Federal Student Financial Aid Penalties for
Drug Law Violations
A federal or state drug *conviction can disqualify students for FSA funds.
Convictions only count if they were for an offense that occurred during a period of enrollment for which a student was
receiving Title IV aid—they do not count if the offense was not during such a period. Also, a conviction that was
reversed, set aside, or removed from the student’s record does not count, nor does one received when the student
was a juvenile, unless the student was tried as an adult.
The chart below illustrates the period of ineligibility for FSA funds, depending on whether the conviction was for sale
or possession and whether the student had previous offenses.
*(A conviction for sale of drugs includes convictions for conspiring to sell drugs.)
 Possession of illegal drugs Sale of illegal drugs
1st offense 1 year from date of conviction 2 years from date of conviction
2nd offense 2 years from date of conviction Indefinite period
3+ offenses Indefinite period Indefinite period