



## What makes a student of higher education eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits?

Students enrolled at least half time in an institution of higher education must meet at least one of the following requirements to qualify for SNAP benefits:

- Be under age 18 or age 50 or over.
- Have a physical or mental disability.
- Be working in a paid job an average of 20 hours per week or, if self-employed, working an average of 20 hours per week and receiving weekly earnings at least equal to the Federal minimum – multiplied by 20 hours.
- At the time of application, be approved to participate in a State or federally funded work-study program during the regular school term. The student must anticipate actually working during that time. **See new temporary exemptions for the expansion of this requirement.**
- Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member under the age of 6 (only one adult may claim this exemption). When there is more than one adult in the home, the student must provide the majority of childcare to meet this requirement.
- Be responsible for the care of a dependent household member age 6 through 11 and does not have adequate childcare available to enable the student to attend class and work an average of 20 hours per week or take part in a work-study program.
- Be a single parent enrolled in a school of higher education and responsible for the care of a dependent child under the age of 12, regardless of the availability of adequate childcare.
- Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) under Title IV of the Social Security Act.
- Be enrolled as a result of participation in the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program under Title IV of the Social Security Act or its successor program.
- Be participating in an on-the-job training program. A person is considered participating in an on-the-job training program only during the time the person is being trained by the employer.
- Self-initiates placement or is assigned to or placed in an institution of higher education through or in compliance with the requirements of one of the programs listed below:
  - A program under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) of 2014;
  - A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974; An employment and training program under the Food Stamp Act, such as a TANF Work and Training Program or SNAP Employment and Training Program (SNAP E&T).
  - An employment and training program for low-income households that is operated by a State or local government, including a program under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, administered by a community college that will lead to employment.

### **Temporary Exemptions**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 signed on December 27, 2021, temporarily expands SNAP eligibility to students (beginning 1/16/2021 through 6/30/2021) who:

- have an expected family contribution (EFC) of \$0 in the current school year, and/or
- are eligible to participate (as determined by the school) in a state or federal work study program during the regular school year. This exemption differs from the existing work study exemption which requires a student to be eligible for a state or federal work study program **and** be anticipating that he or she will be working during the school year. The existing exemption requires that jobs be available for the student to anticipate working during the school year. The new temporary exemption only requires that the student be eligible to participate and does not require that a job be available for the student to work.