



SNAP for College Students During COVID-19

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps eligible low-income households buy food. In response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the federal government has expanded college students' access to SNAP. The federal government has also boosted the amount of SNAP benefits. For someone who purchases and prepares their food alone, the maximum SNAP benefit is currently \$234 per month! Right now, because of the pandemic, everyone who qualifies for SNAP gets the maximum amount for their household size (see chart below).

SNAP Eligibility

Income

SNAP takes many factors into account when determining eligibility, including gross income (before taxes), household size, and certain household expenses. Below are the current SNAP eligibility income limits and monthly benefit amounts during the pandemic:

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income Limit <i>(work study income does not count)</i>	Monthly Maximum SNAP Benefit Amount
1	\$2,147	\$234
2	\$2,903	\$430
3	\$3,660	\$616
4	\$4,417	\$782
5	\$5,173	\$929

Note: while the federal and state public health emergency due to COVID is in effect, **all** households who qualify for SNAP receive the maximum amounts for their eligible household size.

Student Rules*

Students attending less than half-time and those age 50+ do not need to meet additional student criteria (only income - see above).

Students (18-49) attending half-time or more may be eligible for SNAP by meeting income guidelines and additional criteria (see bullets below).

You may meet the additional student criteria if you:

- Work 80 hours/month (20 hours/week);
- Are a parent or caregiver to a child under 12;
- Receive TANF (Colorado Works) benefits;
- Have a disability that makes working challenging;
- Participate in a workforce development program, such as Employment First;
- Were awarded work study, even if you don't currently have a work study job on campus; **OR**
- Have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0 (this is determined through the FAFSA process). You can find your EFC on your financial aid award letter or Student Aid Report (SAR) or with help from your financial aid office.



You will need to show proof that you meet one of these criteria. Examples of proof that can be used include:

- Pay stubs if you work 80 hours/month
- Financial aid award letter stating you are eligible to participate in work study
- Student Aid Report (SAR) showing EFC of \$0. You can access this by logging in to FAFSA.gov using your FSA ID and selecting the “View or Print your Student Aid Report (SAR)” option near the middle of the “My FAFSA” page.

If you need help providing proof of work study or EFC, your financial aid office should be able to assist you.

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are additional SNAP rules and income eligibility criteria you must meet to qualify. For example, you may need to apply for SNAP with other people you live with, including:

- If you are under 22 years old, your parents
- If you are a parent, all of your children who are under age 22
- If you are married, your spouse
- Anyone else you live with and share most (half or more) of your meals with

If you are a member of a household already receiving SNAP, you can submit proof that you meet one of the student criteria listed above to your county office to be added to your household's case.

**If you live on campus and your meal plan pays for more than half of your meals per week, then you are not eligible for SNAP.*

Here's how to apply for SNAP:

1. Apply online at colorado.gov/peak.
2. Send your county proof that you meet the student criteria after you submit your SNAP application.
 - If you apply online, you can upload verification documents at the end of the application through your PEAK account.
 - If you do not upload with the application, you can drop off, mail, or fax it to your [county office](#).
3. Complete a phone interview with a county caseworker. Keep an eye out for a phone call from your county office. If you miss the call for your interview, call your [county office](#) to reschedule.

NOTE: some Colorado counties are not requiring interviews during the pandemic, however in all other counties, completing this interview is required to receive SNAP.

4. Submit other required proofs (verifications) if your county office asks for them.

Looking for other food resources?

Visit COFoodFinder.org to find additional food resources in your community.