

## COLLEGE STUDENT SNAP ELIGIBILITY

### Do you make at or below this income?

In order to qualify for SNAP benefits, your household's gross income must be at or below the income guidelines.

Persons in Family	Annual	Monthly
1	\$27,180	\$2,265
2	\$36,624	\$3,052
3	\$46,068	\$3,839

### Are you a student of higher education?

- Are you between the ages of 18-49?
- Do you attend a higher education institution at least half-time?

If you checked both of these boxes, you will need to meet one of the additional student criteria listed below.

Students attending class less than half time and those age 50+ do not need to meet any additional criteria.

### Do you meet this student criteria?

- Can you speak to how your college education (4-year education program, or less) is related to working in a specific job after you complete school? What is that specific job?

### If you don't meet the above criteria, do you meet one of these?

- Have you been awarded work study?
- Are you working as a paid employee 20 hours a week?
- Are you unable to work due to physical or physiological difficulties?
- Participating in an approved training program found on this list? Provider list can be found at [oregonhunger.org/snap-for-students](http://oregonhunger.org/snap-for-students)
- Caring for a child under the age of 6 or a single parent with a child under the age of 12.

### Other questions to consider:

- Are you under the age of 22 and living at home with your parents or guardian?
  - If yes, you must apply with your family.

- ❑ Are you a veteran?
  - ❑ Financial aid received through the Veterans Administration or private scholarships count as income.
  
- ❑ If you have a school meal plan, does it pay for 51% or more of your meals per week?
  - ❑ If yes, you are not eligible for SNAP.



## **Frequently Asked Questions about SNAP from Students:**

### **How do I know if I will be considered a student of higher education when I apply?**

- ❖ If you are 18 years of age or older but under the age of 50, attending an institution of higher education (beyond high school), and enrolled at least half-time (as defined by the institution) then you must meet both the income eligibility requirements and at least one additional criteria in order to be eligible for SNAP.

### **Does my SNAP status change during school breaks? Do I need to report being on a school break to DHS (Oregon Department of Human Services)?**

- ❖ Student enrollment status continues through school breaks (including Winter, Spring, and Summer breaks) as long as the student intends to return to school for the next term. You **DO NOT** need to report that you're on a school break to DHS but you do need to continue to meet the student eligibility criteria.

### **Who do I need to include on my SNAP application?**

- ❖ You should report everyone in the house that buys, prepares and eats the majority of their food with you. This applies to a significant other, family member, or friend who is living in the house. If you are living with roommates and they do not buy, prepare or eat the majority of their food with you then do not list them in your SNAP application.

### **How do I know who I have to apply with to receive SNAP benefits?**

- ❖ All individuals in the household who buy, prepare and eat food with you.
  
- ❖ If you are 21 or younger **and** living at home with your parent(s) or guardian(s) then you must include their income and information on your application **even if you do not buy, eat, and prepare food with them.**
  
- ❖ If you are under the age of 22 and **do not** live at home with your parent(s) or guardian(s) then you do not need to include their income or information on your application.

- ❖ If you are 22 or older and living at home with your parent(s) or guardian(s) then you only need to include their income and information on your application only **if you buy, eat, and prepare food with them.**

### Could I be eligible for SNAP and own a car or a house?

- ❖ Yes! Contrary to common misconceptions you can still be eligible for SNAP and own a car and a house.

### Could I be eligible for SNAP as a DACA recipient?

- ❖ Unfortunately, no. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA recipients are not eligible for programs like SNAP. However, all undocumented immigrants can apply for programs like SNAP and Women, Infants, and Children or WIC, on behalf of their citizen children.
- ❖ The general eligibility rule for non-U.S. citizens requires legal residents to have lived in the U.S. for at least five years. However, there are many exceptions for certain populations such as refugees, victims of trafficking, and asylum recipients.

- ❖ Here is a table that helps break down SNAP eligibility for non-U.S. citizens.

Immigrant Status	SNAP	Medicaid	TANF	SSI
LPR* (18 and over)	Eligible (after 5-year bar or qualifying work history)	Eligible (after 5-year bar)	Eligible (after 5-year bar)	Eligible (after 5-year bar and qualifying work history)
LPR (under 18)	Eligible	State option	Eligible (after 5-year bar)	Eligible (after 5-year bar and qualifying work history)
LPR (Pregnant Women)	Eligible (after 5-year bar or qualifying work history)	State option	Eligible (after 5-year bar)	Eligible (after 5-year bar and qualifying work history)
Refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, certain others	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible (after 5-year bar)	Only eligible during the first 7 years after status is granted
Lawfully present individuals	Not Eligible	State option	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
Undocumented, and DACA recipients (including children and pregnant women)	Not Eligible	Emergency Medicaid only	Not Eligible	Not Eligible

\*LPR stands for "Legal Permanent Resident," colloquially referred to as a green card.

The table above is an edited and simplified version of one published by the National Immigration Law Center, which can be found at:

[https://www.nilc.org/issues/economic-support/table\\_ovrw\\_fedprogs/](https://www.nilc.org/issues/economic-support/table_ovrw_fedprogs/).

### **Does applying for and/or receiving SNAP affect my ability to become a U.S. citizen?**

- ❖ Recently rules changed to include SNAP as a public charge program and these new rules go into effect on October 15, 2019. Advocacy groups are attempting to stop these rules from going forward through the court system and congress - we will update you when we know if that works. Public charge means that for some non-U.S. citizens who are in the process of, or planning to apply for Legal Permanent Residence (known as a Green Card), they can potentially be penalized for using public assistance programs. It's important to know that this change is not retroactive, so receiving benefits in the past before this rule change will not affect someone.
- ❖ Please see these links for more detailed information on the public charge rule change:
  - <https://oregonhunger.org/public-charge/>
  - <https://oregonimmigrationresource.org/resources/?tab=public-benefits-and-immigration>

### **How do I submit verification documents to DHS once my application has been submitted?**

- ❖ In-person interview: Bring documents with you to your in-person interview at the DHS office and submit documents during this interview.
- ❖ Over-the-phone interview: You can submit documents in person at the office, scan and email them in, take a picture of the document on your phone and email them in, or mail a photocopy in.
  - Put in the subject line on your email: YOUR NAME, VERIFICATION NUMBER (if you received one), and THE PURPOSE OF THE EMAIL (i.e. verification documents).
  - Re-state the purpose of the email in the body of the email and ask for a confirmation email stating that your verification documents have been received.

### **What if I'm an out-of-state or non-resident student?**

- ❖ If you are a student in Oregon but a resident in another state, you will have to apply for SNAP in the state you are a resident. If you commute to school in Oregon from another state where you are a resident, you will need to apply for benefits in that state. You can also become a resident of Oregon and apply for SNAP benefits here.
- ❖ SNAP Benefits in Idaho
  - In Idaho, you can find more information about their SNAP program eligibility at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Benefits.gov website.

➤ If you have questions about SNAP in Idaho, call 1-877-456-1233.

❖ SNAP Benefits in Washington State

- In Washington state (WA), SNAP is referred to as “Basic Foods”. Basic Foods is administered by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.
- Here is the link to the application for benefits in WA:  
<https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home/>
- If you have questions about SNAP in WA, call 1-877-501-2233.

**\*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

**Online Application:** <https://apps.state.or.us/onlineApplication>

**List of Oregon DHS Self Sufficiency Offices:**

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/Offices/Pages/Self-Sufficiency.aspx>