



# D.C. Hunger Solutions

## Ending Hunger in the Nation's Capital

### SNAP Guide for College and Trade School Students

#### College and trade school students may be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

SNAP is a federal nutrition program that provides monthly benefits on an Electronic Benefit Transfer card to eligible individuals. It can be a useful tool to help students pay for groceries and maximize their budgets. However, it is important to note that students have additional conditions they must meet to receive SNAP.

#### Can I Get SNAP as a College or Trade School Student?

As of July 1, 2023, the temporary student exemptions are no longer available to students applying or recertifying for SNAP. Some students may no longer be eligible for SNAP or may need to provide additional information when they recertify to continue their SNAP benefits.

Students must qualify under regular program rules regarding income limits, as well as non-financial eligibility criteria, including the following two conditions:

1. You cannot live in a dormitory and participate in a meal plan that provides two or more meals per day.
2. You must meet at least one of the following criteria if you are enrolled in a university or trade school more than half time:
  - employed and paid for at least 20 hours per week or self-employed for a minimum of 20 hours per week and paid the equivalent of working at least 20 hours per week at the federal minimum hourly wage (including on-the-job training, internships, and apprenticeships);
  - participating in a state or federal-financed work-study program for the semester;
  - physically or mentally unable to work;
  - under age 17 or over age 50;
  - a full-time student who is a single parent or grandparent (natural or adoptive) responsible for a child under 12;



- responsible for the physical care of a dependent household member under age 6, or under the age of 12, when adequate child care is not available to allow for work;
- receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Supplemental Security Income; or
- assigned to an institution of higher education through a program under the Job Training Partnership Act, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Trade Readjustment Assistance, or SNAP Employment and Training.

#### What Are the Income Limits for SNAP?

If your gross monthly income is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and your net monthly income is at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, you may be eligible for SNAP. If there is an older adult (60+) or a person with disabilities in your household and your household's income is above 200 percent FPL, you might still be eligible if you have high expenses.



# SNAP Guide for College and Trade School Students (CONTINUED)

## What Documents Do I Need to Apply?

- proof of **identity**
- proof of **D.C. residency**
- proof of **income**
- proof of **shelter, utility, or child care expenses**

## How Long Will It Take to Receive My Benefits?

Normally, District of Columbia Department of Human Services has 30 days to make a decision on your case. If you have less than \$150 in gross monthly income and less than \$100 in resources, or your housing costs exceed your combined income and resources, you may be eligible for expedited SNAP and can receive benefits within seven days.

## If I Have a Campus Meal Plan, Am I Eligible for Benefits?

If you receive the majority of your meals through either a mandatory or optional meal plan, you are ineligible for SNAP.

## Can I Get SNAP if I Am a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipient or Undocumented Resident?

Undocumented residents and DACA recipients are ineligible for SNAP. Federal SNAP rules restrict SNAP to U.S. citizens and certain lawfully present noncitizens, such as some refugees or asylees, or lawful permanent residents (generally after a waiting period of five years).

## What if I Live With My Parents?

If you live at home with your parents and are under age 22, you must apply for SNAP along with your parents, even if you buy and prepare food separately from them.

## What if I Am Enrolled in School Less Than Half Time?

If you attend an accredited college or university less than half time for the semester, you are not considered a student according to SNAP guidelines, and you must simply qualify under regular program rules. You do not need to meet the additional non-financial requirements previously mentioned.

## Are My Student Loans Counted as Income?

Educational loans funded through the U.S. Department of Education (e.g., Pell grants, Perkins loans, Guaranteed Student Loans, Stafford loans) and some parts of other student grants, loans, scholarships, and fellowships are not counted as income for the purposes of determining SNAP eligibility. If you get private loans or scholarships, they may be counted as income.

## Where Can I Apply for SNAP?

Applications for SNAP can be completed online through the [DC Benefits Portal](#) or through the [District Direct mobile app](#). You can also download an application from the [D.C. Department of Human Services website](#), as well as go to the nearest [ESA Service Center](#) to pick up an application.

Once you have gathered the [necessary documents](#), you can submit your application online, drop your application off at any open ESA Service Center, or email your application to [info@dchunger.org](mailto:info@dchunger.org).

D.C. Hunger Solutions can assist with applications, recertifications, and existing benefits over the phone at 202-640-1088 or via email at [info@dchunger.org](mailto:info@dchunger.org).