

Foster Youth Fee Waiver Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

First, check out the [Who, What, When, Where, & Why Fact Sheet](#) and the [Steps to Obtain Fact Sheet!](#)

Why is it called a “fee waiver,” as opposed to a “tuition waiver?” I thought it paid for tuition.

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Foster Youth Fee Waiver is known as a “fee waiver” because it covers most course fees that qualifying NSHE undergraduate students are charged when they register for (enroll in) college courses (specifically the [base course registration fees](#), as well as any applicable lower-division laboratory fees, for all eligible courses in which a qualifying student is enrolled). [Within Nevada’s public higher education system—NSHE—“tuition” is an additional course registration fee that only applies to out-of-state students.](#) DON’T WORRY; the fee waiver covers the main/highest fees associated with enrolling in college courses!! And, you can use your other financial aid (like the Pell Grant, ETV, and/or scholarships) to cover your smaller student fees and other expenses within your annual Cost of Attendance!

Is the fee waiver a last-dollar financial aid resource that I can only access if other financial aid does not cover the full cost of my classes that would otherwise be covered by the fee waiver (i.e. eligible base course registration fees, as well as any applicable lower-division laboratory fees)? I am worried that I will not receive the course registration fee waiver if other financial aid resources are required to be utilized for course fees first.

NO. This particular fee waiver is NOT a last-dollar financial aid resource; IT IS FIRST-DOLLAR. If you qualify as a fee waiver recipient, you will receive the maximum amount of fee waiver funding for which you qualify during that semester (the dollar amount of undergraduate fees charged/*waived* varies—based on the institution, total number of credits, and specific courses in which you are enrolled). Regardless of the order in which different financial aid resources are processed by your school’s financial aid office, your student account will be adjusted accordingly once the fee waiver is applied. For example, if you are a Federal Pell Grant recipient and the Pell Grant is initially applied toward your fee waiver-eligible course registration (enrollment) and laboratory fees, you will receive a Pell Grant refund equivalent to that amount once your fee waiver paperwork is processed, your qualifying course registration/lab fees are waived, and your student account balance is adjusted accordingly.



Is there a per-semester credit enrollment minimum, in order to receive the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver?

NO. The course registration (enrollment) fee waiver is prorated to match the exact number of credits in which a student is enrolled. However, please be aware that other forms of financial aid require enrollment in 6+, 9+, or 12+ credits per semester.

Does the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver cover ANY NSHE course?

NO. State-supported academic credit-bearing courses that lead to a degree or certificate (i.e. courses eligible for government-funded student aid)—including distance education (online), independent learning, and continuing education courses—are **ELIGIBLE** for the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver. Self-supporting courses (i.e. courses ineligible for government-funded student aid)—including self-supporting independent study and correspondence courses—are **INELIGIBLE** for the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver.

Are there any fees associated with course registration (enrollment) that are NOT covered by the fee waiver?

YES. The following course and student fees are NOT covered by the NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver:

- Laboratory fees for all courses numbered AT OR ABOVE the 300 level, or laboratory fees at any level exceeding \$100
- Per-semester fees, such as the Health Service fee
- Special course fees for purposes other than class supplies—including individual instruction, 3rd-party charges, and special transportation requirements

If I lose my course registration (enrollment) fee waiver eligibility, due to failing to meet the required Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards for maintaining financial aid eligibility at my college/university, can I ever regain fee waiver eligibility?

YES. If you regain financial aid eligibility—either on your own, by raising your GPA and/or course completion rate/pace, or through a SAP Appeal *approved* by your financial aid office—you will also regain fee waiver eligibility, for as long as you continue to meet SAP standards and other continuing course registration (enrollment) fee waiver eligibility requirements.

Why do I NEVER receive a refund for my unused fee waiver funding, especially after dropping one or more classes that were covered by the fee waiver funding by the drop/add deadline for my college/university?

The course registration (enrollment) fee waiver functions differently than other forms of financial aid. There are some forms of aid, such as the Federal Pell Grant, that sometimes result in a refund to the student—after the aid is applied to all eligible charges incurred on the student’s account—to be used, at the student’s discretion, for other education/living expenses within their annual Cost of Attendance; and, sometimes, dropping a class will result in a financial aid refund to the student. The fee waiver, however, will never result in a refund to the student, because it functions such that [the funding can only be directly applied to qualifying course/laboratory fees](#). Each NSHE school internally *waives* the exact amount of all eligible course registration and lower-division lab fees for its fee waiver-qualified students (the dollar amount of fees charged/*waived* varies—based on the institution, total number of credits, and specific courses in which students are enrolled). Because the fee waiver can only cover the exact amount of your qualifying fees, NOT any other expenses within your Cost of Attendance, any “refund” for dropped classes that were initially covered by the fee waiver will go right back to your college/university when you reduce your credit load—NOT to you.

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Can high school equivalency certificate (HiSET, TASC, or GED) recipients be admitted to and use the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver at any NSHE college/university?

NOT NECESSARILY. The admission requirements vary by school, so prospective students should review the admission webpages for the NSHE colleges/universities that they are considering. **NOTE:** If it states that a high school diploma is required for admission, but a student who earned a high school equivalency certificate feels that they have a strong case for admission, the admission representatives can advise students according to their specific situations—which could include submitting an APPEAL, if denied admission.

If I am enrolled in more than one NSHE college/university at a time, or if I transfer from one NSHE college/university to another, can I use the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver at multiple schools? If so, do I need to submit the fee waiver form and/or my foster care documentation to each school?

YES, you can receive the fee waiver at multiple NSHE schools, whether simultaneously or separately. As long as you qualify for the fee waiver and are eligible to receive financial aid at the school(s) in question, your course fees can be waived at multiple schools, for as long as you qualify. You need to submit the short fee waiver form to each school, but your foster care documentation can be internally transferred between schools.

Is there a cap on the total amount of qualifying base course registration/laboratory fees that I can have waived?

NO, there is NO CAP on the total amount of qualifying base course registration/laboratory fees that you can have waived. As long as you continue to qualify for the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver and remain financial aid-eligible, your course/lab fees can be waived for as long as you qualify. There is also NO CAP on the total number of academic semesters or years for which you can receive the fee waiver.

Am I eligible for the fee waiver if I am receiving Court Jurisdiction (CJ), Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth (FAFFY), and/or Education(al) and Training Voucher (ETV) funds available to qualifying students with foster care history?

YES! The fee waiver only covers course costs—the qualifying base course registration (enrollment)/laboratory fees at any NSHE school. So, the other foster care-specific funds, and additional financial aid funds, are still accessible to you and necessary to cover other school/living expenses.



Can I receive the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver if I did NOT “age out” of foster care? What if I reunified with family, entered a legal guardianship, and/or was adopted after entering foster care?

YES! As long as you were in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at and/or after age 13 (for at least one day)—and as long as you meet all other eligibility requirements—you can receive the NSHE Foster Youth Fee Waiver, even if your ultimate permanency situation changed after your 13th birthday (i.e. even if you reunified with family, entered a legal guardianship, and/or were adopted at/after age 13).

Are students who were in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at and/or after age 13, but placed out of state—for treatment or through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC)—eligible for the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver?

YES! Eligibility is based on being in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at and/or after age 13. It does NOT matter if you were in an out-of-state placement and/or attended (or even graduated from) an out-of-state high school.

Are students who were in the custody of an out-of-state child welfare agency, at and/or after age 13, but placed in Nevada—for treatment or through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC)—eligible for the course registration fee waiver?

NO. Eligibility is based on being in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at and/or after age 13. If you were in the custody of an out-of-state child welfare agency, you are unfortunately ineligible for the fee waiver—even if you resided in a Nevada-based placement, at/after age 13. However, you may be eligible for foster care-specific college resources from your state of dependency.

Can I receive the course registration (enrollment) fee waiver during the semester in which I turn 26 years old?

YES! As long as you have not yet reached your 26th birthday by the first day of the semester/first day of classes, you can receive the fee waiver during the semester in which you turn 26 years old.

If I already have a bachelor’s degree and am under age 26, can I receive the fee waiver for graduate school?

NO. The course registration (enrollment) fee waiver is limited to qualifying NSHE undergraduate base course registration and laboratory fees.

More questions about the fee waiver policy/requirements?

Contact **Laura Obrist**, statewide contact for the [NSHE Fostering Success Initiative](#).

⇒ Email Address: lobrist@nshe.nevada.edu; Phone Number (call or text): **702-522-7035**

NOTE: Fee waiver contacts—for each NSHE school, the NSHE System Administration office, and each of the 3 Nevada child welfare agencies—are listed on the [form](#).

