

Selective Service Appeal Professional Judgement Request

Males (any person assigned the sex of male at birth) aged 18-25 are required to register with the Selective Service System (SSS). This requirement covers males residing in the United States who are U.S. Citizens or noncitizens. Students who are required to register with the Selective Service must do so to be eligible for FSA funds, but parents who want to borrow a PLUS loan aren't required to have registered. Males exempted from the requirement to register include:

- ▶ Males currently in the armed services and on active duty (does not apply to members of the Reserve and National Guard who are not on active duty).
- ▶ Males who are not yet 18 at the time that they complete their FAFSA.
- ▶ Males born before 1960.
- ▶ Citizens who entered the U.S. after they turned 26.
- ▶ Noncitizens who entered the U.S. as lawful nonimmigrants on a valid visa and remained in the U.S. on the terms of that visa until after they turned 26.
- ▶ Transgender males who were assigned the sex of female at birth.

The Selective Service will register only males aged 18-25, leaving older students with no way to remedy their situation if they failed to register. However, a student may still be eligible to receive aid if he can demonstrate that he did not knowingly and willfully fail to register.

A student who served on active duty in the armed forces but who did not register before turning 26 is still eligible to receive FSA funds because it's reasonable to conclude that he was not trying to avoid registering for the Selective Service. In this case, the student should provide a copy of his DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty," showing military service in the armed forces other than the reserve forces, the Delayed Entry pool, and the National Guard.

Students without military service who knew of the registration requirement but chose not to register are considered to have knowingly and willfully failed to register and are therefore ineligible for FSA funds. Students who claim that their failure to register was not knowing or willful may request a professional judgment override for failing to register. The Financial Aid Administrator must review any requests submitted and make a determination based on all relevant evidence whether the student did or did not knowingly and willfully fail to register.

Students who request a professional judgement override for failing to register must provide the financial aid office with a status information letter that addresses the failure to register along with their written request. FA Administrators must use the information on the status information letter, in addition to the student's written explanation for failing to register, and all appropriate supporting documentation when considering the request. The student's explanation should include, at a minimum, the answers to the questions on the following page. Status information letters can be requested by the student online at the Selective Service website (www.sss.gov) or by filling out a form available at the post office.

If the student is clearly not required to register, the FA Administrator must document this, but do not have him request a status information letter from the Selective Service. FA Administrators should only ask the student to provide such a letter to document an exemption from the requirement to register if it is not clear that he is exempt. For example, noncitizens who first enter the U.S. after the age of 26 aren't required to register. Only those immigrant males who enter and live in the U.S. at ages 18-25 are required to be registered. If a male immigrant can show proof that he first entered the U.S. when he was past registration age, he is clearly not required to be registered, and no status information letter is needed. The student's entry documentation is enough to show whether he was required to register. Documentation for exempt noncitizens includes: proof of birth date on a passport, birth certificate, or U.S. driver's license or state ID; proof of immigration date into the U.S. from an entry date stamp on the I-94 form or in the passport, or a letter from the USCIS indicating the entry date; and, for those here on a valid visa who are at least 18 and less than 26 years old, a student visa form (I-20) or other valid U.S. passport visa stamp on a foreign passport with expiration date (the dates must be from entry until after the male turned 26).

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Student Name

Student ID Number

The student must respond to each question below, and attach their status information letter from Selective Service along with any other pertinent supporting documentation. Students who have questions about Selective Service registration may contact the Selective Service at 1-(847)-688-6888 or online at www.sss.gov.

Why did you fail to register for Selective Service?

Where did you live between the ages of 18-25?

Did you believe you were registered with Selective Service? Yes No

If you were not aware of the requirement to register, provide an explanation as to how this widely publicized requirement could have been overlooked:

Student Signature

Date

FA Office Use Only:

Approved Denied

If denied, reason for denial

FA Name (print)

FA Signature

Date