

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL · Published 3 days ago

Felicity Huffman, Lori Loughlin face possible jail time for college admissions cheating scandal

By Jessica Napoli | Fox News



Felicity Huffman, Lori Loughlin among actresses charged in college admissions scam

Dozens of high-profile suspects, including actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin, have been charged in an alleged college admissions cheating scam involving elite universities.

[Felicity Huffman](#) and [Lori Loughlin](#) were indicted by federal authorities on Tuesday for allegedly participating in a nationwide bribery scam to get their kids into [elite universities](#).

Huffman was arrested in her home and later appeared in a Los Angeles federal court where she posted \$250,000 bail and had to surrender her passport. However, her husband, actor [William H. Macy](#), has not yet been charged in the alleged bribery scam but did show up at the courthouse to support his wife.

LORI LOUGHLIN APPEARED 'ARROGANT' IN COURT WHILE FELICITY HUFFMAN LOOKED 'MORE GENUINE,' SAYS SKETCH ARTIST

Loughlin's fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, was arrested as well and posted [\\$1 million bail](#) on Tuesday. The "[Fuller House](#)" star didn't show up in court until Thursday and her bail was also set at \$1 million. She'll have to surrender her passport in December.

The three celebrity parties involved have yet to enter a plea but are scheduled to appear in court in Boston on March 29.



The scandal, at least for Loughlin, has already made an impact on her career. On Thursday, a rep for Crown Media – the umbrella group that includes the Hallmark Channel – confirmed to Fox News that the company has cut ties with the 54-year-old star.

Reputations and careers aside, are the Hollywood stars facing possible jail time?

Fox News spoke with California-based criminal defense attorney Lara Yeretsian, who has represented celebrity defendants including Michael Jackson and Scott Peterson, about what possible jail time the two actresses may be looking at.

Yeretsian predicted that "if convicted at trial, [Loughlin] could serve 37-46 months. But if she enters into a plea agreement, could have 27-33 month custody time or possible probation with no jail or go under house arrest."

LORI LOUGHLIN'S DAUGHTER OLIVIA JADE WAS ABOARD USC OFFICIAL'S YACHT IN BAHAMAS WHEN MOM WAS CHARGED: REPORTS

As for Huffman, Yeretsian thinks that "if she's convicted at trial, she could serve 12-18 months in jail" or "if she enters into a plea agreement, 8-14 months but probation is likely for her."

Yeretsian pointed out that "there are a number of factors that can have an impact on the sentencing guideline range, including the amount of loss of money involved, the level of sophistication of the alleged conspiracy, the role the defendant has played in the conspiracy, acceptance of responsibility and criminal history or lack thereof."



"In fact, if the court agrees that Loughlin and Huffman were minor participants in the conspiracy, their sentencing guideline ranges will be 21-27 [months] for Loughlin and 4-10 [months] for Huffman if they plead guilty as a result of plea negotiations," she added.

LORI LOUGHLIN, FELICITY HUFFMAN MUM AFTER COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL ARREST AS EXPERT URGES STARS TAKE ACTION

"The focus, in this case, should be on the masterminds and architects of the conspiracy rather than the parents and students. The masterminds enriched themselves off overzealous parents," Yeretsian stated.

"Prosecutors have mentioned that they are still deciding whether to file charges against some of the students. I would not be surprised if many of the charged parents cooperate with the prosecutors to prevent charges being filed against their children, the students."

San Diego criminal defense attorney [David P. Shapiro](#) told Fox News that the fact Loughlin and Huffman are celebrities will play a large part as well in their sentencing. "It cannot be overlooked that people are outraged over the privilege in Hollywood. That the elite are essentially buying their kids' way into a successful life," he said.

[FELICITY HUFFMAN, LORI LOUGHLIN MOCKED BY FELLOW CELEBRITIES OVER COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CHEATING SCANDAL](#)

"I would recommend going above and beyond and really use this as an opportunity to make some positives changes for those kids who may have been deprived a spot at a reputable school purely because their parents didn't have \$15,000 - \$500,000 to essentially bribe someone to get them in," he added.



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aijee_lee · 1d

I wonder if they will kill off Abigail's character in When Calls the Heart..... It's not like the series even follows the books anyway.....

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HEBJR555 ★ Leader · 1d

If found guilty, they should serve prison time and pay significant fines. The fines should be very extreme and used to create a scholarship program for students who have earned their

way to higher education. No more rich privilege admissions to any University without the appropriate grades and test scores.

It would be good to know the names of other celebs and politicians who are part of this scandal. Remember, upon graduation, Chelsea Clinton somehow landed a job paying around \$800,000 per year -- no way this should have ever happened. This is called Quid pro Quo.

Too many of the rich celebs have no shame -- it is always about them. Disgraceful people.
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Doironr13 ★ Leader · 3d 

How is this different from affirmative action where the government pays and mandates admission of unqualified students that take the slots of qualified students?

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HillaryGone ★ Leader · 2d → Doironr13 

It's very similar, except only Rich people can cheat this way.

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VgT ★ Leader · 3d 

I would love to know some of the OTHER names involved in this scandal. All we seem to be hearing about is these two actresses and husbands. We all know that they probably wont serve any time at all but big fines and community service. What they did was horrible but not deadly ! I feel they really cheated and hurt a great number of students that have worked their rears off for years to get into a good college or university. Punishment yes ! All involved needs to be brought down.

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robertbobby777 · 3d 

The backlash will be gigantic if Loughlin and Huffman don't serve prison time. I believe that 95% of the media are doing their very best to protect them as these are the elites that they truly serve... However the media must give the appearance of pretending to care about the average people that are negatively affected by this. So the media will do its best to frame the parents as not being too culpable when in reality it is these wealthy parents that keep these corrupt machines moving. If all of these parents don't serve at least a couple of years in prison there is no real deterrent to keep future parents from doing the same thing. House arrest and probation are minor irritations. If the punishments are that minor when you have insurmountable evidence... then wealthy parents will be even more emboldened to do these scams in the future. In contrast if these wealthy parents do 24 months or more in prison I would imagine that would serve as a strong future deterrent.

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FWIW10 ★ Leader · 3d → robertbobby777 

Tell us specifically how the media is protecting them. It's been front page news on all outlets since it broke. Only the tragic NZ shooting moved it off the lead story.

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HillaryGone ★ Leader · 3d

They'll just Bribe the Judge, no biggie.....

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finaldays ★ Leader · 3d

If Martha Stewart and Theresa Giudice had to serve time I guess these two will also

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CommonSenseWouldBeNice ★ Leader · 3d

will give Lori Loughlin's daughter something to blog about

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jupiter9 ★ Leader · 3d

In some of these cases, the proctor secretly changed scores after the child took the test. You can't assume they all knew about it.

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