DCF Adopted and Foster Child Tuition and Fee Assistance Program

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education | Office of Student Financial Assistance

Student Eligibility Checklist

Eligibility for this program is determined by the **Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF)**. Failure to complete and submit all required materials could prevent an eligible student from receiving their fee assistance for the academic year.

To be eligible for the DCF Tuition and Fee Assistance program, a student must:

- Obtain their eligibility documentation from the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) indicating ability to benefit from the tuition and fee assistance program.
- Apply for financial aid, using the standard Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) [if ineligible to complete the FAFSA, then student should complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA)].
- Present the DCF eligibility documentation to their college's financial aid office.

Additional requirements include:

- Be a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, or non-citizen under Title IV regulations or have approved eligibility status designated by the Board of Higher Education pursuant to Section 9 of Chapter 15A, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023
- Be under the age of twenty-five (25) at the start of the 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 on any federal or state student loans or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received
- Be in good standing and meet the institution's requirements for Satisfactory Academic Progress

Award Value and Disbursement

- The campus will communicate students' eligibility to the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) for award review.
- 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. Check with your school for more information on which courses qualify as 'state supported'.
- Eligible students 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.

Additional Information and Resources

- For more information on **initial eligibility and to obtain all eligibility documentation**, contact the MA Department of Children and Families at youth.support@mass.gov.
  Note: OSFA does **not** determine or provide eligibility documentation to students.
- For complete program requirements, review the Adopted and Foster Child Tuition Waiver and Fee Assistance guidelines on the Office of Student Financial Assistance website.