

# Foster Youth Fee Waiver FACT SHEET

## What is the Foster Youth Fee Waiver?

The **Foster Youth Fee Waiver** is a type of financial aid that covers the fall and spring semester (summer term *excluded*) college/university course enrollment (tuition) fees for high school graduates (and, for 5 out of 7 institutions, *certificate of high school equivalency* recipients who passed the GED, HiSET, or TASC) who were in the custody of the NV foster care system, at or after age 14. It can be used at any of the **Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE)**'s 7 degree-granting institutions (*University of Nevada-Las Vegas, University of Nevada-Reno, Nevada State College, College of Southern Nevada, Great Basin College, Truckee Meadows Community College, & Western Nevada College*), up until the student's 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## What do I need to do in order to receive the fee waiver?

### STEP 1: COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)!

By completing the **FAFSA** before each academic year—and indicating that you have been in foster care—you will be deemed “financially independent” for financial aid purposes, provided that you submit follow-up documentation. This means that you do NOT need to enter (and SHOULD NOT enter) any parental income information into your FAFSA. Aside from the **Foster Youth Fee Waiver (money for classes)**, you may also be eligible for several different federal, state, and school-specific grants—and potentially some scholarships too!

**WAIVERS, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS = MONEY** that does NOT need to be repaid, if passing classes (unlike **LOANS**, which need to be repaid, with interest!)

Complete your FAFSA online, at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov), BEFORE THE PRIORITY DEADLINE for your college/university, PRIOR TO EVERY ACADEMIC YEAR in which you plan to attend college! The FAFSA opens on October 1st each year, for the following academic year (nearly a year in advance).

### STEP 2: COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION FOR YOUR NSHE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE, PRIOR TO THEIR DEADLINE!

### STEP 3: ONCE ADMITTED TO YOUR NSHE INSTITUTION OF CHOICE, COMPLETE/SUBMIT THE ENROLLMENT FEE WAIVER APPLICATION, ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

- Your **FINAL OFFICIAL High School Transcript**, showing proof of graduation OR your **OFFICIAL Certificate of High School Equivalency (GED, HiSET, or TASC) test scores** (NOTE: UNR and UNLV both require a *high school diploma*)
- **Proof that you were in the custody of a Nevada agency that provides child welfare services, at or after age 14**, which could include the following:
  - 1) A verification letter from a Nevada state (DCFS) or county (CCDFS or WCHSA) agency that shows proof of the dates you were in foster care
  - 2) A copy of a court document that verifies WARDSHIP within the Nevada foster care system
  - 3) A copy of a court document that shows proof of “aging out” of foster care, in Nevada, such as a court order for *Court Jurisdiction* services

### STEP 4: ASK FOR HELP!

Contact **Laura Obrist, NSHE's Foster Youth Ambassador**

» Email Address: [lobrist@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:lobrist@nshe.nevada.edu); Phone: 702-522-7035; Website: [nshe.nevada.edu/initiatives/foster-youth/](http://nshe.nevada.edu/initiatives/foster-youth/)



## What are the continuing eligibility requirements, after initially being awarded?

- 1) Complete the FAFSA for each academic year during which you plan to attend college, even for one semester.
- 2) Continue to meet institutional Title IV financial aid **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** requirements.
  - Students must maintain a **cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0** (scholarships have differing GPA requirements).
  - Students must receive **passing grades in a minimum of 67%-70%** (depending on the institution) of all attempted courses.

## Are there any fees that are NOT covered by the fee waiver?

**YES.** The fees that are NOT covered are as follows:

- Laboratory fees for all courses numbered **AT OR ABOVE the 300 level**
- Per semester fees, such as the Health Service fee
- Special course fees for purposes other than class supplies—including individual instruction, third-party charges, and special transportation requirements
- Fees for actual class cost in excess of \$100
- Technology fees

**Are students who were placed out of state by a Nevada child welfare agency (for treatment), or who were placed out of state through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC), eligible for the fee waiver? YES!** However, they are only eligible if they did NOT achieve permanency with a family prior to their 18th birthday.

## Can I use the fee waiver for online classes?

**YES**, in most instances!

- **State-supported academic credit-bearing courses that lead to a degree or certificate—including distance education courses, independent learning, and continuing education courses—are eligible for the fee waiver.** However, self-supporting courses, including independent study and correspondence courses, are NOT eligible.

**Am I eligible for the fee waiver if I am receiving Court Jurisdiction, Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth (FAFFY), and/or Education(al) & Training Voucher (ETV) benefits? YES!**