



FINANCIAL AID 101

Welcome!



FINANCIAL AID 101

Latest Headlines & Trends

A Recent Survey* Says...

50% of seniors rule out institutions based only on “sticker price”

Take-away:

Optimize your online presence to direct students who are looking for your price to information about your affordability. Provide an easy-to-find net price calculator and “why-invest” information about the value, benefits, and outcomes of choosing your institution, including a section for parents.



Please note: students and families should focus on net price, not sticker price

*“2016 Rising Seniors’ Perceptions on Financial Aid,” produced by Ruffalo Noel Levitz Enrollment Management

15 to Finish



The National Picture

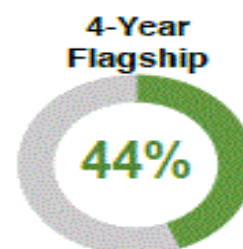
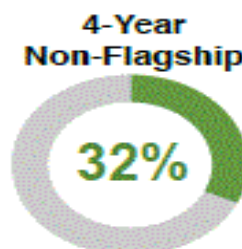
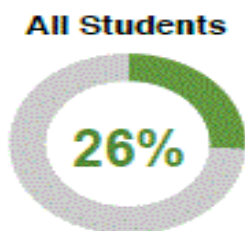
CCA Data Snapshot

(Data for students who began college going full-time, unless noted otherwise)

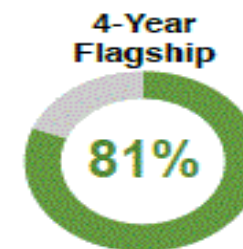
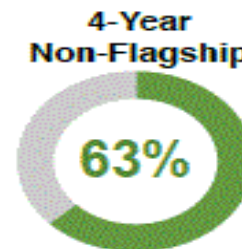
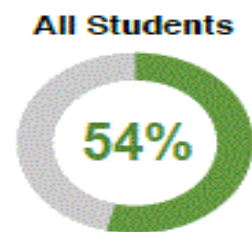
Most students graduate late. It takes 15 credits per semester (or 30 credits a year) to graduate on time, and data show that “easing in” with 12 credits doesn’t work for most students. Students who take 15 credits every semester get better grades and are more likely to graduate.

Too few students start with the momentum needed to graduate on time.

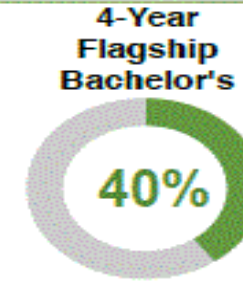
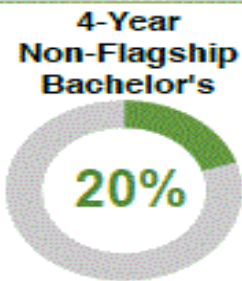
Students Completing 30 Credits Per Year
(On-Time Students)



Students Completing 24 Credits Per Year
(Full-Time but Not On-Time Students)



On-Time Graduation Rate



All Financial Aid



82.9%

of all full-time
undergraduate students
received financial aid
during the 2013-14
school year.

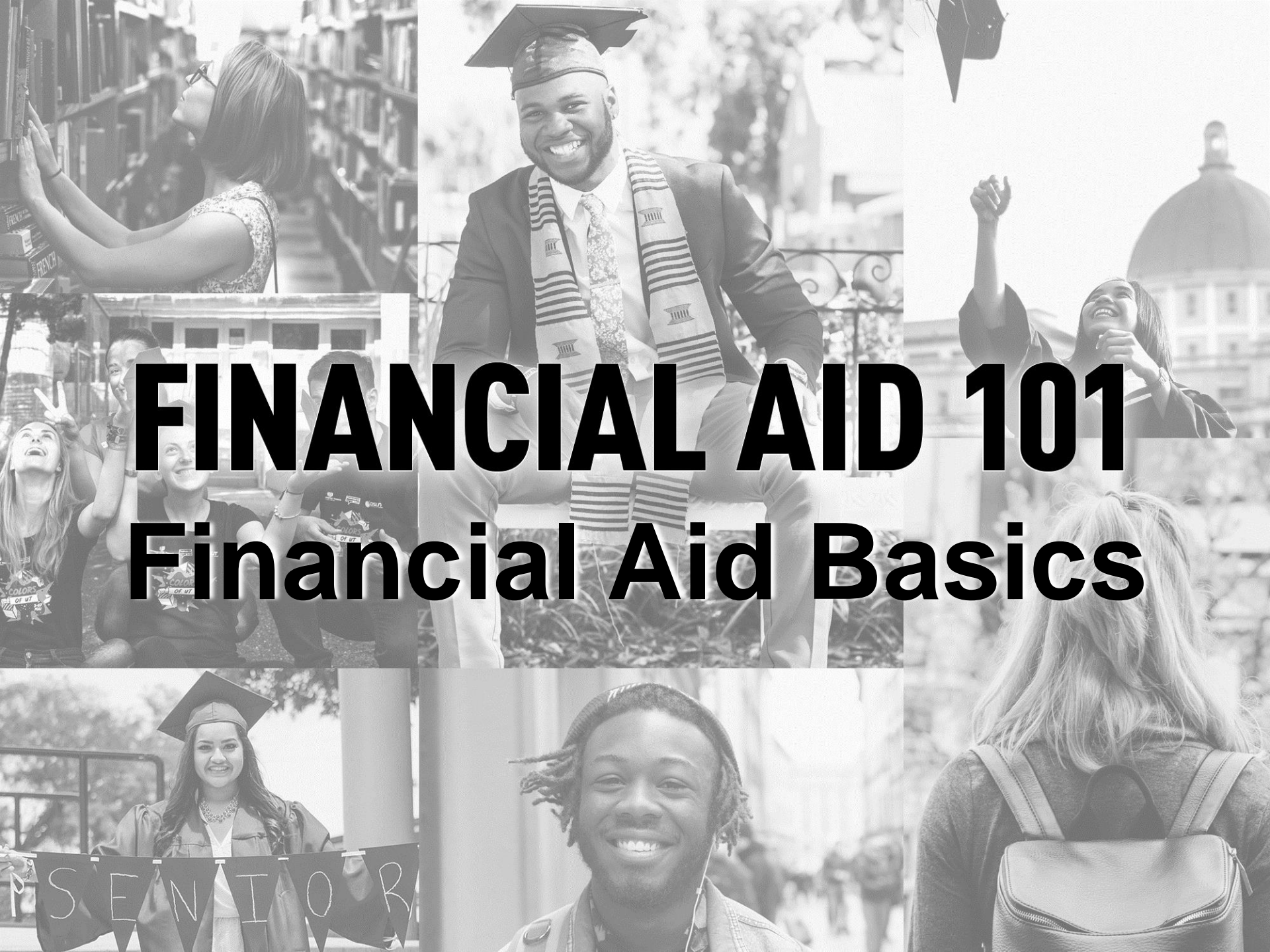
Source: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d15/tables/dt15_331.20.asp

#FinAidFeb



NASFAA

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS



FINANCIAL AID 101

Financial Aid Basics

Funding Sources



- Federal Government
- State Government
- School/Colleges
- Private Scholarship Sources:
 - » HS counselors
 - » Clubs and organizations
 - » Employers
 - » Internet scholarship searches

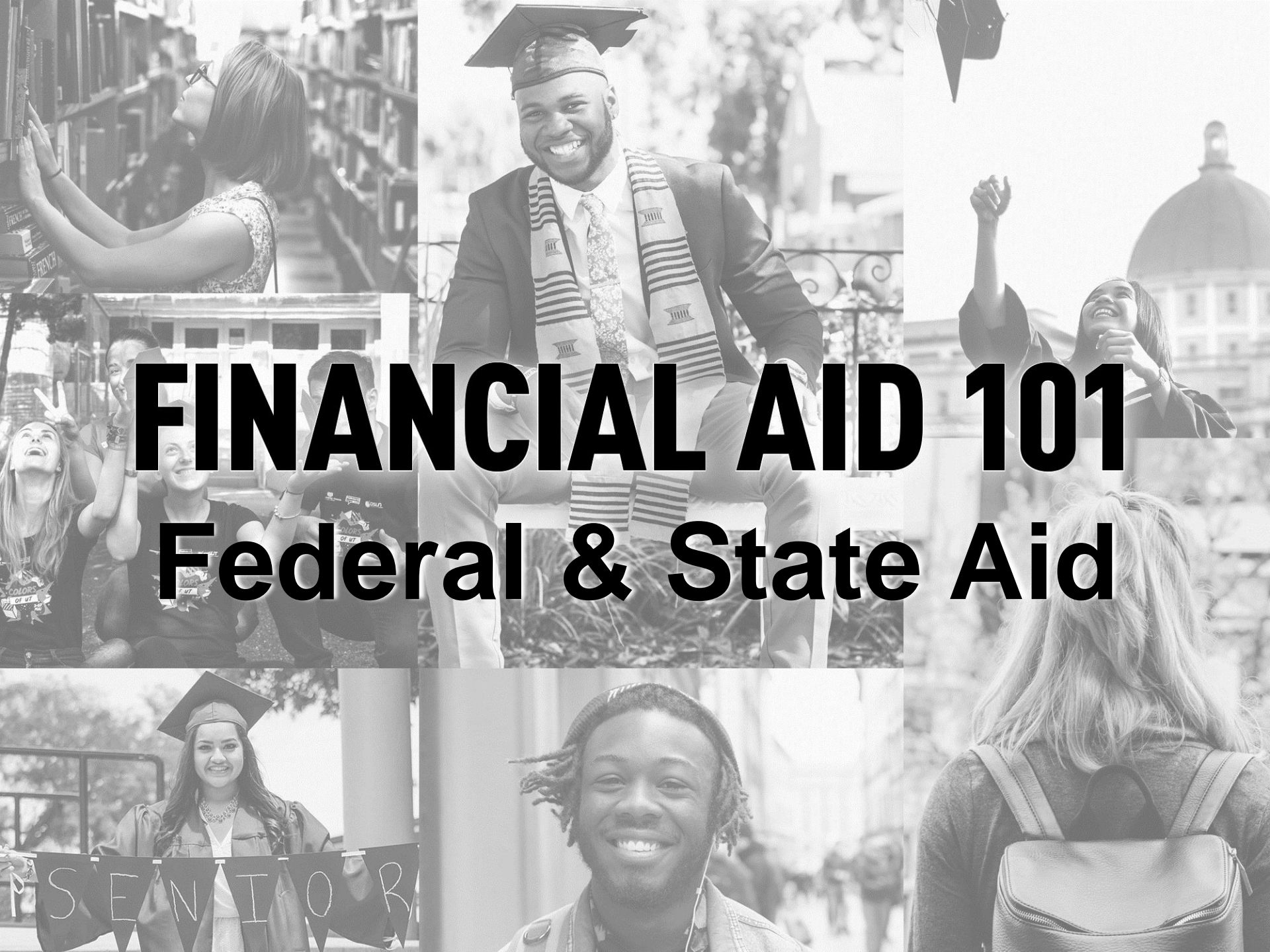
Scholarship Search

Don't miss out on FREE money!

- Start early – and KEEP LOOKING
- Don't forget to continue studies!
- GOOGLE your interests
- Don't PAY for information
- Criteria varies by school
 - » If you're asked to pay, it's not free money (SCAM)
- Don't disqualify yourself until IT disqualifies YOU
- Don't fear ESSAYS
- Provide what is asked
- Small scholarships ADD UP
- Activities, Athletics, Family, Hobbies, Participation, Attributes – DO YOUR RESEARCH
- **Don't miss DEADLINES**
- Write it down!



- ✓ **FastWeb.com**
- ✓ **EducationPlanner.org**
- ✓ **Chegg.com**
- ✓ **FinAid.org**
- ✓ **ScholarshipExperts.com**
- ✓ **Scholarships.com**
- ✓ **Scholarship-Page.com**
- ✓ **DoSomething.org/Scholarships**
- ✓ **Colleges.Niche.com**
- ✓ **StudentScholarships.org**
- ✓ **BigFuture.Collegeboard.org**
- ✓ **CollegeAnswer.com**
- ✓ **CollegeNet.com**
- ✓ **MeritAid.com**
- ✓ **MORE....**



FINANCIAL AID 101

Federal & State Aid

Federal Programs

- Pell Grant (2018-19 max award \$6,095)*
- Campus-based aid (amts determined by FAO)
 - » FSEOG.....up to \$4,000
 - » Federal Work-Study...FAO determines
- For most programs, student must be enrolled at least half-time.

* Goes to most financially needy students

Pennsylvania State Grant*



- In-state (PA) - Full-time: up to \$4,123
- In-state (PA) – Full-time Distance Education: up to \$2,061
- In-state (PA) – Part-time: 1/2 of the FT award
- Out-of-state - Up to \$526 in DC, DE, MA, OH, VT, WV. \$702 for veterans.
- Amount determined in part by the cost of the school.

* Must be at least half-time to be eligible

Pennsylvania State Grant*



2018-19 Maximum Awards

Cost Tier	Final Maximum Award	Final DE Award
\$0 - \$12,000	\$2,193	\$1,096
\$12,001 - \$19,000	\$3,509	\$1,754
\$19,001 - \$29,000	\$3,772	\$1,886
\$29,001 - \$32,000	\$4,123	\$2,061

The maximum award for students attending an approved school in a reciprocal state is \$526, and \$702 for a veteran in an approved school in a reciprocal state.

* Must be at least half-time to be eligible

Other State Programs



- State Work-Study - job related to major
- Blind or Deaf Beneficiary Grant
- Educational Assistance Grant (EAP) – National Guard
- Chafee Education and Training Grant – co-administered with the PA Department of Human Services
- Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program (PEGP)
- Partnerships for Access to Higher Education (PATH)
- Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA –TIP)
- Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS)
- For details, see the PA Student Aid Guide, or visit PHEAA.org.



FINANCIAL AID 101

Federal Loans

Federal Direct Loan Program

- Available to ALL students REGARDLESS of need
- Additional unsubsidized funds available for Independent & Parent PLUS denials
 - » 5.05% interest rate (AY 18-19), 1.062% fee
 - » Rates set every July 1st for the life of that year's loan; fees are deducted from disbursement
- AWARDED to every eligible **undergraduate** student
- In student's name, no collateral or credit check, must sign MPN
- Available loan amounts increase in subsequent years
- No payments required while attending school & six-month grace period
- 150% RULE applies – New borrowers as of 7/1/13

Based on FAFSA, students have a combination of:

- **Subsidized:**
govt pays interest in school and grace status
- **Unsubsidized:**
interest accrues in school and grace



StudentLoans.gov & school's website!

Types of Federal Student Loans

- Undergraduate Students
 - » Subsidized (5.05% interest and 1.062% fee)
 - » Unsubsidized (5.05% interest and 1.062% fee)
- Graduate Students
 - » Unsubsidized (6.60% interest and 1.062% fee)



Federal Direct PLUS (Parent)

- Repayment begins immediately - can defer repayment until 6 months after student graduates or drops below half-time enrollment
 - » If defer payment – encouraged to make interest payments
 - » Standard repayment is 10 years



Federal Direct Loan: Aggregate Limits

Undergraduate Education (Dependent Student)	\$31,000 (\$23,000 maximum Subsidized Loan)
Undergraduate Education (Dependent Student OR Dependent Students whose Parents were denied PLUS Loan)	\$57,500 (\$23,000 maximum Subsidized Loan)
Graduate / Professional Education	\$138,500



ONLY consider private or alternative loans after looking into all other sources of financial aid.

PA FORWARD

Student Loans

by PHEAA



A Low-Cost Student Loan Program for Pennsylvania Students

Available for
the 2019-20
Academic Year

PA FORWARD

Student Loans

Low-cost student loan products available to help Pennsylvania students and families.



NO APPLICATION FEES



LOW INTEREST RATES



INSTANT APPROVALS

UNDERGRADUATE LOAN

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- Choose from four repayment options
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PARENT LOAN

For parents of dependent undergraduate students attending at least half time in a degree-granting program. Must be a PA resident with student attending a participating school.

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- Co-signer release (if applicable)

REFINANCE LOAN

For graduates (no longer enrolled in school) who reside either in PA or an approved state.

- Combine federal and private student loans into one convenient payment
- Exceptionally competitive fixed monthly interest rates
- Receive a 0.25% interest rate reduction when enrolled in *Direct Debit*
- Flexible repayment terms of 5, 10, or 15 years

The Rule

- Don't borrow more for your education than you can reasonably expect to make during your very **first year** in the workforce



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

MySmartBorrowing.org

- An interactive, online tool created by PHEAA that helps students and families:
 - » Estimate career salaries & college tuition
 - » View the impact of savings on overall cost
 - » Calculate loan repayment
 - » Avoid overborrowing





FINANCIAL AID 101

Forms

Financial Aid Forms



Know what financial aid forms each school requires

ALL Schools Require:

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - » Required by all schools, PHEAA, and some scholarship organizations
- STATE GRANT FORM (SGF) through PHEAA
 - » Required for first-year students (and may be requested for subsequent years) = after FAFSA is completed

SOME Schools Require:

- CSS Profile required by some postsecondary schools and scholarship organizations
- Institutional financial aid forms
- Internal school forms

When to Apply

- Students should apply beginning October 1 in the year prior to attendance
- Deadlines vary from school to school
- Students do not need to be accepted for admission



FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- The FAFSA is the primary federal form for financial assistance to attend postsecondary school
 - » It determines:
 - Expected family contribution, need
 - Eligibility for most aid programs
- Must file a FAFSA each year a student attends school to be eligible
- File online – Fast, Secure, SKIP LOGIC and Built-in Edits
- Want practice? Visit **FAFSA4CASTER.ed.gov**



Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID)

- An electronic signature for FAFSA
- Username and password
- Student and ONE parent need separate FSA ID's
 - » Separate email addresses required
- **ONLY** the owner of the FSA ID should create the account



IRS Data Retrieval Tool

After taxes are filed:

- Automatically pulls in IRS Tax info and places data into the FAFSA, or overrides estimates
- **REQUIRED!**
- **ALSO** in Student Section, if student is filing taxes

Return to FAFSA | Log Out | Help

IRS.gov

Get My Federal Income Tax Information

See our [Privacy Notice](#) regarding our request for your personal information.

Enter the following information as it appears on your <YYYY> Federal Income Tax Return. [?](#) Required fields *

First Name *	<input type="text" value="Joe"/>
Last Name *	<input type="text" value="Smith"/>
Social Security Number *	<input type="text" value="***-**-6789"/>
Date of Birth *	<input type="text" value="01 / 04 / 1990"/>
Address * ?	<input type="text"/>
P.O. Box and/or Street Address	<input type="text"/>
Apt. Number (Required if it appears on your tax return)	<input type="text"/>
Country *	<input type="text" value="United States"/>
City, Town or Post Office *	<input type="text"/>

Signing the FAFSA

Signature Status

Student Demographics ✓ School Selection ✓ Dependency Status ✓ Parent Demographics ✓ Financial Information ✓ Sign & Submit ✎ Confirmation

i Both you and a parent need to sign your FAFSA.

Only sign for yourself. If you and your parent are not together, one of you can sign, save the application and then exit. Give the "save key" to the other person who can log in with it and sign and submit the FAFSA.

Be sure not to mix up your and your parent's FSA IDs when signing.

Student Signature Needed

Signature Status: **Unsigned**

PROVIDE STUDENT SIGNATURE ✎

Parent Signature Needed

Signature Status: **Unsigned**


PROVIDE PARENT SIGNATURE ✎

PREVIOUS

Signature Options

Signature Options

Student Demographics ✓ School Selection ✓ Dependency Status ✓ Parent Demographics ✓ Financial Information ✓ Sign & Submit ✎ Confirmation



Parent Signature for
Social Security Number: XXX-XX-0080
Last Name: DOUGLAS
Date of Birth: 03/20/1964

Other Options to Sign and Submit

i We recommend signing electronically with an FSA ID so you don't have to print and mail a signature page or return later to sign this FAFSA. If you are unable to sign electronically, select another option:

Sign Electronically With My FSA ID
This is the fastest option. Selecting this option will return you to the question "What is your (the parent's) FSA ID?".


Print A Signature Page
This option requires that you print and mail your signature.

Submit Without Signatures
This option allows you to submit this FAFSA now without your signature, but you will need to return later to sign.

[SIGNATURE STATUS](#) [NEXT](#)

Confirmation Page

2018-2019 Confirmation Page



Congratulations, Student!

Your FAFSA was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid.


Confirmation Number: F 12300003004 03/22/2018 14:07:01

Data Release Number ([DRN](#)): 3815

What Happens Next

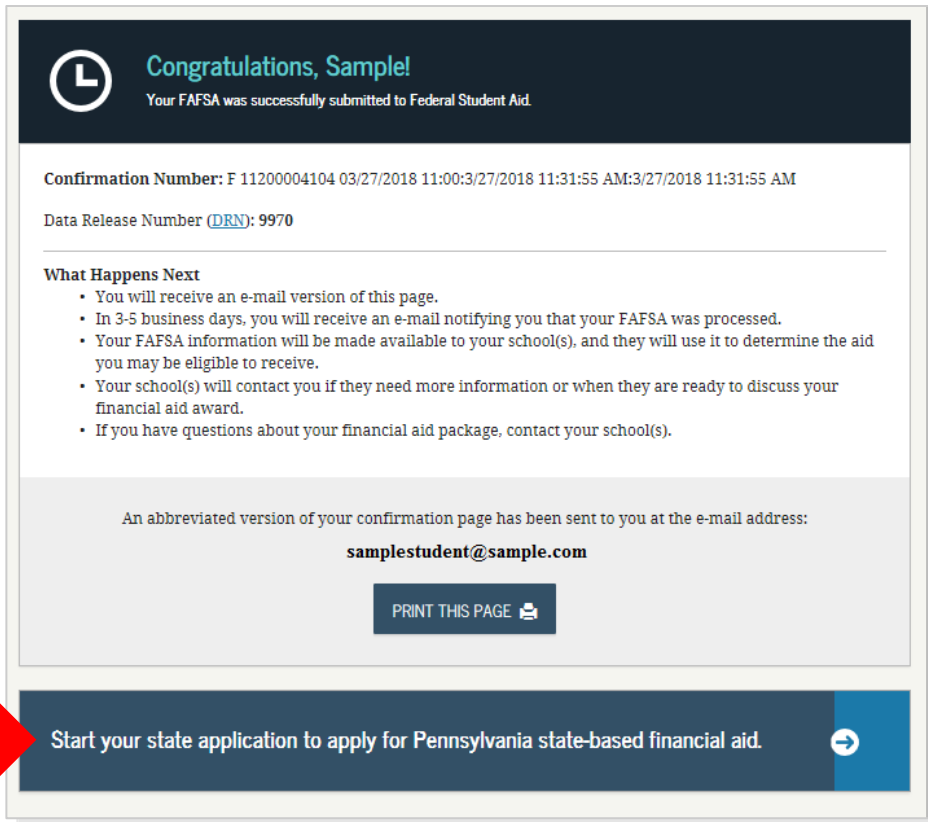
- You will receive an e-mail version of this page.
- In 3-5 business days, you will receive an e-mail notifying you that your FAFSA was processed.
- Your FAFSA information will be made available to your school(s), and they will use it to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Your school(s) will contact you if they need more information or when they are ready to discuss your financial aid award.
- If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact your school(s).

An abbreviated version of your confirmation page has been sent to you at the e-mail address:
stu@stu.com

PRINT THIS PAGE 

Confirmation Page

At the bottom of the confirmation page, you will find the link to the State Grant Form and the EFC



The screenshot shows a confirmation page with a dark header containing a clock icon and the text "Congratulations, Sample! Your FAFSA was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid." Below the header, it displays the "Confirmation Number" and "Data Release Number (DRN)". A section titled "What Happens Next" lists four bullet points regarding email notifications and school contact. A grey box contains the text "An abbreviated version of your confirmation page has been sent to you at the e-mail address: samplestudent@sample.com" and a "PRINT THIS PAGE" button. At the bottom, a dark blue bar features a red arrow pointing to the text "Start your state application to apply for Pennsylvania state-based financial aid." and a circular arrow icon.

Congratulations, Sample!
Your FAFSA was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid.


Confirmation Number: F 11200004104 03/27/2018 11:00:3/27/2018 11:31:55 AM:3/27/2018 11:31:55 AM


Data Release Number (DRN): 9970

What Happens Next

- You will receive an e-mail version of this page.
- In 3-5 business days, you will receive an e-mail notifying you that your FAFSA was processed.
- Your FAFSA information will be made available to your school(s), and they will use it to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
- Your school(s) will contact you if they need more information or when they are ready to discuss your financial aid award.
- If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact your school(s).

An abbreviated version of your confirmation page has been sent to you at the e-mail address:
samplestudent@sample.com

PRINT THIS PAGE 

Start your state application to apply for Pennsylvania state-based financial aid. 

PA State Grant Form (SGF)

- ✓ Check Rights and Responsibilities Box to **electronically sign** SGF

Rights and Responsibilities

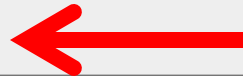
After reviewing your Rights and Responsibilities you must check the box at the bottom to confirm that you have read and agree to the Rights and Responsibilities.

[View Rights and Responsibilities](#)

[? Can't open document?](#)

By submitting this electronic Pennsylvania State Grant Form, I/we hereby affirm acceptance of the Statement of Certification and Authorization found in the Applicant's Rights, Responsibilities, Use of Social Security Number, and Certification for the Pennsylvania State Grant Program, which is incorporated herein by reference and which I/we have read, agree to, and certify. I/we further understand that if I/we provide an email address, communications regarding the State Grant Program may be sent to me/us through electronic communications methods. Additional certification and verification may be required following review of this application.

* I have read and agree to the Rights and Responsibilities of this application.



[Exit Application](#)

[Submit My Info >>](#)

UNABLE TO CONNECT TO THE PA STATE GRANT FORM FROM THE DIRECT LINK ON THE FAFSA?

- You may have to wait up to 7 business days for PHEAA to receive and process your completed FAFSA® information.
- After PHEAA processes the FAFSA® information and creates your PA State Grant record, you can complete the process in three simple steps:
 1. Sign in or create a student account at www.pheaa.org/sgf
 2. Provide basic information about your school and status.
 3. Once completed, you can check your application status in the student portal.



FINANCIAL AID 101

Forms FAQs

Deadlines - Know School Deadline(s)

- Know all of your state and school/college deadlines and file the FAFSA by the earliest deadline.
 - » PA State Grant deadlines –
 - **May 1, 2019** - If you plan to enroll in a degree program or a college transferable program at a junior college or other college or university (excludes community colleges)
 - **August 1, 2019** - If you plan to enroll in a community college; a business, trade, or technical school; a hospital school of nursing; or a 2-year program that is not transferable to another institution

Who Is Independent?



- ✓ 24 or older on Jan 1st of award year
- ✓ Married
- ✓ Veteran (includes active duty personnel)
- ✓ Working on graduate level degree
- ✓ Emancipated minor or in legal guardianship
- ✓ Orphan, in foster care, or ward of the court at anytime when student was age 13 or older
- ✓ Have legal dependents other than spouse
- ✓ Student deemed homeless by proper authority

Whose Info Goes on the FAFSA?

- Divorced or separated parents (The parent the student lived with the most over the past 12 months. If equal, then the parent who provided more than 50% of student's support)
- Stepparents - YES
- Adoptive parents - YES
- Foster parents - NO
- Legal guardians - NO
- Anyone else the student is living with - NO

Special Circumstances

- ✓ Recent death or disability
- ✓ Reduced income
- ✓ Recent separation or divorce



Contact the school and ask for a special consideration AND contact State Grant Division at PHEAA



FINANCIAL AID 101

Forms Are Filed – Now What?

How is the EFC Calculated?

- **In theory**, the EFC is a number calculated to measure and compare the general financial strength of all families applying for aid - it is **NOT** the amount you are expected to pay.
- EFC formula considers a family's taxed & untaxed income, assets, size, how many will be attending college, and age of oldest parent
- **Asset Protection Allowance** is applied against parent's reported assets
 - » EFC calculation roughly uses 6% of parent asset contribution and 20% of student contribution
 - » Student income contribution used in the calculation: 50% of amounts over \$6,570
 - » Parent contribution divided by number of children in college at the same time
- **NOT AN ASSET:** Home, personal property, qualified retirement funds, and value of life insurance is excluded from assets



COA (Cost)

- EFC

= NEED

What Happens Next?

- Student Aid Report or Acknowledgment sent to student (review and make necessary corrections)
- Information is sent to PHEAA. Student must complete State Grant Form (SGF). Can link to this directly from the FAFSA.
- Account Access (PHEAA) - Create an account at [PHEAA.org](https://www.pheaa.org) to view PA State Grant
- Information is sent to schools/colleges. Send to all schools being considered.

Reviewing the Financial Aid Package

- After reviewing their packages, students should be sure they know and understand the following:
 - » How much of the financial aid is free money?
 - » Which awards are based on need, and which are based on merit?
 - » Are there any conditions on the free money; in particular:
 - Is there a GPA requirement?
 - Will awards change from year to year?
 - Will institutional awards increase as tuition increases?
 - Will loans be needed? If so, how much?

Comparing Packages

Cost	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$50,000
EFC	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Need	\$17,000	\$27,000	\$47,000
Free Money	\$ 6,000	\$ 8,000	\$18,000
Loans	\$ 5,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,000
Work-Study	\$ 0	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000
TOTAL AID	\$11,500	\$17,000	\$29,000
Gap = (Cost – Aid)	\$ 8,500	\$13,000	\$21,000
Actual Cont. = (Cost – Free \$)	\$14,000	\$22,000	\$32,000



FINANCIAL AID 101

Final Thoughts & Wrap-Up

The Plan

- ✓ Narrow down career choices
- ✓ Research and apply to several schools
- ✓ Work hard on scholarship search
- ✓ Don't fear the FAFSA (do the State Grant app, too)
- ✓ Release your info to several schools
- ✓ Compare estimated financial aid award letters
- ✓ Make the tough choices
- ✓ Think of the future
- ✓ Finish on time

What Can You Do Now?

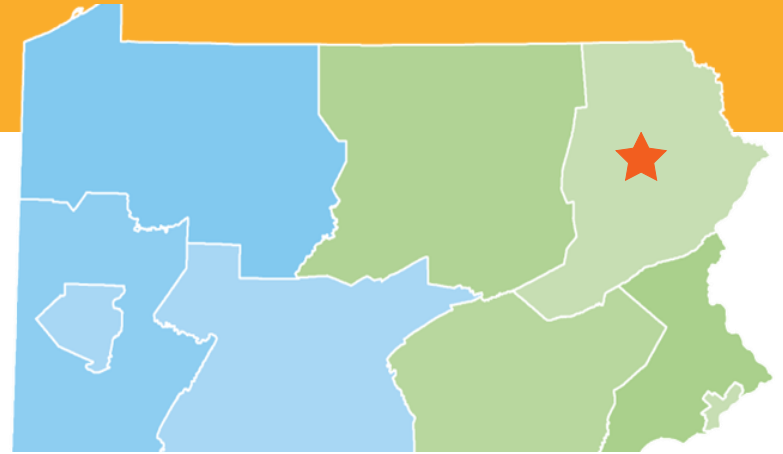


- Student and parent apply for a FSA ID at:
 - » StudentAid.ed.gov/fsaid
- Visit websites with free information about college, financial aid and careers
- Explore scholarship opportunities – locally, regionally and nationally
- Use Net Price Calculator at schools interested in attending to get an estimate of your “net price” to attend
 - » Net Price Calculator available on each school’s website
- Use the free online tool, FAFSA4caster, to estimate EFC and eligibility for federal financial aid
 - » Available at fafsa4caster.ed.gov

Use Your Resources

- PHEAA.org
- EducationPlanner.org & MySmartBorrowing.org
- YouCanDealWithIt.com
- MyFedLoan.org
- PHEAA toll free: 800.692.7392
- Federal Student Aid Info Center – 800.433.3243
- FASFA.gov
- StudentAid.gov – general financial aid info
- StudentLoans.gov – information on federal loans

Your Presenter



Sonya Mann- McFarlane

Higher Education Access Partner

Cumberland Valley Region - Berks, Chester,
Lancaster, Lebanon Counties

PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

smannmcf@pheaa.org



QUESTIONS?

PA FORWARD

Student Loans

by PHEAA



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Available for
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Student Loans

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NO APPLICATION FEES



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