



# STUDENT AID GUIDE



**WHERE ARE THE GRADUATES?** There are 16 hidden in this guide. **FIND THEM ALL!** 

Contact us for information on Financial Aid Programs  
& Related Services, Pennsylvania State Grant &  
Special Programs, State Work-Study:

**PHEAA.org**

**800.692.7392**

Assistance for individuals with  
speech or hearing impairments:

**TTY: Dial 711**



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# How Much Will It Cost?

The cost of education is more than just tuition and fees. It includes:

- Living Expenses
- Books
- Supplies
- Transportation
- Personal Expenses

## ESTIMATE YOUR COSTS

Tuition & Fees	\$
Room & Board	\$
Books & Supplies	\$
Transportation	\$
Personal Expenses	\$
Miscellaneous	\$
<b>Total Student Budget</b>	<b>\$</b>

Remember this is just for **ONE** year!

## ESTIMATE YOUR COSTS

Use a Net Price Calculator to get a personalized estimate of your college costs. Go to [collegecost.ed.gov](http://collegecost.ed.gov) to estimate your "net price," which is the difference between the full cost of college minus any grants and scholarships for which you would be eligible.

NOW FILE THE  
**FAFSA!**



# Applying For Financial Aid

## FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA®)

The FAFSA, available October 1 for the upcoming award year, is the **MOST IMPORTANT APPLICATION** to complete for almost all types of financial aid. Many state, local and private entities use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for grants and scholarships, all with different deadlines. **Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1. Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer student and parent tax information to the FAFSA.**

**FOLLOW THE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS TO FILE THE FAFSA!**



# 1

## GET YOUR INFO ORGANIZED

The FAFSA asks for information about you and your financial situation. If married, you will need the same info for your spouse. If you are considered a dependent student, your parents will want to gather the same info since they will have to answer the parental questions. (Use the checklist on page 7 to see if you are considered a dependent student.)

**You may need these items to complete your FAFSA:**

- A Federal Student Aid ID (Go to [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) to create your FSA ID.)
- Social Security Number
- Your driver's license number, if you have one (optional)
- Alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen
- W-2 Forms
- Records of untaxed income received, including workers' compensation, child support, payments to tax-deferred pension, and savings plans, etc.
- Federal income tax return (1040, 1040A or 1040EZ)
- Current bank statements and records of stocks, bonds and other investments
- Email address (optional)



## WILL I NEED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT MY PARENTS ON THE FAFSA?

Dependent students must provide parental info on the FAFSA. In general, most students under the age of 24 are considered dependent. If you meet one of following statuses, you are considered independent and are **NOT** required to provide parent info on the FAFSA.

- 24 years of age or older by December 31 of the award year
- An orphan (both parents deceased), in foster care or a ward of the court when 13 years or older
- Have legal dependents other than a spouse
- An emancipated minor or in legal guardianship
- A homeless youth
- A veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or serving on active duty for other than training purposes
- A graduate or professional student
- Married or separated



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An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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FAFSA®  
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

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SEARCH  
English Español

## Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



**New to the FAFSA?**

**Start A New FAFSA**

**Returning User?**

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

**Login**



## WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR A FSA ID?

Students completing a FAFSA should apply for a FSA ID at [fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) or [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). If you are a dependent student, both you **AND** your parent require FSA IDs to sign the FAFSA.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY FSA ID?

You can use your FSA ID to access your financial aid data at the following U.S. Department of Education websites:

- [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) - Complete your FAFSA, submit corrections to your processed FAFSA, use your FSA ID to sign your submitted FAFSA, obtain a copy of your processed FAFSA info, or add a school code to your FAFSA application.
- [NSLDS.ed.gov](https://nslds.ed.gov) - View a history of the federal student financial aid you have received.
- [StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov) - Complete Entrance Counseling and electronically sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) for your Direct Loans.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUBMIT THE FAFSA?

If you provided an email address on your FAFSA, you will be notified by email when your FAFSA has been received and processed by the U.S. Department of Education. If you did not provide an email address, you will receive correspondence by regular mail regarding the receipt of your FAFSA. If you have questions about the processing of your FAFSA, you can contact **800.4.FED.AID** (800.433.3243) for further info.

PHEAA and each of the colleges that you listed on your FAFSA will receive a copy of the info you provided on the FAFSA. This information includes the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that appears on the confirmation page of your FAFSA. The EFC is calculated by a federal formula based on the income and asset information that you provided on your FAFSA. If you were offered admission to a college and you included that college on your FAFSA, you will receive an award letter from the Financial Aid Office at the college. Beginning in May, PHEAA notifies students of their eligibility for the PA State Grant.

## WHAT IF I NEED TO MAKE CORRECTIONS TO THE FAFSA?

If you need to make corrections to your FAFSA, visit [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) and use your FSA ID to access your FAFSA.

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FAFSA®  
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

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IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND COLLEGE FROM	YOU CAN SUBMIT THE FAFSA FROM	USING TAX INFORMATION FROM
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

### THE FAFSA IS FREE TO FILE AT FAFSA.GOV.

If you are asked for your credit card information while filling out the FAFSA online, you **ARE NOT** on the official government site. Remember, the FAFSA site address has .gov in it!

[FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) is a secure website; it is the only secure and encrypted site that the federal government provides for students to file the FAFSA.

### WHAT IF I CAN'T FILE MY FAFSA ONLINE?

If you don't have a computer, you may be able to use one at a library, at school or attend a free FAFSA event in your community.

# FILING THE FAFSA IS ALWAYS FREE!

## PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!

- There are federal and state deadlines.
- Colleges may also have additional deadlines.

GET HELP AT A FREE FAFSA EVENT!  
[PHEAA.org/FAFSA-Events](http://PHEAA.org/FAFSA-Events)



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# CLICK "START A NEW FAFSA" TO BEGIN

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Home About Us FSA ID StudentAid.gov Help SEARCH English Español

## Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

**New to the FAFSA?**

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IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ANSWER EACH QUESTION ACCURATELY.

The FAFSA's built-in "skip logic" may skip certain questions that do not apply to you.

Use your legal name as it appears on your Social Security Card. Do NOT use a nickname on the FAFSA.

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Home Help SEARCH

## Login

**Student Information**

Instructions are provided for each FAFSA question in the Help and Hints section on the right side of the page and are also available by clicking **Need Help?** at the bottom of the page.

Enter either your (the student's) FSA ID or personal information to log in to FAFSA on the Web.

Enter your (the student's) FSA ID

Do not log in with the FSA ID if you are not the student.

OR

Enter the student's information

The student's first name

The student's full last name

The student's Social Security Number  From a Freely Associated State?

The student's date of birth (mmddyyyy)

**Help and Hints**

**Login Options**

The FSA ID, which consists of a user-created username and password, replaced the PIN effective May, 2015. It allows users to electronically access personal information on Federal Student Aid Web sites as well as electronically sign a FAFSA.

Select one:

Enter your FSA ID (only the student should log in with an FSA ID).

OR

Enter the student's name, Social Security Number and date of birth. (You may have to enter your FSA ID later in the process).

[More>>>](#)

**STUDENT**

## Should I file the 2017-18 FAFSA or the 2016-17 FAFSA?

If you are applying for financial aid for the 2017-18 academic year, you need to file the 2017-18 FAFSA. Check with your school's Financial Aid Office if you need further guidance.

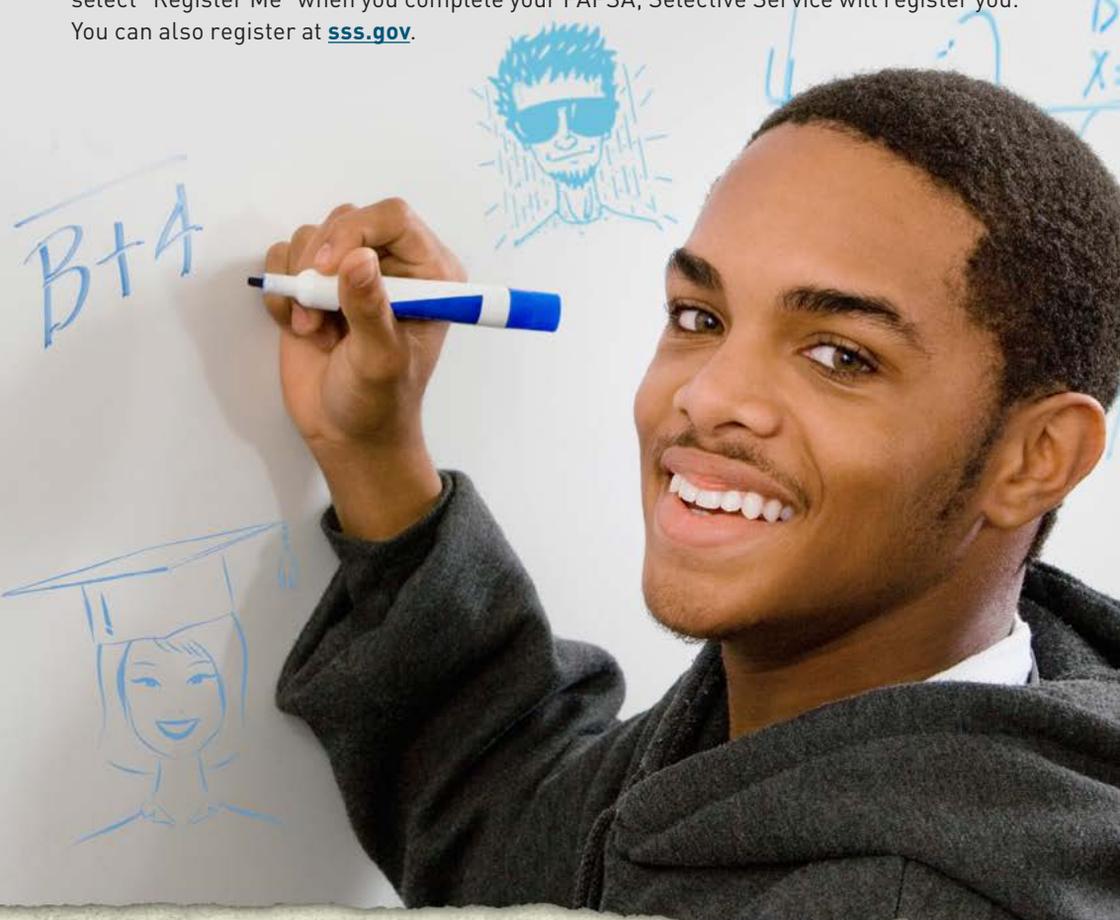
## WHAT SCHOOLS SHOULD I LIST WHEN ASKED, "WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL?"

List any schools you are considering attending, listing your top school first. You can list up to 10 schools. The results of your FAFSA will be sent to colleges and schools that you list. Please keep in mind:

- You can add or delete schools at any time.
- It's important to indicate if you will live on campus, or off campus.
- A student does not have to be admitted to a school to add the school to the FAFSA.

## DO I HAVE TO REGISTER FOR SELECTIVE SERVICE?

If you are a male (age 18-25), you are required to register with Selective Service. Failure to register by age 26 may result in permanent loss of federal student aid eligibility. If you select "Register Me" when you complete your FAFSA, Selective Service will register you. You can also register at [sss.gov](http://sss.gov).



## WHAT ASSETS WILL I NEED TO REPORT?

You may need to provide info about your assets on the FAFSA. In some cases, the FAFSA will allow you to skip the asset question. Reported assets are based on net values as of the date you submit your FAFSA.

### Assets that you may need to report include:

- Cash, checking and savings accounts
- Investments such as stocks, savings bonds, CDs, and mutual funds
- Value of all Coverdell accounts owned by parent(s) that complete the FAFSA or Coverdell accounts owned by the student
- Value of all 529 plans owned by the parent(s) completing the FAFSA or 529 plans owned by the student
- UGMA and UTMA accounts owned by student filing the FAFSA
- Custodial accounts
- Rental properties that you own

### Assets that you DON'T need to report include:

- Your family home, if it is your principal place of residence
- Your family farm, if the farm is your principal place of residence and your family materially participated in the farm's operation
- Your family business, if your family owns and controls more than 50 percent of a small business that has 100 or fewer full-time or full-time equivalent employees
- The cash value or built-up equity of a life insurance policy
- Value of 401k, 403b, non-education IRAs, Keogh, pension plans, and qualified retirement plans



## IF MY PARENTS ARE DIVORCED/SEPARATED, WHAT INFO SHOULD I PROVIDE ON THE FAFSA?

Provide info for the parent you lived with the most over the past 12 months. Include info about any stepparent in that same household. If you lived with both parents an equal amount of time, provide info for the parent who provided you with the most financial support over the past 12 months.

## WHAT IS THE IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL?

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool allows FAFSA applicants and parents to request and retrieve their tax data directly from the IRS. Once the data is retrieved, it can be transferred to the FAFSA application.

## WHAT IF I HAVE SPECIAL FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES?

Sometimes, the info on the FAFSA doesn't represent your financial situation. If you and your family have an unusual financial situation, please contact the Financial Aid Offices at the schools you are considering attending. The following examples are situations that the financial aid office may be able to consider, in addition to your FAFSA info:

- Recent unemployment
- High medical expenses not covered by insurance
- Loss of income and or assets
- Death or disability of parent or spouse
- Unusual circumstances

You may also go to [PHEAA.org](https://www.pheaa.org) for guidance about how to report this info to PHEAA with regard to PA State Grant eligibility. Contact PHEAA at 800.692.7392.



# CALCULATING YOUR FINANCIAL NEED

Once you complete the FAFSA application, the Financial Aid Office at the school you plan to attend will develop a financial aid award package that will outline your financial aid eligibility. A financial aid package is simply a list of the amounts and types of aid that you may receive from various financial aid programs.

Cost of Attendance (COA)

– Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

---

= YOUR FINANCIAL NEED

## THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF AID:

### 1. GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

This is FREE money that does not have to be repaid.\*

Federal and state grants are awards that **do not have to be paid back** (provided you meet the requirements) and are **typically based on financial need** (some grants include merit criteria).

Scholarships are federal, state, institutional, and private funds that **do not have to be paid back**. They are awarded to students who demonstrate or show promise of high achievement in academics, athletics, music, art, or other fields. Civic organizations, religious institutions, businesses, or associations may offer scholarships. Eligibility for some scholarships may be based on financial need. Visit scholarship sites, such as:

- [EducationPlanner.org](https://www.educationplanner.org)
- [Finaid.org](https://www.finaid.org)
- [Fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)

### 2. WORK-STUDY

Provides part-time jobs for students with financial need. There are a number of different types of student employment programs. Check with your school's Financial Aid Office to determine the availability of work-study awards.

### 3. LOANS

Money that must be repaid *with interest*.

\*Some grants require a service obligation, and if not met, the grant will convert to a loan that must be repaid.

# PA STATE GRANT PROGRAM\*

This program provides grants to eligible Pennsylvania residents who are in need of financial assistance to attend PHEAA-approved postsecondary schools as undergraduate students.

Award amounts are based on the college costs and the student's need. Students must be enrolled in an approved program of study that is at least 2 academic years in length. Additional requirements including information concerning satisfactory academic progress, can be found at [PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org). The maximum award is dependent upon available funding and subject to review and adjustment.

Applicants for 2016-17 were eligible to receive up to \$4,340 as a full-time student at a PA school and up to \$554 (\$739 for veterans) at a college outside of PA.

Students enrolled on a half-time basis (at least six credits per semester or its equivalent) were eligible to receive up to \$2,170 at a PA school and up to \$500 (\$500 for veterans) at a college located outside of PA. Students enrolled in the summer may also be eligible for a Summer State Grant.

\*NOTE: PA State Grants may be used at eligible institutions in Delaware, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, and West Virginia.

For more details, please read the Rights and Responsibilities Certification document at [PHEAA.org/SGrights](http://PHEAA.org/SGrights).



# APPLY FOR A PA STATE GRANT

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Home Help SEARCH

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

2017-2018 Confirmation Page

• Your confirmation page has been sent to you at the e-mail address: stanleystudent@gmail.com

PRINT THIS PAGE

Confirmation Number: F 08100056703 037  
Data Release Number (DRN): 0942

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

 [Start your state application](#) to apply for Pennsylvania state-based financial aid.

After clicking "Start your state application," you will be taken to a new page where you can complete the PA State Grant Form.

aes American Education Services | Pennsylvania State Grant Form

Getting Started

Sign-In or Create Account  
Apply Online

- 1 Provide Information
- 2 Verify & Submit
- 3 Confirmation

Getting Started

Here's some information that you'll want to have ready.

- If applicable, the month and year your diploma was received (for High School or GED)
- If married, your spouse's 9-digit Social Security Number
- If you have a Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program account, you may need a recent account statement, or visit [makecollegepossible.com](#).

1 Adobe Reader is required to view and print your PA State Grant Form. This plug-in is available as a [free download](#) from Adobe.

Print this page Continue >

## SHOULD I FILL OUT THE STATE GRANT FORM?

First-time applicants for a State Grant are required to complete a State Grant Form (SGF). A link to this form can be found on the confirmation page of the FAFSA and also within Account Access at [PHEAA.org/AccountAccess](https://pheaa.org/AccountAccess). If you exit the FAFSA without clicking on the link, visit [PHEAA.org/AccountAccess](https://pheaa.org/AccountAccess) approximately 24 hours after your FAFSA is submitted, and complete the SGF.

## WHAT IS ACCOUNT ACCESS?

Account Access is PHEAA's online student portal that provides information in a single, secure site. With Account Access, you can participate in the PA State Grant Program, check the status of an aid application, update school choice and enrollment status, and review/update your personal information.

## WHO IS AMERICAN EDUCATION SERVICES (AES)?

PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing operations commercially as AES. AES created Account Access to provide a way for borrowers to manage their loans online. PHEAA uses this secure service from AES to support students who participate in some of the aid programs which PHEAA administers.

## WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES FOR APPLYING FOR A PA STATE GRANT?

### FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS

**May 1** — If you plan to enroll in a degree program or a college transferable program at a 2-year college or other college or university (excludes community colleges and designated Pennsylvania Open-Admission institutions), you must submit the FAFSA and the Pennsylvania State Grant Form.

**August 1** — If you plan to enroll in a community college; a designated Pennsylvania Open-Admission institution; a business, trade, or technical school; a hospital school of nursing; or a 2-year program that is not transferable to another institution; you must submit the FAFSA and the Pennsylvania State Grant Form.

### RENEWAL APPLICANTS

**May 1** — You must submit a renewal FAFSA and any appropriate State Grant documents indicating any changes that may affect your State Grant award, such as a change in your marital status or a change in your income.

### SUMMER-TERM APPLICANTS

**August 15** — You must submit the online Summer Grant application. If not already on file, you must also submit the FAFSA and, if required, the Pennsylvania State Grant Form.

**NOTE:** If you miss the State Grant deadline for the academic year, apply anyway. Late applications (for terms other than summer) may qualify if funding permits.

**PERCENTAGE OF APPLICANTS RECEIVING  
STATE GRANT AWARDS – 2015-16\***

2016-17**	PARENTS' ANNUAL INCOME			
	AVERAGE TUITION & FEES	UNDER \$25,000	\$25,000 – \$49,999	\$50,000 – \$74,999
4-Year Private Colleges - \$38,482	99% \$3,761-\$4,164	98% \$3,730-\$4,182	95% \$3,480-\$4,156	65% \$2,287-\$3,601
PA State System Schools - \$10,221	99% \$3,351-\$3,681	98% \$3,271-\$3,650	91% \$2,484-\$3,243	37% \$1,616-\$2,493
PA State-Related Schools - \$17,294	99% \$3,414-\$3,752	98% \$3,423-\$3,763	89% \$3,173-\$3,715	39% \$2,614-\$3,436
2-Year Colleges - \$17,245	99% \$3,492-\$3,924	98% \$3,335-\$3,962	86% \$3,155-\$3,869	38% \$3,224-\$3,970
PA Community Colleges - \$4,679	99% \$1,709-\$2,308	89% \$1,684-\$2,308	54% \$1,451-\$2,164	11% \$1,341-\$2,050
Nursing Schools - \$15,072	99% \$3,406-\$3,769	99% \$3,479-\$3,962	77% \$3,005-\$3,815	37% \$2,814-\$3,854
Business, Trade or Technical Schools - \$14,975	98% \$3,589-\$3,970	84% \$3,578-\$3,957	52% \$3,128-\$3,925	17% \$2,120-\$3,240

\*Data from 2015-16 State Grant Statistics, created March 25, 2016.

\*\*2016-17, per the heading of the column "Average Tuition & Fees."

NOTE: Visit [PHEAA.org/StateGrant](http://PHEAA.org/StateGrant) for the most up-to-date information on the PA State Grant Program.



**THE PA STATE GRANT PROGRAM HAS AWARDED MORE THAN \$10 BILLION TO PA RESIDENTS SINCE 1965.**

# Financial Aid Programs

## SPECIAL STATE AID PROGRAMS

Some of these programs require financial need. Eligibility criteria can be found under Funding Opportunities at [PHEAA.org](https://www.pheaa.org).

General eligibility requirements for all programs:

- Be a PA resident
- Be a graduate of an approved high school, the recipient of a GED, or have completed an approved home school program
- Attend an eligible postsecondary school
- Not be in default on a federal student loan
- File a FAFSA and apply for a PA State Grant\*
- Meet minimum enrollment status required of program
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress in program of study

\*PA-TIP does not require a PA State Grant Application.

**SEE THE LIST OF PROGRAMS ►**



## PENNSYLVANIA TARGETED INDUSTRY PROGRAM (PA-TIP)

This program, administered by PHEAA, provides awards to students enrolled in short-term programs in the following career areas:

- Energy
- Advanced Materials and Diversified Manufacturing
- Agriculture and Food Production

PA-TIP provides awards up to the equivalent of the maximum State Grant award or 75% of the allowable program cost, whichever is less, per award year for students with an EFC of 12,000 or less. Awards can be used to cover tuition, fees, books, supplies, and specific living expenses.

### HOW TO APPLY

Download an application at [PHEAA.org/PA-TIP](https://pheaa.org/PA-TIP). Contact PHEAA at 800.692.7392 or [patip@pheaa.org](mailto:patip@pheaa.org) for more information.

## POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY PROGRAM (PEGP)

This program assists birth or adoptive children of PA police officers, firefighters, rescue and ambulance squad members, corrections employees, and National Guard members who died in the line of duty since January 1, 1976. The program also includes the birth and adoptive children of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, National Guard members, or other individuals who were on federal or state active military duty and died after September 11, 2001, as a direct result of performing his or her official duties.

For full-time students, this program covers all institutional charges for tuition, fees, room and board not covered by other grants, scholarships or "gift aid" at a PA community college, state-owned or state-related postsecondary institution.

### HOW TO APPLY

1. Provide a completed application – download at [PHEAA.org/PEGP](https://pheaa.org/PEGP).
2. Provide a certified copy of your birth certificate or adoption record.
3. Provide a copy of your admission letter from an eligible school.
4. Contact PHEAA at 800.692.7392 or email [pegp@pheaa.org](mailto:pegp@pheaa.org) for more information.

## PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

In cooperation with the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), PHEAA jointly administers EAP for members of the PA National Guard. This program provides financial assistance for students who enter into a service commitment with the PA National Guard, typically for a period of 6 years.

### HOW TO APPLY

Active members from the PA National Guard may obtain an application from their individual unit of assignment, from their local National Guard recruiting office, or by calling the PA National Guard at 1.800.GO.GUARD.

To view the status of your EAP application, sign into **Account Access** at [PHEAA.org/AccountAccess](https://pheaa.org/AccountAccess).

## BLIND OR DEAF BENEFICIARY GRANT PROGRAM

Blind or deaf students who are residents of PA may apply for funds to help pay for the expenses of postsecondary education. Blind or deaf students who are enrolled at least half-time at a postsecondary school and maintain satisfactory academic progress (as defined by the school) may apply for these funds. The maximum award is \$500 per year.

### HOW TO APPLY

Visit [PHEAA.org/BlindDeaf](https://pheaa.org/BlindDeaf) for an application. Contact PHEAA at 800.692.7392 or email [bdbg@pheaa.org](mailto:bdbg@pheaa.org) for more information.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION (PATH) PROGRAM

The PATH Program partners with nonprofit organizations and provides scholarships to eligible students. These scholarships have the potential to be matched by PHEAA on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to an annual maximum amount of \$2,500. To be eligible to receive a PATH grant, you must first be awarded a scholarship or grant by a participating PATH Partner and receive a PA State Grant. A list of participating PATH Partners is available at [PHEAA.org](https://pheaa.org).

To apply, contact a participating PATH organization in your area.

Visit [PHEAA.org/PATH](https://pheaa.org/PATH) or email [path@pheaa.org](mailto:path@pheaa.org) for more information.

## READY-TO-SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP (RTSS) PROGRAM

This program is administered by PHEAA in close cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Ready to Succeed Scholarships are awarded to high-achieving students whose annual family income does not exceed \$110,000. These awards may help to mitigate educational borrowing.

### HOW TO APPLY

There is no separate student application for RTSS, but students must have a completed FAFSA and State Grant Form on file. Participating postsecondary schools nominate students based upon the RTSS eligibility criteria. More information can be found at [PHEAA.org/RTSS](https://pheaa.org/RTSS).



# FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

Each year, the federal government offers financial aid programs for students and families, which are supported by federal funding and subject to federal budget appropriations. Refer to [studentaid.ed.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov) for further information on each program.

## FEDERAL PELL GRANT

Students with considerable financial need qualify for Pell Grants; eligibility is determined by your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

- All other need-based financial assistance will be awarded after your Pell Grant has been determined.
- The federal government may revise the amount available for the Pell Grant each year.

## FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)

- Priority is given to undergraduate students who receive Federal Pell Grants.
- Award amounts depend on the funding available at each school and the school's policy for awarding aid.

## FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAM (FWSP)

- The FWSP provides job opportunities for financially needy students.
- Generally, students can work 10-20 hours per week during the academic year, and up to 40 hours per week during the summer.
- The hourly rate is at least the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is greater, and may be higher depending on the required job skills.
- Colleges try to arrange for jobs that correspond to your academic or career interests.
- Award amounts for eligible students are dependent upon the funds available at the school and its policy for awarding aid.



## PENNSYLVANIA CHAFEE EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

- The PA Chafee Education and Training Grant Program provides grants to PA undergraduate students who are aging out of foster care and are attending a postsecondary institution approved for Federal Title IV student financial assistance programs. No award may exceed the student's cost of attendance minus other financial aid the student is receiving. Awards are contingent upon federal funding and may not be guaranteed.
- Review eligibility requirements and download the application at [PHEAA.org/Chafee](https://pheaa.org/Chafee).
- Email [paetg@pheaa.org](mailto:paetg@pheaa.org) for more information.

## TEACHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION (TEACH) GRANT

- The TEACH Grant Program provides grants to students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching.
- In exchange, they must teach full-time as a highly-qualified teacher at an eligible school or educational service agency in a high-need field for at least 4 academic years within 8 calendar years from the date they graduate from or otherwise leave the program of study for which they received their TEACH Grant.
- If they fail to complete this service, the TEACH Grant will convert to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid. Students will be charged interest from the date the TEACH Grant was disbursed.
- Not all schools participate.

## FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- A student whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and died as a result of service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, may be eligible to receive the Iraq-Afghanistan Service Grant.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program provides benefits to students who have a parent who has a permanent disability or died as a result of service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Call your local Veterans Service Division of the Veterans Administration Office.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides student aid for students with hearing, sight and other disabilities. Call your local Vocational Rehabilitation Office. Federal and state governments work in partnership to fund the Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

## AMERICORPS

- AmeriCorps offers public service positions where servicemembers learn valuable work skills, earn money for education, and develop an appreciation for citizenship.
- After successful completion, members are eligible to receive an education award. The education award may be used to pay educational costs, as well as qualified student loans.
- Review specific eligibility requirements at [nationalservice.gov](https://nationalservice.gov).

# Student Loans



When you have exhausted every possibility for scholarships and grants, you may find that a student loan is your last option to pay for higher education. If borrowing is a necessity, educate yourself on the loan options available before borrowing.

## FOLLOW THESE FIVE TIPS TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE MAKING SMART DECISIONS:

1. Research your expected salary in your future career, find an affordable school, and borrow realistically.
2. Research job availability in your chosen field, before selecting your major.
3. Consider all types of financial aid carefully.
4. Educate yourself on the many loan options available before borrowing.
5. Inconsistent or untimely loan repayment could affect your future.

At [MySmartBorrowing.org](https://www.mysmartborrowing.org), PHEAA's free, interactive tool, you can learn to make SMART decisions about career choice and paying for higher education.

## HOW IT WORKS

Our tool provides projections based on YOUR CHOICES to see if you are a **SMART** borrower.

**Select a CAREER...**See how much you could make your first year out of school.

**Select a COLLEGE...**See the average cost to attend the school of your choice.

**Add in your SAVINGS...**See how savings can reduce the amount you borrow in student loans.

**Get your RESULTS...**See how much you may need to borrow, an estimated monthly payment and if you are a **SMART** borrower.

## AVAILABLE FEATURES

This tool has key features to help you make **SMART** decisions when planning for college.

**Compare MULTIPLE SCENARIOS...**Not sure of a career or college? Compare up to four combinations to see which one makes the most financial sense.

**View your RESULTS ON THE GO...**Visiting a college? View that school's breakdown from your mobile device while on campus.

**View your BUDGET...**Is your loan payment affordable? See how it fits into your potential real-world budget.

[MySmartBorrowing.org](https://www.mysmartborrowing.org) - A free tool for calculating an affordable future!

# FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM

The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program is the largest federal student loan program. Under this program, the U.S. Department of Education is the lender and loans are available to help students and parents pay for higher education. Typically, they have lower interest rates and more flexible repayment options.

The Direct Loan Program offers the following: Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and Direct Consolidation Loans. To be eligible, students must be enrolled at least half-time and meet general eligibility requirements. (NOTE: In order to obtain a Direct Consolidation Loan, a borrower does not have to be enrolled in school.)

## DIRECT LOANS

Direct Loans are for undergraduate, graduate and professional degree students.

### Eligibility requirements include:\*

- Complete a FAFSA for the appropriate award year
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be accepted for enrollment at a participating school or enrolled in an eligible program at a participating school and be making satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain at least a half-time enrollment status in a degree or certificate program
- Not be in default on any education loan
- Be registered with Selective Service, if you are a male 18-25 years old (Failure to register by age 26 may result in permanent loss of federal student aid eligibility. Visit [sss.gov](https://sss.gov).)

\*For additional requirements, visit [studentaid.ed.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov).



## DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOANS

- The federal government will pay the interest for undergraduate study while you are in school, during the grace period\*, and during any authorized periods of deferment after repayment has begun.
- You must meet the criteria for financial need to qualify for the interest subsidy benefits.
- Your school determines the amount you can borrow, but cannot exceed the annual loan limit or your financial need.

\*Borrowers whose Direct Loans were first disbursed between July 1, 2012 and July 1, 2014 are responsible for the interest during the grace period. You may pay the interest while you are in school and during your grace period, or you may have the interest capitalized (added to your principal loan balance).

NOTE: As a result of legislation enacted in July 2012, eligibility for the Direct Loan interest subsidy will be limited for new borrowers on or after July 1, 2013. The law restricts the period of time for which a borrower may receive subsidized loans, in the aggregate, to 150% of the published length of the student's current educational program. If you do not complete your program of study within 150% of the published program length, you may not receive any additional subsidized loans; and, under certain conditions, you may lose the interest subsidy on your previously disbursed Direct Subsidized Loan.

## WHAT IS A GRACE PERIOD?

A grace period is the amount of time during which the borrower is not required to make loan payments, typically 6 months. The grace period begins the day after the student drops below half-time status and ends the day before repayment begins; however, not all loans have a grace period.

## DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS

- You are responsible for the interest from the date the loan is disbursed, including interest that accrues during periods of deferment and forbearance. You may pay the interest while you are in school and during your grace period, or you may have the interest capitalized (added to your principal loan balance).
- Financial need is not required. Eligibility is limited to the difference of your total Cost of Attendance (COA) determined by your school, minus other student aid you may receive, including a Direct Subsidized Loan, not to exceed the applicable annual loan limit.



## HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete a FAFSA.
2. Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) online at [StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov).

## THE FOLLOWING CHART SHOW THE MAXIMUM DIRECT LOAN LIMITS.

<b>DEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES</b> (Does not include students whose parents are unable to borrow under the PLUS Program.)	<b>ANNUAL LOAN LIMITS</b>
First year	\$5,500 of which no more than \$3,500 may be subsidized
Second year	\$6,500 of which no more than \$4,500 may be subsidized
Third year and beyond	\$7,500 of which no more than \$5,500 may be subsidized
<b>INDEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES</b> (And dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow under the PLUS Program.)	<b>ANNUAL LOAN LIMITS</b>
First year	\$9,500 of which no more than \$3,500 may be subsidized
Second year	\$10,500 of which no more than \$4,500 may be subsidized
Third year and beyond	\$12,500 of which no more than \$5,500 may be subsidized
<b>GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS</b>	\$20,500 all of which is unsubsidized
<b>AGGREGATE LIMITS</b>	
<b>DEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES</b>	\$31,000 of which no more than \$23,000 may be subsidized
<b>INDEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES</b> (And dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow under the PLUS Program.)	\$57,500 of which no more than \$23,000 may be subsidized
<b>GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS</b>	\$138,500 of which no more than \$65,500 may be subsidized*

\*Graduate/Professional students are no longer able to receive subsidized loans.

- Certain health profession students may qualify for higher limits.
- Undergraduate annual loan limits are subject to prorating if the student's program of study or final period of enrollment is less than an academic year in length.
- Undergraduate students who do not meet the financial need requirements to receive a Direct Subsidized Loan or have reached the aggregate limit in subsidized loans may receive up to this entire annual or aggregate amount in Direct Unsubsidized Loans, assuming the student has remaining eligibility for the loan(s).

## DIRECT LOAN INTEREST RATES

Direct Loan interest rates are reset each July 1. Visit [studentaid.ed.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov) for current rates.

## DIRECT PLUS LOANS FOR PARENTS

A Direct PLUS Loan for PARENTS is generally the best loan for parents who want to help pay for the education of their dependent, undergraduate students. Parents may borrow the cost of attendance minus all other financial aid and repayment begins after the loan is fully disbursed. Parents may defer payments while the student is in school; however, the interest does still accrue.

### PARENT Eligibility Requirements:

- Be the student's biological parent, adoptive parent or a stepparent whose data would be required on the FAFSA
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have no education loans in default or owe an overpayment on an educational grant
- Have no adverse credit history (A credit check will be conducted. If the parent does not pass the credit check, the parent may still receive a loan if someone agrees to endorse the loan, or if the parent can demonstrate extenuating circumstances.)

In addition to the requirements above, there are **STUDENT** eligibility requirements as well.

### STUDENT Eligibility Requirements:

For a parent to borrow a Direct PLUS Loan, the **STUDENT** MUST:

- Be a dependent student (Parents of independent students are not eligible.)  
**NOTE:** Dependency criteria for federal financial aid purposes are different from dependency criteria used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- Be enrolled in an eligible undergraduate certificate or degree-granting program, making satisfactory academic progress
- Complete the FAFSA
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be enrolled at least half-time while working toward a degree or certificate
- Have no education loans in default or owe educational grant refunds
- Register with the Selective Service, if the dependent student is a male 18-25 years old (Failure to register by age 26 may result in a permanent loss of federal student aid eligibility. Visit [sss.gov](https://sss.gov).)

## DIRECT PLUS LOAN INTEREST RATES

Direct PLUS Loan interest rates are reset each July 1. Visit [studentaid.ed.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov) for current rates.

## PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS

Many lenders offer loans outside of the federal loan program called "alternative" or "private" education loans. These loans allow you to borrow money to cover the gap between the cost of your education and the amount of financial aid you receive.

**You should only consider them after you've exhausted all other sources of funding because private loans can have higher interest rates, may require payments while in school, and may require a cosigner. If you're already borrowing under the Direct Loan Program, you need to consider if you'll be able to make both payments!**

# Resources

## CAREER & COLLEGE PLANNING:

[EducationPlanner.org](http://EducationPlanner.org)

[MySmartBorrowing.org](http://MySmartBorrowing.org)



The screenshot shows the EducationPlanner.org website. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, Contact Us, Results, and Site Map. Below that are tabs for STUDENTS, PARENTS, and COUNSELORS. The main content area features a green header with the text "Start Thinking About Life After High School" and "What is Your Learning Style?". There are three columns of content: "for Students", "for Parents", and "for Counselors", each with a small image and a "LEARN MORE" button.



The screenshot shows the MySmartBorrowing.org website. It features a blue background with a photo of three students in a library. The text "Are You A SMART Borrower?" is prominently displayed. Below the photo, it says "Answer a few simple questions and see how your college and career choices could affect your financial future."

## DEBT MANAGEMENT:

[YouCanDealWithIt.com](http://YouCanDealWithIt.com)



The screenshot shows the YouCanDealWithIt.com website. It has a blue and white color scheme. The main content area includes a "MONEY TIGHT?" section with a list of tips, a "Student Aid Timeline" section, and a "for Borrowers" section. There is also a "find us on Facebook" link and a "Student Aid 101" section.



Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has evolved into one of the nation's leading student aid organizations. Today, PHEAA is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs. PHEAA's earnings are used to support its public service mission and to pay its operating costs, including administration of the Pennsylvania State Grant and other state-funded student aid programs. PHEAA continues to devote its energy, resources and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for students, families, schools, and taxpayers. PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing activities nationally as FedLoan Servicing and American Education Services (AES). For more information, visit [PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org).

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Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

[PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org)

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