

**Table 3: TANF State Student Eligibility Rules<sup>1</sup>**

State	Program Lifetime Limit	Core Activity (single parents)			Program Type Limitations			Academic Measurement	Count Study Time <sup>2</sup>
		Education Limit	Total Hours Required	Countable Toward Education <sup>3</sup>	Associate	Bachelors	Advanced		
Alabama	60			10	yes <sup>4</sup>	yes	yes		Unk
Alaska	60	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes <sup>5</sup>	yes	yes		Y
Arizona	12	up to one year	30; at least 20	10	yes <sup>7</sup>	yes	yes	maintain good standing with university	Y

<sup>1</sup> All state student eligibility rules were gathered from a state’s respective policy and administration manual, state plans, and the 2020 Welfare Rules Databook, unless otherwise noted. If you are interested in more information about a specific source, feel free to contact the report authors.

<sup>2</sup> Count study time refers to whether a state allows homework or study time to count towards participation hours. Most states will count supervised study time, however, not all will count unsupervised study or homework time. A “Y” refers to states that count up to one hour of unsupervised homework time for each hour of class time. “Unk” refers to information that is unknown because the state plan or manual did not include homework time rules.

<sup>3</sup> Countable towards education refers to how many hours of education can be counted towards the work participation requirement. All information in this column was gathered from the [2020 Welfare Rules Databook](#).

<sup>4</sup> Vocational Education Training must be related to the preparation of employment in current or emerging occupations and must lead to useful employment.

<sup>5</sup> The education component must lead to a certification, Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, bachelor’s or advanced degree and must be in a current or emerging occupation. However, it seems like they typically prioritize vocational education and technical schools. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>7</sup> For a vocational program to be accepted, it must not have a high turnover. If pursuing a Bachelor’s or advanced degree, tuition costs and enrollment may not be funded by TANF. Information found in their state manual.

			hours in core <sup>6</sup>						
Arkansas	24	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core <sup>8</sup>	10	yes <sup>9</sup>	yes	yes		Y <sup>10</sup>
California	48	up to 36 months <sup>11</sup>	(after 24 months) 30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes				Y
Colorado	60								Unk

<sup>6</sup> Alternatively, it is acceptable for single parents to participate in educational activities on a full-time basis if the state is already meeting the federal work participation rate. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>8</sup> Work-study is countable towards the participation hour requirement; it will be counted as unsubsidized employment. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>9</sup> In order to pursue Career and Technical Education, the participant must meet one of the following: Occupation must be listed in the Projected Employment Opportunities List (published by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services Labor Market Information); Participant must have committed to relocate within another area in the state; Show a letter of intent of hire from potential employer once education and training is complete; Pursue an occupation in local demand (does not have to be on the Projected Employment Opportunities List) and must have it written in documentation by the Workforce Investment Board. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>10</sup> Count one hour of unsupervised study time for each credit hour. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>11</sup> For 24 months, participants will be tracked by the WTW 24-month Time Clock, which means participants will receive flexible requirements: no activity time limits, no core hourly requirements, and lower hourly requirements for some families. After the 24 months, participants will be held to standard federal requirements for an additional 12 months. Further information can be found in their state plan. See: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/DSSDB/ACF-Approved-TANF-State-Plan-2019.pdf>

Connecticut	21 <sup>12</sup>	up to one year		no limit	yes	yes	yes		Unk
Delaware <sup>13</sup>	36	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes		maintain good or satisfactory progress	Y <sup>14</sup>
D.C.	no time limit	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours as core	10	yes <sup>15</sup>				Unk
Florida	48	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	10	yes	yes	yes		Y

<sup>12</sup> Extensions are available after the first 21 months, but may not exceed 60 months. Information found in their state plan.

<sup>13</sup> The student rules included are based on Senate Bill 101-1999, which means that a TANF participant can qualify for postsecondary education up to a Bachelor's degree. They must meet the following requirements: should not have received a Bachelor's degree; education and training program must be through an accredited or approved program; be enrolled full-time and be in good standing with the program; if would have otherwise been subject to work requirement, must be meeting a combination of at least 20 hours per week (work-study, internships, research assistance, and externships can count as employment). There is no limit on education, but must be meeting a work activity. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>14</sup> Homework time is countable up to one hour of unsupervised time per credit or class hour if homework is a requirement. For those participating under SB 101-1099, a credit hour counts as 1.5 hours of study.

<sup>15</sup> Manual only includes Bachelor and advanced degrees as eligible degrees during the job skills training directly related to the employment component, which is a non-core activity.

Georgia	48	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	10	yes	yes	yes	maintain an average of 2.0 GPA	Y
Hawaii <sup>16</sup>	60	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes <sup>17</sup>	yes	maintain good or satisfactory progress for their hours to count	Y
Idaho	24								Unk
Illinois	60 <sup>18</sup>	up to one year <sup>19</sup>	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes <sup>20</sup>		maintain GPA of at least a "C"	Y
Indiana	60 (24-month)	up to one year	30; at least 20	no limit	yes	yes	yes	maintain GPA of at least a "C"	Y

<sup>16</sup> There are two components available for education and training: Postsecondary Education (PSE) component and Vocational Education and Training (VET) component. For participants pursuing education through the PSE component, they must be enrolled full-time and include a minimum number of work activities of 20 hours per week (no less than 4 hours can be paid in employment). This component can only be pursued for one uninterrupted period in a lifetime. Information found in their manual.

<sup>17</sup> A participant may only pursue a Bachelor's or advanced degree through the Postsecondary Education (PSE) Component if they are unable to pursue it through the Vocational Education and Training (VET) component or Job Skills Training Directly Related to Employment (JST) component. Information found in their manual.

<sup>18</sup> Single parents who attend a postsecondary degree full-time and maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA will not count against the 60-month lifetime limit and these funds will come from MOE or state funds. For more information, reference their state plan.

<sup>19</sup> During the first 12 months, participants do not have to meet a work requirement. For more information, reference their state manual.

<sup>20</sup> A bachelor's degree cannot be pursued under the Vocational Education component, but can be pursued under the "Bachelor's Degree Program" component. The caseworker must approve of this component based on educational and career goals, transportation, work history, child care, and family obligations. For more information, reference their state plan.

	benefit limit) <sup>21</sup>		hours in core						
Iowa	60		30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes			Y
Kansas	24	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes <sup>22</sup>	yes		maintain at least a GPA of "C" or 2.0	Y
Kentucky	60	up to one year	full-time or part-time <sup>23</sup>	no limit	yes	yes	yes		Y
Louisiana	60 (24 of 60 months) <sup>24</sup>	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	does not count towards hours	yes <sup>25</sup>	yes	yes		Y

<sup>21</sup> There is also a 24-month benefit limit for mandatory participants participating in IMPACT. IMPACT is the state's Employment and Training Program and is available to both SNAP and TANF recipients. However, Vocational Education Training is not included in the 24-month period. They do not have to complete their education activity in under 24 months. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>22</sup> Accelerating Opportunities-Kansas (AO-K) is a program offered that connects participants to career and technical education in immediate and labor market needs jobs. Education programs allowed include remedial education and postsecondary programs. TANF students participating in this program will receive a scholarship that pays for all their tuition after completing 12 credits. For more information: <http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/Accelerating-Opportunity-Kansas.aspx>.

<sup>23</sup> Full or part-time attendance can be used to meet the core federal participation requirements for up to 12 months. Participants can also be referred to Ready to Work programs, which supports students balance family, work and school, and offers supportive services. . Information found in their state manual.

<sup>24</sup> Parents may not receive cash assistance for more than 24 months in a 60 month period.

<sup>25</sup> Vocational Education activities can be limited to programs that provide skills and knowledge to perform an occupation or prepares the participant for a specific job or field of work (i.e. associate degree for accounting). Information found in their manual.

Maine	60	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	10 <sup>26</sup>	yes <sup>27</sup>	yes <sup>28</sup>		maintain GPA of at least a 2.0	Y
Maryland	60	up to 24 months <sup>29</sup>	30; at least 20 hours in core	16	yes <sup>30</sup>				Y
Massachusetts	24-months in a continuous 60-month period <sup>31</sup>	up to one year <sup>32</sup>	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit but cannot exceed 24 months	yes	yes <sup>33</sup>		maintain satisfactory progress	Unk

<sup>26</sup> There is no time limit for single parents with children under 6, according to the 2020 Welfare Rules Databook.

<sup>27</sup> Vocational Educational Training includes associate and bachelor's degrees. Participants may also pursue postsecondary programs through the Parent as Scholars (PaS) program. The PaS program is need-based and helps cover financial aid for up to 2,000 families who are navigating a postsecondary education (2 or 4 year degrees). Information found in their state manual and plan.

<sup>28</sup> Graduate programs are usually not allowed, unless it is to renew a professional license or certificate for employment and courses must be completed within six months. Information found in their state manual and plan.

<sup>29</sup> As long as a participant is engaged in Vocational Education (leading to an associate degree) for 20 hours per week, they will be meeting work requirements. Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, per [HB 1066](#), the period for which an individual can do this has been extended to 24 months. After this, participants will need to include additional hours in another core activity. Information can be found in the state plan and this [manual policy transmittal](#).

<sup>30</sup> Manual states that two and four-year degrees are permissible. However, HB 1066, only includes associate degrees.

<sup>31</sup> A participant can only receive benefits for 24 months in a continuous 60-month period, unless exempt. If exempt, they have no limit at all. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>32</sup> Manual includes that for the vocational educational program, it cannot exceed 12 months. However, for the education or training activity, it says the activity cannot exceed 24 months for purposes of meeting the work program requirement.

<sup>33</sup> The Postsecondary Education component shall be a half-time program or more, be an approved program within the Northeast regional labor market, and count towards a certificate, associate degree, or other degree. Information found in their state manual.

Michigan	48	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	10	yes	yes	yes		Y
Minnesota	60	up to one year	130 hours; at least 87 hours a month	no limit	yes	yes	yes	maintain satisfactory progress	Y
Mississippi	60 <sup>34</sup>	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes <sup>35</sup>			Y
Missouri	45	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours a week	10	yes	yes	yes		Y
Montana	60	up to one year <sup>36</sup>	33; at least 23 hours in core	10 <sup>37</sup>	yes	yes	yes	maintain progress based on standards set by the	Y

<sup>34</sup> Lifetime limit can be reduced to 24 months if participant fails to participate in the work program or is not assigned to a work activity. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>35</sup> Advanced degrees can only be counted as a non-core activity under Job Skills Training. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>36</sup> Parents as Scholars (PaS) program allows 25 participants to go beyond the 12-month limit, if selected through application or lottery. Within the program, the participant must be a full-time student, attending an approved program (including associate or bachelor's degrees) and maintain a 2.0 GPA. They also don't have a limit on hours counted towards their education, unlike those who aren't part of PaS. Information found in their state manual and Welfare Rules Databook.

<sup>37</sup> This is capped at two hours for single parents with children under six, according to the 2020 Welfare Rules Databook.

								educational institution	
Nebraska	60	up to 36 months <sup>38</sup>	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes		maintain satisfactory progress through GPA	Unk
Nevada	60 (12 months of ineligibility) <sup>39</sup>	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes	yes	maintain GPA of 2.0 or "C"	Y
New Hampshire	60	up to one year <sup>40</sup>	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit for 12 months <sup>41</sup>	yes <sup>42</sup>	yes	yes		Y

<sup>38</sup> Nebraska has two components related to education: "Vocational Education" and "Post-secondary education". The 36-month education limit is only included in the Vocational Education component, which allows education to be pursued up to an associate degree. The Post-Secondary Education component does not include information on its education limit, however, this component allows education to be pursued up to a Bachelor's degree. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>39</sup> A household is limited to 24 months of cash assistance. After a waiting period of 12 months, a household would be able to apply for another 24 months of assistance.

<sup>40</sup> An extension past 12 months may be granted for a maximum of 3 months if determined necessary for transitioning to employment. After the extension, postsecondary education can only continue as a non-core activity. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>41</sup> After 12 months, activities count for 10 hours. Information found in 2020 Welfare Rules Databook.

<sup>42</sup> The Post Secondary Education component allows participants to pursue a program leading to an associate degree or higher after the following conditions are considered: the participants marketability of current skills, experience, and education; ability to be self-sufficient without a degree; ability to successfully complete the degree; access support services needed to complete the degree; and evaluate the local labor market. Tuition assistance is available if there are no other sources. Information found in their state manual.



New Jersey	60		up to 35 hours a week	no limit	yes <sup>43</sup>	yes			Unk
New Mexico	60	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours a month in core <sup>44</sup>	10	yes <sup>45</sup>	yes	yes		Y
New York	60	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	10	yes				Unk
North Carolina	60 <sup>46</sup> (36 months of ineligibility)	up to three years <sup>47</sup>	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes	yes	maintain 2.5 GPA to increase lifetime limit	Y
North Dakota	60			no limit	yes				Unk

<sup>43</sup> Vocational Education Training includes remedial or adult basic education, associate, and bachelor's degrees, however, it must be required for entry-level employment, specific occupational areas and careers. More information on what types of careers qualify can be found in their state plan.

<sup>44</sup> New Mexico also has an Education Works Programs, which allows parents to participate in postsecondary education, including graduate and post-graduate, for an average of 20 hours per week for up to 24 months without a time limit. One- and one-half hours will be counted towards study time. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>45</sup> Vocational Education and Training component only allows degrees or occupations that are included in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT). Information found in their state manual.

<sup>46</sup> A participant cannot continue receiving benefits after 24 months for 3 years. Information found in their state plan.

<sup>47</sup> Participants enrolled in a postsecondary education at least part-time can have the 24-month lifetime limit waived for up to three years (36 months) if they maintain a 2.5 GPA. Information found in their state plan.

Ohio	36 <sup>48</sup>	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	10	yes	yes	yes		Y
Oklahoma	60	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes	yes	maintain GPA of at least 2.0	Y
Oregon	60	up to 18 months <sup>49</sup>	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes			Y
Pennsylvania	60	up to one year, unless in KEYS	30; at least 20 hours in core	10	yes <sup>50</sup>	yes			Y

<sup>48</sup> The lifetime limit can be extended up to 60 months with an extension from their caseworker. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>49</sup> In Oregon, there are two core components that focus on education: Vocational Training and Self-Initiated Training. The 18-month limitation only applies to the Vocational Training core activity, which includes certificates and training that will lead to a job offer or career (no two or four-year degrees). For participants pursuing a two or four year program, they will have to complete this through the Self-Initiated Training core activity. No information was found on the education time limit for the “Self-Initiated Training” component. More information available in their JOBS manual.

<sup>50</sup> Keystone Education Yields Success (KEYS) program is offered and allows participants to be enrolled at one of Pennsylvania’s 14 community colleges, 14 universities, and 108 career and technical schools for a total of 24 months. After 24 months, must continue as a non-core activity. However, they can continue as core in 6 month increments if they are in a High Priority Occupation (HPO), GPA of 2.0 and enrolled in an average of 8 credit hours per semester. Information found in their state plan.

Rhode Island	48	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes	yes	maintain GPA and satisfactory progress	Y
South Carolina	60 <sup>51</sup>	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes		maintain satisfactory progress	Y
South Dakota	60	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours or full-time	10	yes	yes <sup>52</sup>			Unk
Tennessee	60	up to one year	30; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes	yes		Unk
Texas	60			no limit					
Utah	36	up to one year		no limit	yes	yes			Y
Vermont	60	up to one year	30; at least 20	no limit					Unk

<sup>51</sup> Lifetime is limited to 24 months in a 10 year time period. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>52</sup> If a parent wishes to combine work with education, they must be a second year in an undergraduate program at a north central association of colleges and secondary schools institution, and they must meet a 2.5 GPA to stay eligible for this activity.

			hours in core						
Virginia	60 <sup>53</sup>	up to one year	35; at least 20 hours in core	15	yes <sup>54</sup>	yes			Y
Washington	60	up to one year (extension for 24 months available) <sup>55</sup>	32; at least 20 hours in core	no limit	yes	yes <sup>56</sup>		maintaining satisfactory progress	Y
West Virginia	60	up to one year	128; at least 85 hours a month in core	10 <sup>57</sup>	yes	yes		maintaining satisfactory progress	Y

<sup>53</sup> There is a 24 month limit within the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) program. The VIEW program covers all work activities. After a participant hits the 24 month limit, they will be ineligible for TANF for the following 24 months until they can be eligible again. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>54</sup> The Vocational and Education Training component must be used for education directly related to employment; postsecondary education not directly related will not count towards the participation rate. Some examples of what is countable includes: health science programs, information technology, business, accounting, nursing and in demand jobs in their community. All postsecondary degrees can lead up to a Bachelor's degree. Information found in their state manual.

<sup>55</sup> The lifetime limitation may be extended up to 24 months for parents participating in full-time vocational education, degree completion, or the high-wage/high-demand components. The months beyond the first 12 months will not count towards the federal work participation rate.

<sup>56</sup> Bachelor's degree can only be pursued via the Degree Completion (DC) program rather than the Vocational Education (VE) program. The degree must be part of the high wage/high demand criteria. For more information, refer to section 7.2.11 in their state manual.

<sup>57</sup> There is no time limit for single parents with children under 6, according to the 2020 Welfare Rules Databook.

Wisconsin	60	up to one year <sup>58</sup>	25 hours a week	12					maintain GPA of at least 2.0	Y
Wyoming	60			10						

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<sup>58</sup> The program focuses on technical college degrees, specifically through the Wisconsin Technical College System, and certifications. A parent can't be assigned to attend a full-time technical college education for up to two years. However, full-time enrollment must be in addition to meeting a 25-hour activity requirement, which could include work-study, job shadowing, work experience, and internships. All information in the table is for the "Full-Time Technical College Education" option within their Education and Training component. For more information, reference their state manual.