

CalFresh College Students Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): LPIE

Background: Most college students must meet certain requirements to qualify for CalFresh. One common way to meet these requirements is by participating in a Local Program that Increases Employability (LPIE).

What is an LPIE?

An LPIE is a program at a public college, like a degree or training program, that helps students gain work skills and improve their chances of getting a job.

What is a public college?

Public colleges are California Community Colleges (CCC), California State Universities (CSU), and The University of California (UC). Only programs offered at these schools qualify as LPIEs.

Programs at private colleges and vocational schools are not considered LPIEs.

What changed on June 1, 2026?

All associate and bachelor's degree programs at public colleges are now LPIEs.

What does this mean for me as a student?

If you are in an associate or bachelor's degree program, or taking general education courses needed for these degrees, you may qualify for CalFresh.

Will I need to prove I'm in a degree program?

Usually, telling the county worker that you are working on your degree is enough. If anything is unclear, the worker will ask questions or request proof.

What if I'm not in an associate or bachelor's degree program?

You may still be able to get CalFresh. There are other types of LPIEs, like certificate or post-graduate programs, that can also help you qualify. You can find the complete list of LPIEs on the CDSS [Policy Guidance](#) page.

What if I'm not in an LPIE?

If your program is not on the list, you may still be able to get CalFresh. Ask your county worker or campus basic needs center if you have a different exemption.



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