2022 Financial Aid Workshop for Educators
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PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education.
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Agenda

• Application Process
• Federal Programs
• State Programs
• Financial Need & Packaging
• Financial Literacy, PHEAA Programs & Services
• Questions & Answers

If you would like to receive Act 48 credit for attendance, please complete the online quiz after our workshop.
The update symbol notes the numerous updates throughout the manual.

Updates include, but are not limited to:

- myStudentAid app
- Income Formula
- Federal Pell Grant Program Information
- Updated Counseling Scenarios
- RTSS & Chafee ETG Program Information
- Financial Aid Resources for Students and Parents
Application Process

Pgs. 11 - 26
Prior to Applying

Students should know that the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is a federal application used to determine student eligibility for:

- Federal programs
- State programs
- School programs
When to Apply

The FAFSA is available as of October 1 each year for students to apply for financial aid for the upcoming school year.
Know Your Deadlines!!!

- Federal Deadline – Pell Grants, campus-based aid, Teach Grants, and federal student loans - June 30, 2024, for AY 2023-24

- School Deadlines - need-based grants and scholarships
  - Schools may have their own filing deadlines. Students are responsible to know these deadlines and should review their potential colleges’ websites for these deadlines
  - Students do not need to be accepted for admission

- PA State Grant Deadlines
  - May 1, 2023 - First-time and renewal students attending colleges, universities & college transferrable programs (excluding community colleges)
  - August 1, 2023 - First-time students attending community college; a business, trade or technical school, hospital school of nursing; Open Admissions Institutions or a 2-year non-transferrable degree program at a Jr or 4-year college

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Documents Needed to Complete the FAFSA

• Social Security numbers, alien registration number (if not a U.S. citizen)
  – Parents without a SSN should enter all zeros
• 2021 income tax, schedules and W2s (if employed)
• Untaxed income (Social Security benefits are not considered)
• CURRENT bank statements and records of other investment accounts (as of the FAFSA filing date)
• Records of any stocks, bonds and other investments, including 529 for all students
• Email addresses
• Student’s drivers license (optional)
• FSA Account (formerly known as FSA ID)
## Prior-Prior Year – What to Use & When

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan to Attend College From</th>
<th>Submit the FAFSA Form</th>
<th>Using Tax Information From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2024</td>
<td>Oct 1, 2022 - Jun 30, 2024</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 1, 2024 - Jun 30, 2025</td>
<td>Oct 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2025</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

- Electronic signature for FAFSA
- Student and ONE parent need separate FSA Accounts
  - Separate email addresses
  - Separate mobile phone numbers
- Mobile phone number
  - Login
  - Retrieve username and reset password
  - Unlock account
- ONLY the owner of the FSA Account should create the account
As of July 10, all new customers (users creating an account for the first time) are required to set up one or more two-step verification methods (text, email, or authenticator app) as part of the “Create an Account” process.

Once one or more two-step verification methods are set up, the customer will receive a secure code each time he or she logs in to studentaid.gov.
Filing the FAFSA

- Students must file a FAFSA every year they are enrolled in postsecondary education
- Apply online at: studentaid.gov
- Due to low use, the myStudentAid mobile app was retired effective June 30, 2022
Certified Browsers

Mozilla Firefox (Version 68+)

Google Chrome (Version 76+)

Apple Safari (Version 9+)

Visit studentaid.gov/help/browser-requirements for the most up-to-date information on browsers.
FAFSA – 7 Sections

1. Student Demographics
2. School Selection
3. Dependency Status
4. Parent Demographics
5. Financial Information
6. Sign and Submit
7. Confirmation

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The FAFSA asks who is logging in—the STUDENT or PARENT?
Benefits of Applying Online

• FASTER than paper
  – Online help and skip logic assist applicants in completing accurately
• The “Save Key” feature allows applicants to return to FAFSA within 45 days to complete
• Access the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)
  – Allows the transfer of federal tax information to their FAFSA
• Easy to compare those schools included on FAFSA form
• FREE
IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

• Students and parents can transfer IRS tax return income directly into the FAFSA

• The IRS DRT may not work if the student or parent:
  – Is married and file a separate tax return from their spouses
  – Married and filed as Head of Household
  – FAFSA marital status doesn’t match PPY IRS tax status
  – Filed a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return
  – Was victim of identity theft, involving their federal tax return
  – Use an address that does not match their federal tax return

Tax filers flagged due to identity theft can’t use the IRS DRT.
IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

All Information must match tax return!

P.O. Box addresses should use P.O. Box number only.
Dependency Status

• A series of student questions to determine if parental data is required

• **DEPENDENT** – include parental data
  – If they cannot provide parent info—could be special condition

• **INDEPENDENT** – just student data
  – Most answers require verification
Dependency Questions

- Were you born before January 1, 2000?
- As of today, are you married? (Also answer yes if you are separated, but not divorced)
- At the beginning of 2023-24 school year, will you be working on a master’s or doctorate program (such as an M.B.A., J.D., Ph.D., Ed.D., grad certificate, etc.)?
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for purposes other than training?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?
- Do you now have or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024?
- Do you have dependents (other than your children or spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you now through June 30, 2024?
- At any time since you turned 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- Does someone other than your parent or stepparent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did your high school or district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?
Dependent Student Status

STUDENT INFORMATION

**Dependent Student Status**

Based on your answers to the dependency status questions, you are considered a "dependent" student. This means you must provide parental information. Select the "I will provide information about my parent(s)" option and "Continue" to continue filling out your FAFSA® form.

**If you have a special circumstance and are unable to provide parental information** under very limited circumstances, you may be able to submit your FAFSA® form without parental information. Select the "I am unable to provide information about my parent(s)" option and "Continue" for additional information.

- I will provide information about my parent(s).
- I am unable to provide information about my parent(s).
Students may list up to 10 schools on their FAFSA. Postsecondary schools will not see that other schools are listed.
The Department of Education is implementing four new questions on race, ethnicity, and gender, which will appear in a voluntary survey on the 2023-24 FAFSA.

- Applicants will be asked their gender, whether they are transgender, their race, and their ethnicity.
- These questions will not affect eligibility for federal student aid.
- Schools will not receive this information.
Signing the FAFSA

Parent signature requires the correct parent’s FSA ID to be used.
Signature Options

- FSA ID – Preferred method
- Signature Page – Students or parents who are unable or decline to sign the FAFSA with an FSA ID should follow the instructions to print, sign, and mail the signature pages.
Confirmation Page

At the bottom of the confirmation page, you will find the link to the PA State Grant Form (SGF) and the Expected Family Contribution.

If the FAFSA is completed on a device which does not allow pop-ups, then the link from the FAFSA Confirmation Page will not work for accessing the SGF. Applicants should allow or enable pop-ups from studentaid.gov prior to completing the FAFSA, to ensure access to the SGF via the FAFSA link.
PA State Grant Form (SGF)

• In addition to the FAFSA, first-time applicants must also complete the SGF.

• How to access SGF:
  – The link from FAFSA confirmation page
  – Through Account Access at PHEAA.org (24-48 hours after submitting the FAFSA)
Create a student account in Account Access.
PA State Grant Form – eSign

Student Savings Programs
Excludable Student Savings Program Value: $500.00

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

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

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Additional Applications

• College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile through College Board
  – The CSS Profile is free for domestic undergraduate students whose family income is $100,000 or less. The fee for the initial application is $25. Additional reports are $16. Payment may be made via credit or debit card and waivers may be available.
  – PA schools and scholarship organizations using the CSS Profile are listed on Page 20 of the manual.
  – High school seniors can begin to complete the CSS Profile as of October 1. The online application includes questions about income, assets, and expenses. In addition, dependent students who do not reside with both parents may need to complete information about their noncustodial parent.

• Institutional Applications
  – Required by some schools in addition to the FAFSA.
  – Requirements are usually posted on their websites.

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My FAFSA’s Filed...What’s Next?
After Applying

• Student Aid Report (SAR) received after FAFSA is processed
• If students provided a valid email address, SAR notification sent via email
• Students without a valid email notified via regular mail
• Students use FSA Account to login to studentaid.gov to view or print their SAR
• Students should carefully review their SAR and follow the directions
The Central Processing System (CPS) database matches against the FAFSA.

The most common are:
- NSLDS for loan default and lifetime Pell usage
- Homeland Security for citizenship status
- Social Security Administration for SSN verification

Discrepancies are flagged and must be resolved through the school before eligibility is finalized.
• FAFSA data checked for accuracy
  – Standard items associated with income, taxes, and household
  – Not using the IRS DRT creates a greater chance of selection

• If selected – a school may require additional documentation
  – The Department of Education is continuing their waiver of certain verification requirements into the 2022-2023 award year. They are maintaining verification requirements that strictly focus on identity and fraud for the remainder of the 2022-2023 award year and waiving the remaining verification requirements.
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

• Remains the same no matter which school the student attends
• Primarily income-driven
• Major factors for dependent student:
  – 2021 parental income and value of assets at the time of FAFSA submission
  – 2021 student income and value of assets at the time of FAFSA submission
  – Family size and number of children in college at the same time
Parental Income & Assets

Income
- Income is based on 2021 year for AY 2023-24
- Tax filers report AGI from tax return and income from work from W-2
- Allowances are made for taxes, working households, and living allowances based on family size

Assets
- Value of assets are reported as of date FAFSA is submitted
- 12% of the value of the assets is used in the calculation of the EFC
- Not an asset: value of primary residence, personal property, qualified retirement accounts, and life insurance policies
Income

- Allowances are made for taxes
- Earnings from work-study are excluded
- Income protection allowance of up to $7,600 (AY 22-23) and remaining income assessed at 50%

Assets

- Dependent students must report assets in their name
- 20% of the value of the assets is used in the calculation of the EFC
Special Processing Formulas

Simplified Formula

• No student or parental assets count in the EFC calculation, if:
  – Anyone in the parent’s household received means-tested benefits (for 2021 or 2022); or
  – Parents did not file an IRS 1040 schedule 1; or
  – A parent was a dislocated worker; and
  – The combined income of the student’s parents is $49,999 or less

• This formula also applies to independent students (and their spouse, if married)

Automatic Zero EFC

• Same conditions as Simplified
• Parental annual income of $29,000 or less
FREE publications for secondary and postsecondary students are available for download in Spanish and English at:

- [financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov](http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov) – Searchable database of outreach resources
- FSA’s YouTube Channel has helpful videos exploring different types of financial aid

- Federal Contact Assistance
  - [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)
  - Twitter/Facebook
  - FAFSA on the Web live help
  - By phone: 800-433-3243
FAFSA Demo Site

- FAFSA Demo Site
  - [https://fafsademo.test.ed.gov](https://fafsademo.test.ed.gov)
- A learning tool for counselors
- Sample FAFSAs for practice completing, correcting, and checking statuses
- The demo for the 2023-24 FAFSA will be available on September 25, 2022

A username and password are no longer needed to access the demo site.
Scenario 1 - Which parent should complete the FAFSA?

• The student is living with biological father and stepmother, sharing time at their biological mother’s house every other weekend.
• Their mother is not married and makes less money.

Answer
The student should use their biological father and stepmother because the student has lived with them more than 50% over the past 12 months.
Scenario 2 - Student lives with their grandmother who has legal custody over the child. Is the student automatically independent?

- The student’s biological father was never in the picture.
- The student’s biological mother has been in and out of their life since they were born and is living in a different state.
- The student’s grandmother has paperwork that allows them access to medical and educational information for the student.

Answer

The student is dependent and will either need their mother’s information to complete the FAFSA or they could try to file the FAFSA on their own, say they cannot provide parent information, and appeal at the college and with PHEAA for independent status. Because the student’s grandmother does not have legal guardianship of the child as determined by the courts, they are not automatically recognized as independent. Grandparents are never the parents on a FAFSA unless they legally adopted the student before age 13. For PA State Grant eligibility, students can apply for consideration to PHEAA as an independent student utilizing the guardian form which is available during the SGF process under the help for Living Situation. These students would not meet the FAFSA independent criteria but if there are extenuating circumstances PHEAA may approve under the guardian policy.
**Scenario 3 - The student’s parents are undocumented. Will the student be eligible for state and federal financial aid?**

- Parents are undocumented.
- Student is a 17-year-old U.S. citizen and has lived in PA since 2016.

**Answer**

The student may complete a FAFSA and qualify for federal student aid, such as a Federal Pell grant and Direct Student Loan. Because the student is under 18, PHEAA will use parent domicile/citizenship to determine eligibility for a PA State Grant. Because they are not citizens, they do not meet the domicile requirements for PA State Grant and therefore, the student would not qualify. A student who is under 18 years of age, is a U.S. citizen, and has been denied state grant eligibility due to their parent (or guardian) being neither a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen may appeal their denial. Students who fall into this category should be advised to submit a letter of appeal that must include an affirming statement that they plan to be enrolled in a post-secondary education institution while they are turning 18 years of age. Once received by PHEAA, their domicile will be reviewed without regard to their parent(s)’ citizenship status. All appeals will be prepared for and reviewed by PHEAA’s Administrative Review Committee (ARC).
Scenario 4 – Student and family are refugees, what should they do?

• Student and family are refugees, what should they do? Parents and student have been relocated from Nepal. They are on a path to citizenship; however, they won’t have their Green Cards until June, after the student graduates from high school. It is now October of the student’s senior year.

Answer

In order to be eligible for financial aid, the student must be an eligible non-citizen, which means that they must have a Green Card. If the student will have their Green Card in June after senior year, instruct the student to wait and file the FAFSA at that time. They will not meet the PA domicile requirement at that time, so the PA State Grant deadline doesn’t matter. They should contact the school and inform them of the situation. Schools may have priority filing deadlines, but because the student won’t qualify for any federal or state aid, it doesn’t make sense to file it before June.
Questions
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Federal Eligibility Requirements

• Must be U.S citizen or eligible non-citizen
• High school diploma or equivalent
• Not be in default on any federal education loan
• Be enrolled as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program at an eligible institution
• Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress while attending

Must submit a completed FAFSA. Visit studentaid.gov to apply.
2022-23 Federal Pell Grant

• Maximum grant – $6,895
• Maximum EFC for Eligibility – 6,206
• Lifetime eligibility is limited to 12 full-time semesters
  – Students can monitor Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) by logging in to studentaid.gov
• Year-round Pell
Two Campus-Based Programs

• Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
  – $4,000 maximum; need-based
  – Priority given to Pell Grant recipients

• Federal Work-Study (FWS)
  – Provides part-time employment
  – The school determines the award amount and the wage rate, although they must pay at least the federal minimum wage
  – Earnings do not count as income on subsequent FAFSAs
  – Statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics show students who work have a higher GPA

Program participation, student eligibility, and award amounts may vary among schools
Federal Grants

- **Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant** – Maximum award is $6,895
  - Student with a parent or guardian who died due to service in Iraq or Afghanistan after 9/11/2001

- **TEACH Grant** – Maximum award is $4,000
  - Students completing or planning to complete coursework needed to begin a career in teaching
  - Must meet specific requirements
  - Students must receive TEACH Grant counseling that explains the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant service obligation.

- **Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarship**
  - Pell-eligible student whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while performing as a public safety officer
  - Enrolled at the time of student’s parent’s or guardian’s death
Direct Loans (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)

- No credit check or co-signer requirement
  - Subsidized
    - Government pays interest during in-school, grace, and deferment periods
    - Based on need
  - Unsubsidized
    - Borrower is responsible for all interest, beginning date of disbursement
    - Non-need-based loan
- Interest and Fees – 4.99% and 1.057% fee, AY 2022-23
## Federal Direct Borrowing Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Limits</th>
<th>Dependent Students</th>
<th>Independent or dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS loan</th>
<th>Graduate or Professional Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Year</td>
<td>$5,500 (No more than $3,500 may be subsidized)</td>
<td>$9,500 (No more than $3,500 may be subsidized)</td>
<td>$20,500 (Each academic year Graduate and Professional students are no longer eligible for subsidized loans)</td>
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<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Year</td>
<td>$6,500 (No more than $4,500 may be subsidized)</td>
<td>$10,500 (No more than $4,500 may be subsidized)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Year +</td>
<td>$7,500 (No more than $5,500 may be subsidized)</td>
<td>$12,500 (No more than $5,500 may be subsidized)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggregate Limits</td>
<td>$31,000 (No more than $23,000 may be subsidized)</td>
<td>$57,500 (No more than $23,000 may be subsidized)</td>
<td>$138,500 (No more than $65,000 may be subsidized)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Direct Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students

• Available to parent (biological, adoptive, or, in some cases, stepparent) of a dependent undergraduate student

• Credit check is required with no debt-to-income
  – If credit check passes, loan is approved

• No annual or aggregate limit to the amount a parent may borrow
  – Cost minus financial aid received equals the amount that can be borrowed

• Repayment begins 60 days after full disbursement
  – Parent can choose to defer payments while student is enrolled

• Interest and Fees – 7.54% and 4.228% fee, AY 2022-23

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Loan Forgiveness Programs

• Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program
  – Borrowers must teach full-time for 5 consecutive years in a low-income school district or educational service agency, and meet other eligibility guidelines
  – Possible $17,500 may be forgiven

• Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program
  – Encourages individuals to enter and continue working in public service jobs
  – 120 on-time payments under certain payment plans while working in a public service job
  – MOHELA is now servicing PSLF [https://www.mohela.com/fedLoan-transfer](https://www.mohela.com/fedLoan-transfer)

Visit studentaid.gov for more details.
Additional Federal Programs

• Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits
  – Aggregate 90 days active duty after 9/11/01, still active, honorably discharged, or disability discharged

• American Opportunity Tax Credit
  – Max annual credit of $2,500 per eligible student – see IRS Publication 970

• Lifetime Learning Credit
  – Up to $2,000 per tax return with income limits – see IRS Publication 970

• Deferment for Active Cancer Treatment
  – During treatment and 6 months following the conclusion of treatment
Part 1. Final extension of the student loan repayment pause
- Federal loan payments will resume in January 2023

Part 2. Providing targeted debt relief to low- and middle-income families
- Borrowers are eligible for relief if their individual income is less than $125,000 or $250,000 for households
  - $20,000 in debt cancellation to Pell Grant recipients
  - $10,000 in debt cancellation to non-Pell Grant recipients
- The relief includes current students and borrowers who have federally-held undergraduate, graduate, and Parent PLUS loans that have been fully disbursed by June 30, 2022.

Part 3. Creating a new income driven repayment plan that will substantially reduce further monthly payments for low- and middle-income borrowers.
Questions
PA State Grant Program

Pgs. 49 - 53
PA State Grant Program

Provides grant aid to applicants who demonstrate financial need and choose to attend a PHEAA-approved postsecondary educational institution

- Eligibility is calculated in accordance with the Federal Need Analysis formula and PA State Grant policies.
- Within Pennsylvania, eligible students may attend:
  - Most 2- and 4-year colleges
  - Many Business, Trade and Technical (BTT) schools & Hospital Schools of Nursing, offering a program of at least 2 academic years in length.
2023-24 PA Grant Filing Deadline

May 1, 2023
• All renewal applicants
• New applicants who plan to enroll in a degree program
• New applicants enrolling in a college transferable program

August 1, 2023
• Non-renewal applicants enrolling in:
  – Business, trade, or technical school
  – Hospital school of nursing
  – Community college
  – Open-admission colleges
  – 2-year programs that are not transferable
PA State Grant Eligibility

Requirements

• Domicile
  – U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
  – PA resident
• HS graduate
• Academic progress
• Enrollment
• Maximum number of grants
• Program of study
• Undergraduate enrollment
• Satisfactory character (incarceration)
• No loan default

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PHEAA’s Acceptance of Federal Dependency Questions

• First five questions of the FAFSA are accepted for Independent Status
• PHEAA does NOT automatically accept the federal definition of independence for the remaining questions
  – Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?
  – Are your parents deceased, are/were you in foster care, or are/were you a ward of the court?
  – Are/were you an emancipated minor?
  – Are/were you in legal guardianship?
  – Are/were you an unaccompanied youth who is/was homeless or at risk of being homeless?
• Verification is required, in some cases parental data will be needed
## 2022-23 PA State Grant Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Tier</th>
<th>Maximum Award</th>
<th>Minimum Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 - $12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$12,001 - $19,000</td>
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<td>$19,001 - $29,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>$29,001 - $32,000</td>
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## 2022-23 Out-of-State Awards

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type of State</th>
<th>Minimum Award</th>
<th>Maximum Award</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Veteran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reciprocal States</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exception Schools*</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reciprocal States**
Delaware, Massachusetts, West Virginia, District of Columbia, Ohio, Vermont

*Exception Schools: Allegany Community College of MD & Jamestown Community College of NY

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Summer PA State Grant

• A separate online application is available for summer
  – **Deadline – August 15**

• A Summer PA State Grant is included in the maximum number of payments for which a student may be eligible
Students may be eligible for a PA State Grant, but not federal aid if:

- Student leaves high school before graduation to attend an approved postsecondary institution, meeting the school district’s policies
- Student is dropped from the school district’s enrollment records
- Student will receive a high school diploma at the end of their freshman year
PA Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS) Program

- RTSS provides scholarships to high achieving students whose annual family income does not exceed $126,000
- Students may receive up to $2,000 in conjunction with a PA State Grant
- Students must:
  - Have completed at least one academic year (24 semester credits or the equivalent) in college at a participating PA school
  - Maintain a 3.25 GPA or higher
  - Meet all PA State Grant eligibility requirements
  - File a FAFSA

PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education.
PA State Work-Study Program (SWSP)

- Undergraduate students eligible for a PA State Grant
- Employment must be related to student’s major or minor
- Employers are reimbursed a portion of student wages:
  - Non-profit – 50%
  - For-profit – 40%
  - Maximum – $10,000 for AY and $7,500 for summer
- Student and employer applications are available at PHEAA.org/SWSP
PHEAA partners with community–based PA organizations that offer grants or scholarships to eligible PA residents

• Current PATH partners at [PHEAA.org/PATH](PHEAA.org/PATH)
• PHEAA PATH Grant match – up to $3,500
• The student must be enrolled at least half-time in a PHEAA-approved postsecondary institution
• Student must have received a PA State Grant for the semester or quarter for which they are nominated to receive a PATH Grant
PA National Guard Educational Assistance Program (EAP)

- Jointly administered by PHEAA & Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)
- Provides tuition assistance for eligible PA National Guard members who enter into a 6-year service agreement
- Awards are based on tuition charged to PA residents at a PA state-owned school
- Student must be enrolled at an approved institution, in a degree-granting program, certificate-granting curriculum, or approved course of study or training program required for entrance into a specific career (e.g., CDL)
PA National Guard Military Family Education Program (MFEP)

- MFEP is jointly administered by PHEAA and the DMVA
- Allows the spouses and children of National Guard members to attend college for free or at a reduced cost
- PA National Guard member must sign an additional 6-year agreement with the PA National Guard
- Family member must be enrolled at an approved institution, in a degree-granting program, certificate-granting curriculum, or approved course of study or training program required for entrance into a specific career (e.g., CDL)
• Targeted industries at approved schools:
  – Health
  – Energy
  – Advanced Materials and Diversified Manufacturing
  – Agriculture and Food Production
• Maximum award is the lesser of:
  – Maximum annual PA-TIP award of $5,000 or
  – Student’s approved program costs minus gift and employer aid
• Many requirements of PA State Grant, except:
  – Program must be at least 10 weeks but less than 2 years
• Must file FAFSA every year
• Must file PA-TIP application (1st-time applicants only)
The Chafee Education & Training Grant Program, is a federal funded program that provides grant assistance to eligible PA undergraduate students aging out of foster care.

- Administered by PHEAA in conjunction with the PA Department of Human Services (DHS)

Students must be:

- PA resident attending an eligible postsecondary institution
- Identified as a youth in foster care or a youth discharged or adopted from foster care after age 16
- Under the age of 26
- Must file a FAFSA & Chafee application
- 2022-23 AY max award is $5,000
• Provides a waiver for tuition, college application & mandatory fees charged by most PA postsecondary institutions.

• General Eligibility:
  – Be a Pennsylvania resident under the age of 26
  – File a FAFSA for the academic year for which funds are requested
  – Complete a PA Chafee ETG application by May 1, 2023 (not required for renewal applicants)
  – Be eligible for services under PA Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood
  – Be identified as a youth in foster care or a youth discharged or adopted from foster care on or after attaining age 16
    • Or be a youth that has exited foster care on or after age 16 due to adoption or permanent legal guardianship
  – Have not previously received a waiver for five (5) years, consecutive or not (defined as 10 semesters or the equivalent)
PA Postsecondary Education Gratuity Program (PEGP)

- Benefits children of select emergency personnel who died in the line of duty
- A waiver of institutional charges for tuition, fees, room and board minus any grants or scholarships received at a PA community college, state-owned, or state-related institution
- Must be enrolled full-time in associate or baccalaureate degree program
- Must file a FAFSA, SGF, and PEGP application

PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education.
• Benefits eligible students who are visually or hearing impaired
• Enrolled at least half-time
• Maximum award $500
• Must file a FAFSA & Blind or Deaf Beneficiary Grant application
  – Must file annually
  – First-time applicants required to get certification from physician or Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)
Other PA Programs – Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

• State agency that provides a variety of services for individuals with:
  – Physical disabilities
  – Mental/nervous/emotional disorders
  – Drug and alcohol rehabilitation
  – Learning disabilities

• Diagnostic testing

• Financial support for higher education

• Must complete the FAFSA

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Questions
Financial Need & Financial Aid Offers

Pgs. 61-64
Cost of Attendance (COA) includes the following:

- Tuition and fees (this includes all institutional fees)
- Room and meals (whether on campus, off campus, or living with parents)
- Books and supplies (typically an average allowance for the entire student body)
- Transportation expenses (even if the student is living on campus)
- Miscellaneous personal expenses
Need Analysis

Cost of Attendance (COA) - Expected Family Contribution (EFC) = Financial Need

PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education.
Presented by the school and typically includes:

• Types and amounts of financial aid offered
• Conditions that are placed on the awards
• Student’s rights and responsibilities
• Policy on satisfactory academic progress
### Sample Financial Aid Offers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SCHOOL A</th>
<th>SCHOOL B</th>
<th>SCHOOL C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Attendance</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Federal EFC</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>= Financial Need</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>$4,945</td>
<td>$4,945</td>
<td>$4,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA State Grant</td>
<td>$5,261</td>
<td>$5,750</td>
<td>$5,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Grant/Scholarship</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Scholarship</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Work-Study</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Unsubsidized Loan</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL AID</td>
<td>$17,506</td>
<td>$23,695</td>
<td>$33,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap (Cost – Aid)</td>
<td>$8,494</td>
<td>$11,305</td>
<td>$16,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Aid (free money)</td>
<td>$10,706</td>
<td>$15,195</td>
<td>$24,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Professional Judgment

- Financial Aid Offices review, on a case-by-case basis, to update financial aid eligibility based on unusual circumstances.
- Applies to federal and institutional aid only.
- Exercising professional judgement is at the discretion of each school.
- PA State Grant unusual circumstance consideration is separate.
  - Contact PHEAA and complete appropriate forms.
  - [PHEAA.org/forms](http://PHEAA.org/forms)
Dependency Override

• A student does not meet the criteria for an independent status but has unusual circumstances that may warrant a dependency override

• No parental data will be required on the FAFSA

• Schools require documentation to support the student’s request
  - Examples:
    • Student who has left home due to an abusive situation
    • Student whose parents’ whereabouts are unknown
Dependency Override

- There are some rather typical cases that do NOT qualify for a dependency override:
  - Parents refusing to contribute toward their child's education
  - Parents’ unwillingness to supply information needed to complete the FAFSA
  - Parents not claiming the student as a dependent for income tax purposes
  - The student no longer living in the parents’ home voluntarily
  - Parents and student “just don’t get along”
Reduction of Income

- Professional Judgment exceptions can also be made due to income changes that are experienced before or after the FAFSA has been filed.
- Contact the financial aid office to discuss the situation.
- Separate forms for PA State Grant [PHEAA.org/forms](http://PHEAA.org/forms)

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Private (Alternative) Education Loans

• Supplemental funding options from private funding institutions
  – Look at federal, state, school-based funding, and scholarships first

• Interest rates and repayment terms vary, depending on the lender

• Stricter credit requirements

• Usually in the student’s name with a co-signer

Read the fine print and carefully review to understand the terms.

PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education.
PA Forward Private Student Loans
PA’s Low-Cost Way to Pay for College!

Low, Fixed Rates

3.82-7.69% APR

Effective as of 6/8/22

Learn more at PHEAA.org/PAForward

1) Annual Percentage Rate (APR) Calculations: The lowest APR is based on the following assumptions: a loan of $10,000 made in a single disbursement, a borrower who selected an Immediate Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 60 months, monthly payments of $183.49 and a final payment $175.40, a fixed periodic interest rate of 4.10%, and a total amount financed of $11,001.26. The borrower in this sample qualified for a 0.25% Direct Debit benefit for the entirety of the repayment period and a 0.50% graduation benefit was applied 47 months into repayment. The highest APR is based on the following assumptions: a loan of $10,000 made in a single disbursement, a borrower who selected a Fully Deferred Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 180 months, monthly payments of $131.09, a fixed periodic interest rate of 8.20%, and a total amount financed of $23,596.64. The borrower received an in-school deferment of 46 months and a grace period of 6 months. The borrower in this sample did not qualify for any interest rate discounts. These APRs are estimates and may differ from the actual rates received.

2) Subject to aggregate loan limits.

3) Loans taken for a less than half-time academic period may borrow up to $5,000. Applicants are subject to credit qualifications, completion of an application and credit agreement, and verification of application information. PHEAA uses applicant(s) FICO score(s) to determine eligibility and interest rates. Higher credit scores may mean an applicant is offered a lower interest rate. PHEAA reserves the right to discontinue all programs or benefits without prior notice.
PA FORWARD Student Loans
Undergrad, Graduate, Parent and Refinance

• Undergrad, Graduate
  – Student borrower alone, or with a credit-worthy cosigner (normally needed)

• Parent
  – Parent or Guardian

• PA resident for costs at any Title IV school
  – And bordering state residents attending a PA school

• Borrow up to 100% Cost of Attendance with NO FEES

• Interest rate benefits for graduating and paying through direct debit

• Several repayment options & three term lengths – for affordability
  – Students receive a 6-month grace period

• Very low, Fixed interest rates based on credit risk scoring

Visit PHEAA.org/PAForward today!
Questions
Counseling Scenarios

Pgs. 69-72
Scenario 5 - The student is homeless. How should they complete the FAFSA?

- The student is currently living with a friend’s family in the school district.
- The student has been deemed homeless by the school district as an unaccompanied youth.

Answer

The student is independent and will not need parent information to complete the FAFSA. They would answer “yes” to the question, “At any time on or after July 1, 2022, did your high school or school district homeless liaison determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?” This will automatically declare them as an independent student and will ask if they want to answer questions about their parent. The student can select “no” and submit the FAFSA with only a student signature. Please note that the student will need to submit documentation from the school to verify their independent status with PHEAA and may need to submit information to their school(s) of choice as well.
Scenario 6 - Parent passed away. Should the student list their stepmother on the FAFSA and use her financial information?

- The student was living with her biological father and stepmother
- Father passed away last spring

Answer

No, unless the stepmother legally adopted the student. Stepparent information is not used on the FAFSA, even if the student is still living with her. If the biological mother is alive, they would use her information on the FAFSA, even if the student doesn’t live with her. If the biological mother is deceased, the student would be independent (both parents are deceased). If the mother is alive, but they don’t have contact with her and cannot get her information, they would have to file an independent appeal with the school. For the Pennsylvania State grant, if the student completes their FAFSA providing their information only, says lives with guardian and puts father’s status as deceased and mom unknown on the State grant application they would automatically be considered an Independent orphan and no appeal to PHEAA would be necessary.
Scenario 7 - The student has a child. Is the student automatically independent?

- Student currently lives with their parents.
- The student receives TANF and SNAP benefits.

Answer

It depends. The FAFSA asks, “Do you now have, or will you have children who will receive more than half of their support from you between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.” If the student will provide over half of the child's support during the dates listed, then they would answer that question “yes” and be considered an independent student. Support provided includes support for shelter, utilities, food, clothing, and even health insurance. Sources of support the student receives for their child can include money received from any source other than the student’s parents. For example, child support received, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or Food Stamps) benefits can be included as resources the student is using to support his or her legal dependent. This also can include cash support from any other non-parent relatives or friends.
Scenario 8 - The student lives with their older brother who has legally adopted them. Whose information should be included on the FAFSA?

- Student’s sibling legally adopted the student during 2022.
- The student filed their own taxes in 2021 and claimed themselves.
- Student’s sibling also lives with their girlfriend, but they are unmarried.
- Student’s biological father is deceased and biological mother’s whereabouts are unknown.

**Answer**

The student should include their brother’s information and income on the FAFSA. Since their sibling has legally adopted the student, the sibling would be listed as the parent. However, since the sibling is not married, they would not include the girlfriend’s income information on the FAFSA. The girlfriend may be included in the household size if the student’s brother provides more than half of her support and will continue to provide half of her support between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024.
Scenario 9 - Is a student whose parents are incarcerated automatically deemed as an independent student?

Answer

No. On a case-by-case basis, a school’s financial aid administrator may make a dependency override to categorize an otherwise dependent student as independent if they meet criteria for special circumstances. The financial aid administrator’s decision is final and cannot be appealed to the U.S. Department of Education.
Counseling Scenarios

Scenario 10 - A parent takes out a lump sum payment from IRA or pension in 2021 but this is only a one-time event and will not show up on subsequent tax returns. Can the college use professional judgment to omit that from the student’s calculation for financial aid?

Answer

Using professional judgment, a college can choose to use the family’s 2022 tax information that doesn’t contain the IRA or pension withdrawal (and are more indicative of the family’s normal income), if using this tax information would result in a change in aid eligibility for the student. Every college will look at these circumstances differently.
Questions
Financial Literacy Tools

collegecost.ed.gov

• Net Price Calculator Center
• College Financing Plan
  – Previously known as the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet
• College Scorecard
Net Price Calculator (NPC)

- What is a Net Price Calculator?
- What does Net Price mean?
Five Key Items:

- Cost
- Graduation rate
- Loan default rate
- Employment
- Average amount borrowed

College Scorecard (ed.gov)
MySmartBorrowing.org is an interactive online tool to assist students with making informed choices about postsecondary education.

Check out MySmartBorrowing.org
A free tool to calculate an affordable future.

› Let's GO!
MySmartBorrowing.org guides students & families through 4 easy sections:

1. Select a Career
2. Select a School
3. Factor in Savings
4. Get Results

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The Federal Student Aid Estimator provides an estimate of the federal student aid a student may be eligible to receive. Visit studentaid.gov/aid-estimator.
Your financial path to graduation

Have a financial aid offer? We'll help you plan to finish your program with debt you can afford.
Your Financial Path to Graduation

This tool can help you:

• Understand your financial aid offer
• Plan to cover the remaining costs
• Estimate how much you’ll owe and if you can afford that debt
• Compare offers from different schools
• Decide what to do next
• Keep coming back as your plan evolves.

• For many students, planning how to pay for school is complicated. It may require multiple conversations with family, advisers, and the school financial aid office to get more information. As you figure out your best options, come back and update your plan as many times as you need!
PHEAA Toolkits

- **Financial Aid Night Toolkit**

- **FAFSA Toolkit**
  - Includes PDFs, flyers, ads for school publications, newspaper articles and planning information

- **Career Education and Work Standards Toolkits** (Chapter 339 materials)
  - Includes free materials and lesson plans to help students meet the academic and career standards developed by the PA Department of Education
PHEAA offers a large variety of materials that are FREE to order at PHEAA.org/order-online.
Helping Students & Families

- Financial Aid Nights
- FAFSA Completion Sessions
- Junior Jump Starts
- Student Programs
  - EducationPlanner – Scholarship Search
  - MySmartBorrowing – Financial Literacy

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Students and their parents (or guardians) receive FREE assistance with completing the FAFSA

Primary goal is to ensure that the first step of the financial aid process is completed accurately for determining eligibility in a timely manner

Students and parents should create their FSA Accounts prior to attending the session

PHEAA’s FAFSA Tipsheet contains information on what documents and other information will be needed to complete the online process

Contact PHEAA Higher Education Access Partner for more details on these sessions
Upcoming PHEAA Webinars

- PA School Services – Financial Aid Webinars
- Webinar Series for Educators & Counselors

Visit pheaa.org for a full listing of our webinars

Register for an upcoming session or view our recorded sessions

PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education.
## Online High School Access

Track FAFSA and PA State Grant Form completions through Business Partner Access Management System (BPAMS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s first, middle, and last name</th>
<th>Date FAFSA processed</th>
<th>Date of birth</th>
<th>Flag for additional information</th>
<th>Zip code only</th>
<th>FAFSA status flag</th>
<th>Date FAFSA submitted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student 1</td>
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<td>10/17/2001</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>19046</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>08/16/2021</td>
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<td>Student 2</td>
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<td>19001</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>01/13/2021</td>
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<td>Student 3</td>
<td>05/20/2021</td>
<td>10/21/2002</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>19006</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>06/15/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student 4</td>
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<td>01/27/2003</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>19038</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>05/18/2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education.
The school must print and complete the Remote Access Agreement and Authoritative Source Forms available at: [PHEAA.org/raa](http://PHEAA.org/raa)

Questions can be sent to [highschoolaccess@pheaa.org](mailto:highschoolaccess@pheaa.org)

Once processed, the Authoritative Source (AS) will be sent a secure email from PHEAA with a username and temporary password.

The AS must access the Business Partner and Access Management System ([aessuccess.org/apps/bpams.nsf/home](http://aessuccess.org/apps/bpams.nsf/home)) to change password and grant access to view reports.

Schools access their FAFSA and PA State Grant reports via PageCenter through [PHEAA.org](http://PHEAA.org)
**Student Loan Notification Tool**

**Act 121** requires postsecondary schools to provide student loan debt information to students on an annual basis.

Benefits of PHEAA’s Student Loan Notification Tool include:

- Further promotes student loan awareness
- Can improve a student’s future borrowing decisions
- Promotes on-time graduation and course completion
- Improves overall default rates for postsecondary institution
FAFSA Simplification
FAFSA® Simplification

The FAFSA Simplification Act (FSA) was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that was passed on December 27, 2020. The FSA introduces significant changes to the FAFSA® form, how students and families will complete the FAFSA as well as the formula used to calculate eligibility for federal financial aid.

The FAFSA Simplification Act amendments specified that most of the provisions were scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2023, for award year 2023-24, starting with the 2023-24 FAFSA. The FAFSA Simplification Technical Corrections Act (signed into law March 15, 2022) extended the FAFSA simplification implementation timeline by one year to 2024-25.

The Future Act, which was passed in 2019 expands collaboration between Federal Student Aid and the IRS and eliminates the data retrieval tool and replaces it with a direct data exchange (FADTX). The direct data exchange will easily import all data related to taxable and untaxed income directly from student/family's tax return into the FAFSA.
PHEAA Online Resources

- PHEAA.org
- aesSuccess.org
- EducationPlanner.org
- MySmartBorrowing.org
- YouCanDealWithIt.com
- PHEAA.org/PAForward

PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education.
Get Social with PHEAA

PHEAA
American Education Services

@PHEAAaid
@aesSuccessorg

PHEAA

PHEAA – Providing affordable access to higher education.
More Online Resources

• PASFAA
• U.S. Department of Education
• NASFAA
• Scholarship Searches
• Financial Literacy
• Unaccompanied Youth Guidance
• Homeless Resource - Finding Your Way in PA
Questions
Thank you for attending!

Please watch your email for the workshop evaluation and the Act 48 quiz in order to receive Act 48 credit for attending. You must complete the quiz within 10 days of attendance (via SurveyMonkey).

Your opinion matters.