

DCF Adopted and Foster Child Tuition and Fee Assistance Program Student Eligibility Checklist

Review the following eligibility requirements for the DCF Adopted and Foster Child Fee Assistance Program. 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.**
- Have approved eligibility status as a “High School Completer,”¹ per the Massachusetts tuition equity law², or be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations.
- Have applied for financial aid, using the standard [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) or a FAFSA equivalent application³ authorized by the Department of Higher Education.
- 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.
- 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.
- Not have received a prior bachelor's degree or its equivalent.
- 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 more information on initial eligibility and to obtain all eligibility documentation, contact the Department of Children and Families at (617) 748-2000 or subsidy.unit@mass.gov.

For complete program guidelines, visit www.osfa.mass.edu or contact the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance at (617) 391-6070.

¹ See www.mass.edu/tuitionequity for more details.

² Pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023.

³ Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA)- See www.mass.edu/tuitionequity for more details.