



NC Department of Health and Human Services

# Students of Higher Education

April 2023 In-person Regional Meeting

# Students of Higher Education 235

## Who is a student?

1. Enrolled in an institution of higher education;  
and
2. Enrolled at least half time as defined by the institution of higher education.

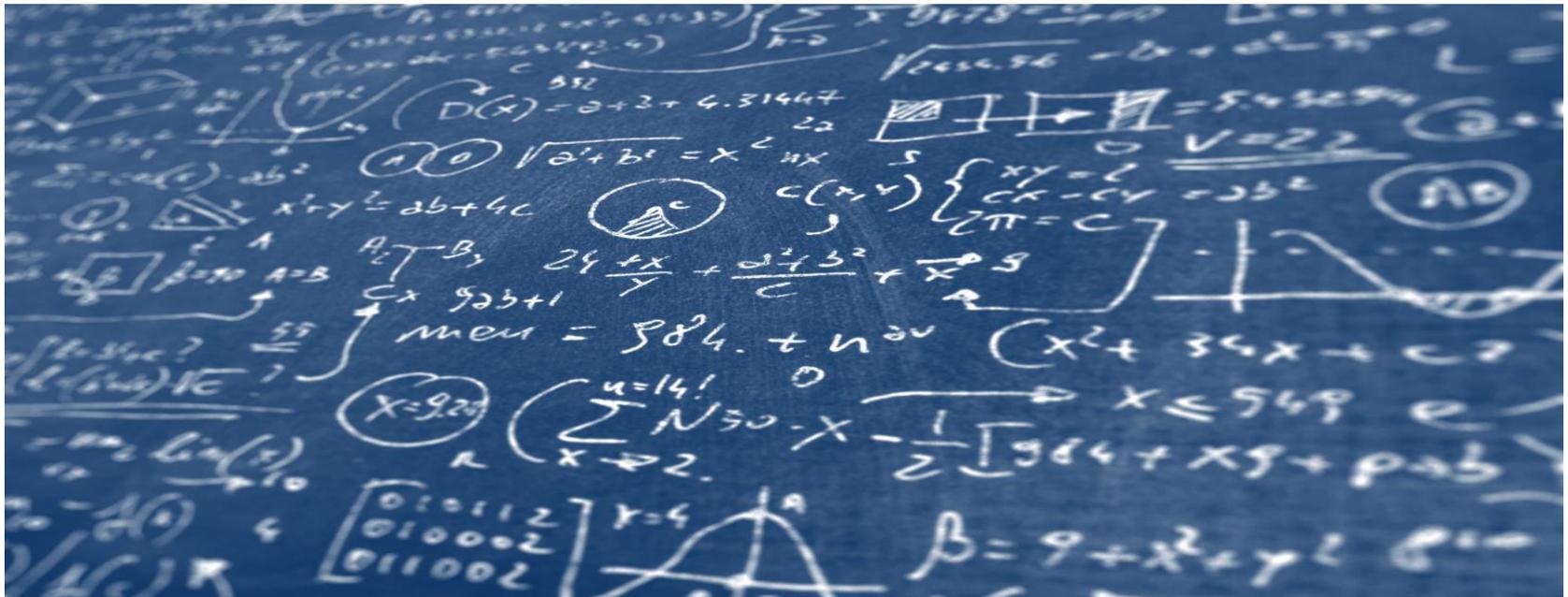
Enrollment begins the first day of the school term at the institution of higher education. Enrollment status during vacations and recess is determined based on the student's status just prior to the school break.

Enrollment ends when the student graduates, is suspended, expelled, drops out, or decides not to register for the next normal term (except summer school).

# Students of Higher Education 235

## Who is a student? (continued)

Individuals that do not meet these conditions are not considered students of higher education and the policy in FNS 235 Students of Higher Education does not apply.



# What is an Institution of Higher Education

An institution of higher education includes online and traditional classroom studies, those include but are not limited to the following:

- A. College or university that offers degree programs regardless of whether a high school diploma is required.
- B. Business, technical, trade, or vocational school that normally requires a high school diploma or equivalent for enrollment in the curriculum which normally requires high school graduation or an equivalency certificate to enroll.
- C. Students attending an institution under special circumstances are considered enrolled in an institution of higher education. Some institutions make exceptions for students who the institution feels can benefit from the program offered, even though the student has not graduated from high school. If courses offered provide college level credit or the credit is transferable to other degree programs, it is considered higher education.

# Student Exemptions 235.04

- A. Age 17 or younger or age 50 or older.**
- B. Physically or mentally unfit (as defined for work registration).**
- C. Employed for either an average of 20 hours per week or a total of 80 hours per calendar month and paid for that employment.**
- D. Self-employed for an average of 20 hours per week, or a total of 80 hours per calendar month. At a minimum, earnings must at least equal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours per week or minimum wage multiplied by 80 hours per month.**

**NOTE: You cannot round up the weekly average. However, consider the student to have met the 80 hours per month rule when the hours worked are greater than 79 hours. (i.e., 79 hours, 15 minutes; 79 hours, 30 minutes, etc.).**

# Student Exemptions 235.04 (continued)

- E. Responsible for the care of a dependent FNS Unit member under the age of six (If there are two parents and two or more children under six, both parents can claim this exemption. If there is only one child in the home, then only one parent can claim this exemption).
- F. Be a single parent enrolled in an institution of higher education on a full-time basis and be responsible for the care of a dependent child under age 12.
- G. Be responsible for the care of a dependent FNS Unit member who has reached the age of six and is under age 12 if adequate child care is not available to enable the student to attend class and work 20 hours each week (not averaged) or participate in a State or federally financed work-study program.
- H. Work First Family Assistance recipient.

# **Student Exemptions 235.04 (continued)**

**I. Assigned to or placed in an institution of higher education through:**

- 1. A program under the Workforce Investment Act (WIOA); or  
NOTE: WIA Programs are operated under the auspices of local Workforce Development Boards.**
- 2. The Food and Nutrition Services Employment and Training Program or a government sponsored employment and training program for low-income households equivalent to an employment and training component; or**
- 3. A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974; or**
- 4. Work First Employment Services; or**
- 5. A training program under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).**

# Student Exemptions (continued)

## J. Participating in an on-the-job training program.

An on-the-job training program for Food and Nutrition Services purposes is one in which a participant is hired by a private or public employer and while engaged in productive work receiving training that provides knowledge or skills essential to the full and adequate performance of that job.

## K. Be participating in a State or federally financed work-study program during the regular school year.



# Student Scenarios

- 1. An 18 year old comes in to apply for FNS and is currently attending classes at the local community college for her GED. This individual does not fall under the student status policy because GED classes are not considered higher education.**
- 2. A mother of 2 children ages 7 and 9 applies for FNS and is attending FSU full-time, is not working due to school schedule. She is exempt from student policy because she is enrolled as a full-time student and is a single parent of children under 12.**
- 3. An 18 year old applies for FNS and is currently attending the local community college through an early college program through his high school. He is a senior and 3 of his 4 classes are college level credit classes. Student status would apply and exemptions would need to be explored. If no exemptions apply he is an ineligible student.**

# Student Scenarios

- 4. A 32 year old applies for FNS and is taking one college class online, she is not considered half-time. Student status does not apply to her and exemptions would not need to be explored.**
- 5. A 27 year old mother of 3 applies for FNS and is currently attending the local community college taking Certified Nursing Assistant classes. The course lasts 10 weeks and she will receive a certificate at the end of the course. Student status does not apply to her because these classes are not considered college level and are not transferable to any degree programs.**
- 6. A 42 year old man applies for FNS. FNS Unit includes his wife and 3 year old child. Both parents are full-time college students. One parent can claim the child student exemption. The other parent would need to be evaluated for another exemption or would be an ineligible student.**

# After PHE for Students

**After Waiver Ends effective June 10<sup>th</sup> Normal FNS Policy requirements go into effect for initial applications and effective July 1<sup>st</sup> Normal FNS policy requirements go into effect for recertifications: FNS 235 Student of Higher Education**

- **Continue to review exemptions for work study, as this was previously in North Carolina's policy**
- **Continue to review other exemptions for college students shown in FNS Policy 235 (e.g., working 20 hours per week, below age 17 or older than 50)**
- **Stop considering for expected family contribution of \$0**

# Questions

**Any questions you may have please write them on the index cards provided on your table. Please include your name, county, and email address with your question and place in the questions box. A Q&A document along with the PowerPoints will be shared with all the counties in May 2023.**