having any effect on their financial aid. And, the other side of the coin, financial aid doesn't count as income that will affect college benefits.

