



Supplemental  
Nutrition  
Assistance  
Program

# ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?



NIAGARA  
UNIVERSITY

FIND YOUR  
WINGS

# What is SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides food benefits to low-income families to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being (Source: USDA)

## WHO CAN APPLY?

- Families
- College Students
- U.S. Citizens
- Qualifying Non-Citizens
- New York State Residents

## HOW TO APPLY

1. Online at: [www.ny.gov/services/apply-snap](http://www.ny.gov/services/apply-snap)
2. In person at local department of social services office
3. By mail to your local SNAP office
4. Fax completed application to local SNAP office

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

There are multiple conditions that a student must meet in order to be eligible for SNAP benefits. The student needs to be working an average of 20 hours per week, considered at minimum a half-time student by their college, participate in a qualified government program and must meet specific exemption criteria. Students that are deemed eligible will remain eligible between school breaks, unless the student graduates from college, is suspended, expelled, drops out, or does not intend to register for the school year, this does not include the summer semester(s). Be aware that work study students will lose SNAP eligibility during breaks if they last longer than one month and during the summer, unless the work study position is to continue, or if they fit another criteria.

## COLLEGE MEAL PLAN

If the student receives 50% or more of their meals from a college meal plan, then they will be considered ineligible for SNAP benefits. This is because the student is considered to be living in an institution.

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

If the student meets the income requirement, and meets at least one criteria of any of the individual characteristics or participates in a qualifying government program, then the student may be eligible for SNAP benefits. The student may be exempt from SNAP Education & Training Requirements.

## COMMUTER STUDENTS

Apply for SNAP in the county where you live. If student lives with a parent/guardian and is under 22, then everyone living at home needs to be on the SNAP application. If student lives with parent/ guardian then student needs to be on the parent/ guardian's SNAP program. If student is 18+ and lives by themselves (or with roommates) then student is able to apply and their household size is one.

## RESIDENT STUDENTS

- There is no age requirement.
- Student needs to apply for SNAP in the county your college is in (Niagara University is in Niagara County).
- A meal plan could affect student's eligibility.

# Students must meet one of the following criteria\*

## ARE YOU WORKING?

YES

### WORK REQUIREMENT

- Works 20 hours per week or makes over \$217.50 gross/week
- Is self employed and receives weekly earnings at least equal to the federal minimum wage (\$7.25/ hour) multiplied by 20 hours (\$145/ week).
- Student is participating in state or federal work study program.

NO

### INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS

- The student is mentally, or physically, unfit to work. Someone is considered to be unfit for work if they have a disability, illness, condition, or life circumstance, that is temporary or permanent, that reduces, or affects, their ability to work 20 hours/ week.
- Student is the primary caretaker for a household member that is under the age of 6.
- Student is the primary caretaker for a household member that is between 6-11 years of age, if there is no adequate child care available that would make it possible to both go to school and work.
- Student is a single parent, enrolled full time in school, who is responsible for the care of a child that is under the age of 12.

### PARTICIPATES IN A QUALIFYING GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

- Student receives benefits from Family Assistance (FA) or Safety Net Assistance (SNA)
- Student receives unemployment benefits
- Student is attending an Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) and is enrolled in a qualified CTE program, remedial courses, basic adult education, literacy, or English as a second language.
- Student is in school through SNAP E&T, WIOA, or Department of Labor program.

\*Students do not need to engage in work to receive SNAP benefits. If students are working, they will have to meet one of the criteria listed under "Work Requirement." If students are not working, they will need to meet one of the additional criteria listed in another category.

# Income Requirement

Income guidelines for households WITHOUT earned income (No elderly or disabled member)		
Family Size	Monthly Gross Income*	Annual Gross Income*
1	\$1,632	\$19,584
2	\$2,215	\$26,580
3	\$2,798	\$33,576
4	\$3,380	\$40,560
5	\$3,963	\$47,556
6	\$4,546	\$54,552
7	\$5,129	\$61,548
8	\$5,712	\$68,544
Each additional person	\$583 +	\$6,996 +

Income guidelines for households WITH earned income (No elderly or disabled member)		
Family Size	Monthly Gross Income*	Annual Gross Income*
1	\$1,883	\$22,596
2	\$2,555	\$30,660
3	\$3,228	\$38,736
4	\$3,900	\$46,800
5	\$4,573	\$54,876
6	\$5,245	\$62,940
7	\$5,918	\$71,016
8	\$6,590	\$79,080
Each additional person	\$673 +	\$8,076 +

Income guidelines for households with an elderly or disabled member and/or dependent care expenses		
Family Size	Monthly Gross Income*	Annual Gross Income*
1	\$2,510	\$30,120
2	\$3,407	\$40,884
3	\$4,303	\$51,636
4	\$5,200	\$62,400
5	\$6,097	\$73,164
6	\$6,993	\$83,916
7	\$7,890	\$94,680
8	\$8,787	\$105,444
Each additional person	\$897 +	\$10,764 +

\* Chart information is based upon SNAP Standards effective October 1, 2024.  
Source: NYS OTDA website.

## GET HELP WITH THE SNAP APPLICATION PROCESS

Find your local SNAP office ➔



Find an organization to help with your SNAP application ➔



### SNAP-ED

SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education is FREE to all individuals who may qualify for and/or receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The program provides skill-based nutrition education classes and sponsors obesity prevention events in local communities on a variety of topics. (Source: NYS OTDA)

Learn more



### DOUBLE UP PROGRAM

Once you get your SNAP card you can join the Double Up program where you can get a dollar for dollar match, up to \$20/ day, when you buy fruits and vegetables, and it never expires.

Learn more



Recertification Information ➔



Stores that participate in online ordering with SNAP benefits ➔



SNAP resources in all 50 states and Washington D.C. ➔



### MORE FOOD HELP

If you are not eligible for SNAP or need more help, you can get food help from local organizations and food pantries. FeedMoreWNY helps Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties.



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FIND FOOD ➔

