

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 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 you are enrolled). “Tuition” is an additional course registration fee that only applies to out-of-state students. Don’t worry; the fee waiver covers the largest fees associated with enrolling in college courses!! And, you can use your other financial aid (like the Pell Grant) 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 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. If you qualify as a fee waiver recipient, you will receive the maximum amount of fee waiver funding for which you are eligible 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/laboratory fees, you will receive a Pell Grant refund equivalent to that amount once the fee waiver is applied to your student account.



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

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

Does the 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, & continuing education courses—are **ELIGIBLE** for the fee waiver. Self-supporting courses (i.e. courses ineligible for government-funded aid)—including self-supporting independent study & correspondence courses—are **INELIGIBLE**.

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

YES. The following fees are NOT covered by the 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
- Technology fees

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 fee waiver functions differently than other forms of financial aid. There are some forms of aid 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 and living expenses within their annual Cost of Attendance; and, sometimes, dropping a class will result in a financial aid refund to the student. Fee waiver funding, however, will never result in a refund to the student, because it functions such that the funding can only ever be directly applied to eligible undergraduate fees. Each NSHE school internally *waives* the exact amount of all eligible undergraduate course registration and lower-division laboratory fees for its qualifying students (the dollar amount of undergraduate fees charged/*waived* varies—based on the institution, total number of credits, and specific courses in which the student is enrolled). Because the fee waiver can only cover the exact amount of your eligible course registration and lower-division laboratory fees, NOT any other expenses within your Cost of Attendance, any refund for dropped classes that were 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 (TASC, HiSET, or GED) recipients be admitted to and use the fee waiver at any NSHE school?

NOT NECESSARILY. The admission requirements vary by school, so prospective students should review the admission webpages for the schools that they are considering. If it states that a high school diploma is required, but a student feels that they have a strong case for admission, the admission representatives can advise students according to their specific situation, which could include submitting an appeal if denied admission.

If I am enrolled in more than one NSHE school at a time, or if I transfer from one NSHE school to another, can I use the fee waiver at multiple schools? Is there a funding cap?

YES, you can receive the fee waiver at multiple schools; and, **NO,** there is not a funding cap. As long as you qualify for the fee waiver and are eligible to receive financial aid at the school(s) in question, you can receive the fee waiver at multiple schools, for as long as you qualify. There is no cap on the total fee waiver-specific dollars that you can receive; and there is no cap on the total number of academic years for which you can receive the fee waiver.

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

YES! The fee waiver only covers course costs; so, those funds and other forms of financial aid are still accessible to you and necessary to cover other school and living expenses.



Can I receive the fee waiver if I was adopted?

YES! As long as you were in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at or after age 13 (for at least one day)—and as long as you meet all other eligibility requirements—you can receive the fee waiver.

Are students who were in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at 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 fee waiver?

YES! Eligibility is based on being in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at 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 or after age 13, but placed in Nevada—for treatment or through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC)—eligible for the fee waiver?

NO. Eligibility is based on being in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency, at 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. However, you may be eligible for foster care-specific college resources from your state of dependency.

Can I receive the 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, 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 fee waiver is limited to undergraduate courses.

More questions about the fee waiver policy/requirements?

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

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⇒ Phone Number (call or text): [702-522-7035](tel:702-522-7035)

NOTE: Fee waiver contacts for each NSHE school and Nevada child welfare agency are listed on the [fee waiver form](#).

