



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education Office of Student Financial Assistance

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DCF Adopted and Foster Child Fee Assistance Program Student Eligibility Checklist

To be eligible to receive funding through the DCF Adopted and Foster Child Fee Assistance Program please review the following eligibility requirements. Failure to complete and submit all required materials could prevent an eligible student from receiving their fee assistance for the academic year.

- Obtain eligibility documentation from the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) indicating ability to benefit from the tuition and fee assistance program. Initial eligibility for the program is determined by DCF and all eligibility documentation is originated by DCF.
- Be twenty-four years of age or under as of September 1st of the current academic year.
- Enroll in an undergraduate degree, certificate or short-term certificate program, or be taking noncredit courses at a publicly funded state institution in Massachusetts.
- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each year of enrollment toward the attainment of a first Bachelor's Degree. The FAFSA can be completed at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Present DCF eligibility documentation to your campus financial aid office. This document must be kept on file for each year of enrollment for continued eligibility. Your campus will communicate your eligibility to the Office of Student Financial Assistance for annual award review.
- Not be in default of any federal or state student loans or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received.
- Be in good standing and meeting your institution's requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Please note: Fee assistance is only applicable to **"state supported"** courses as specified in the programs legislative language and guidelines approved by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Students eligible for the DCF Adopted and Foster Child Fee Assistance Program will be entitled to fee assistance equal to the in-state resident rate at a Massachusetts public institution of higher education. Fee assistance funds are subject to legislative appropriation and are available for the fall and spring semesters only.

Due to the required enrollment verification process, fee assistance awards are generally credited to eligible students accounts during the middle of the fall and spring semesters.

For complete program guidelines please visit www.osfa.mass.edu. For more information about program deadlines and requirements, contact the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance at (617) 391-6070. For the Department of Children and Families please call (617) 748-2000.