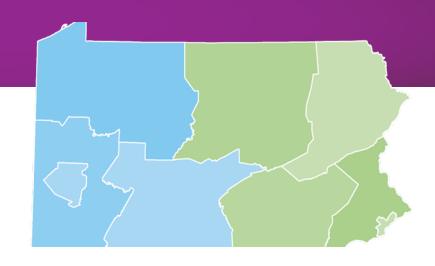


Financial Aid 101

Your Presenter



Diona Brown

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Counties: Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton and York

Topics of Discussion



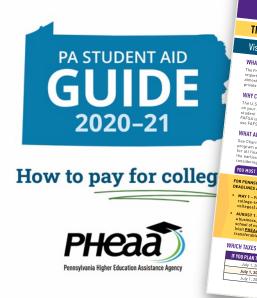
Financial Aid 101

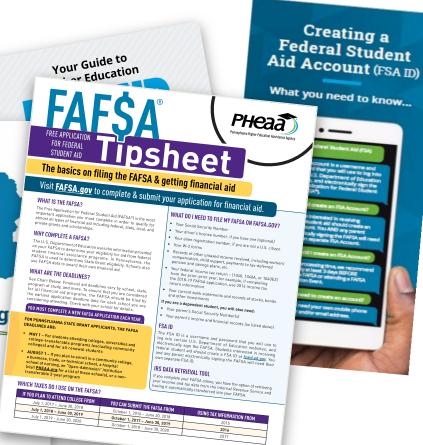
- » Financial Aid Basics
- » Types & Sources of Aid
- Federal & State Aid
- Five Steps to Financial Aid
- Applying for Aid
- What Happens Next?
- Final Thoughts
- Questions

PHEAA Publications

Order our FAN Kit at PHEAA.org/order-online









Financial Aid Basics



Financial Aid: financial assistance to help students pay the cost of an education at a post-secondary school.

- Paying is the joint responsibility of the student and parent(s), to the extent possible
- Eligibility criteria may apply in order to receive/maintain financial aid, such as:
 - » Males 18-25 yrs. of age, must register with Selective Service
 - » Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress
 - » Additional criteria may be required based on the type and source of aid
- Students should play an active role in the process
 - » Talk with children about goals/plans (revieweducationplanner.org & mysmartborrowing.org)
 - Take advantage of college fairs & school visits (ask about cost and available aid)
- Some students may not qualify for all forms of aid
- Must apply <u>every</u> year to be considered







Cost of Attendance(COA):

Costs that the student can expect to incur during the school year (direct + indirect costs)

- Direct costs: billed by the school
- Indirect costs: not included in bill but may be incurred

School costs include:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous living expenses

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

A measure of how much the student & family are expected to contribute to the cost of the student's education.

The EFC is calculated from a federal formula using info collected from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Financial Need = COA - EFC

- Schools will determine need after reviewing financial aid applications
- Schools will create an award package based on need and available funding at their schools

Types of Financial Aid Gift Aid (Free Money)

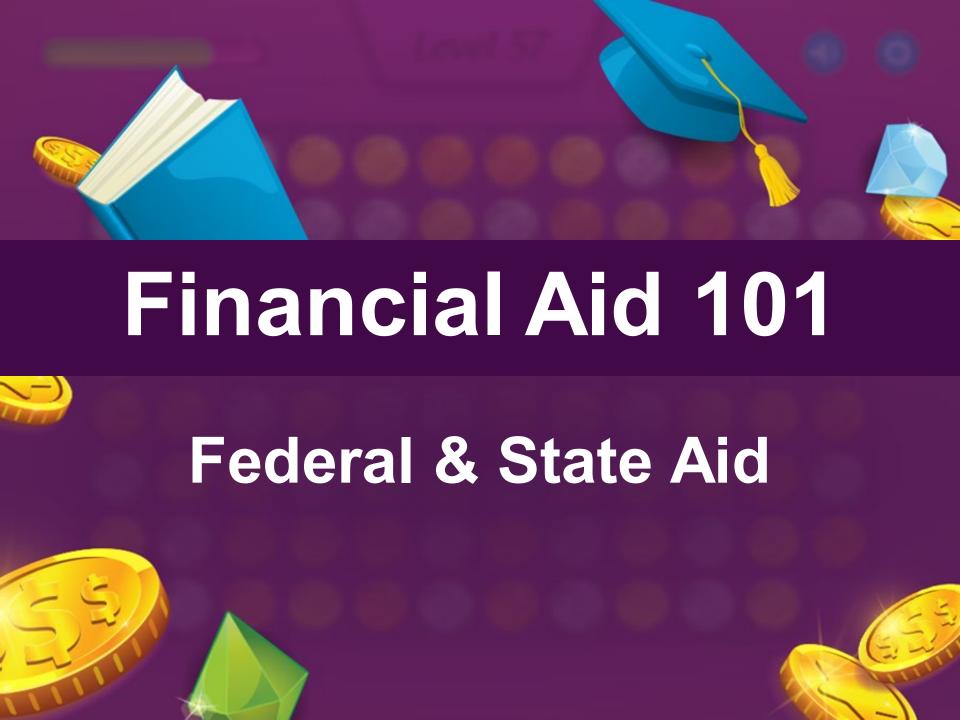


- Grants: aid, based on <u>financial need</u> and generally does not have to be repaid
 - Student must complete financial aid paperwork to determine eligibility
 - Looks at COA & EFC
- > Scholarships: aid, usually based on <u>merit</u>, that generally does not have to be repaid. Most students must meet certain qualifications to receive and maintain scholarships.
 - > Academic & athletic
 - > Talent (music, art, etc.)
 - Grades, religious, ethnic or cultural background
 - Select criteria determined by scholarship organization(s)

Types of Financial Aid Self-Help Aid



- Work Study: Student obtains job, often coordinated through the campus and/or State.
 - > Wages earned help cover the cost of attendance
 - > Not offered at all schools
- Student Loans: Borrowed money that must be repaid (with interest)
 - Federal Direct Loans -Student's Name
 - Federal PLUS Loans -Parent's Name
 - Private/Alternative Student Loans Varies amongst lender



Federal Programs

- Pell Grant: 2020-21max award \$6,345*
 - » Max EFC is \$5,711
 - » Max amount reviewed every year
- Campus-based aid: amounts determined by Financial Aid Office (FAO)
 - » FSEOG.....up to \$4,000
 - » Federal Work-Study...FAO determines

For most programs, student must be enrolled at least half-time.

- » Must complete the FAFSA
- » Additional details: PA Student Aid Guide, p.30

^{*} Goes to most financially needy students

Pennsylvania State Grant

PA State Grant: 2020-21 max award \$4,525

- Awarded to eligible PA residents who demonstrate financial need
- Required: approved school/approved program of study
- Out of State schools in DE, MA, OH, WV, VT & DC: max \$578
 - Veterans: up to \$770

Cost Tier	Minimum Award	Maximum Award
\$0 - \$12,000	\$500	\$2,407
\$12,001 - \$19,000	\$500	\$3,851
\$19,001 - \$29,000	\$500	\$4,140
\$29,001 - \$32,000	\$500	\$4,525



PA State Administered Programs

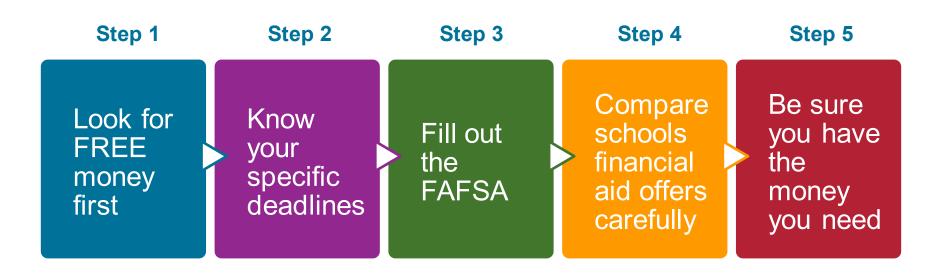
- State Work-Study job related to major
- Blind or Deaf Beneficiary Grant
- Educational Assistance Grant (EAP) National Guard
- PA Military Family Education Program (MFEP)
- Chafee Education and Training Grant co-administered with the PA Department of Human Services
- Foster Ed Tuition Waiver
- Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program (PEGP)
- Partnerships for Access to Higher Education (PATH)
- Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA –TIP)
- Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS)

For details, see the PA Student Aid Guide, page 26 or visit PHEAA.org.



Financial Aid Made Simple

5 Steps to Financial Aid



Step 1: Look For Free Money



National

- Most found on corporate websites, scholarship databases & HS guidance offices/webpages
- Lots of competition

Local & Regional

- Check with HS Guidance office/webpage
- > Businesses, churches, local foundations, etc. (stay on the lookout)
- Less competition

Post-Secondary:

- Check the school's financial aid & admissions pages on website
- Inquire with financial aid office about scholarships from alumni and endowment funds

Scholarship Search Don't miss out on FREE money!

- Start Early and Search Often
- Create an Academic Resume:
 - Academic success
 - Extra Curricular Activities
 - Community Involvement/Volunteerism
- Create an Essay(s)- Write an essay, free from errors, that can be tweaked based on individual scholarships (be creative)
- Secure Letter of Recommendations early
- Pay attention to deadlines and understand the terms

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

Step 2: Know Your Deadlines

- Applications for Admission
- Deadlines for Scholarships
 - » Institutions, Outside Sources
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - » Available October 1 of Senior Year
 - » Schools have Priority Deadlines
 - Don't have to have applied or been accepted to list schools on FAFSA

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!



PA State Grant Deadlines

- May 1 If you plan to enroll in a degree program or a college transferable program at a junior college or other college or university (excludes community colleges)
- August 1 If you plan to enroll in a community college; a business, trade, or technical school; a hospital school of nursing; or a 2-year program that is not transferable to another institution





Free Application for Federal Student Aid: FAFSA

All students who wish to be considered for financial aid must complete the form.

- Complete the correct FAFSA (2021-2022 AY)
- Can start FAFSA and save to complete at a later time
- File as early as October 1 of student's senior year in high school

Plan to Attend College From	Submit the FAFSA From	Using Tax Information From
Jul 1, 2020 - Jun 30, 2021	Oct 1, 2019 - Jun 30, 2021	2018
Jul 1, 2021 - Jun 30, 2022	Oct 1, 2020 - Jun 30, 2022	2019
Jul 1, 2022- Jun 30, 2023	Oct 1, 2021 - Jun 30, 2023	2020

Create Your FSA ID Accounts

- The student applying for aid and one parent providing information on the FAFSA need to create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov.
- Create prior to completing the FAFSA.
- Legal signature for student and parent.
- Provides access to FAFSA and Federal Student Aid online systems.

After verifying, the mobile phone number can be used as the username to login.

Username

Password

Email Address

Mobile Phone

Security Questions

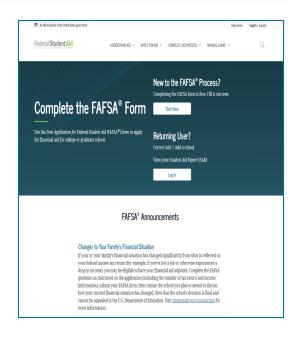
Social Security
Number

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)





PDF at studentaid.gov or 1-800-433-3243.







2021-2022 FAFSA Prep

Information Needed for FAFSA



Social Security Numbers



Federal Tax Returns and W-2's (2019)



2019 Untaxed Income



Checking and Savings Account Statement Balances as of FAFSA Filing Date



Investment Records



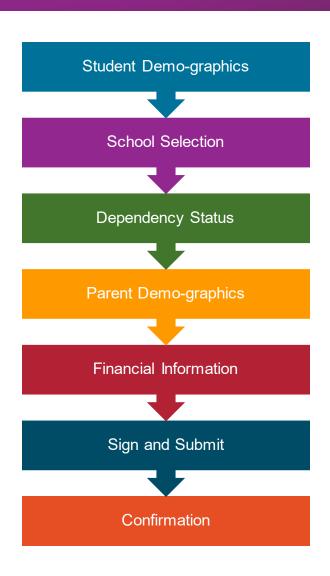
Email Addresses



Student & Parent Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

FAFSA Steps

- Login student or parent
- Disclaimer select accept
- Application Year
- Save Key
- Introduction



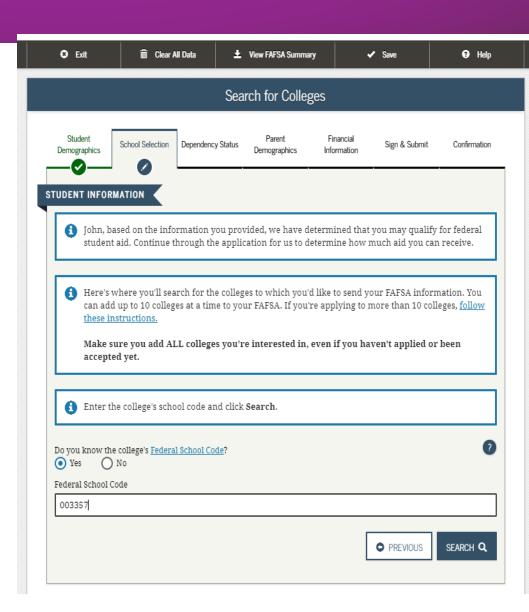
FAFSA - School Selection

School Selection:

- Must list at least 1 school
- Only schools listed will receive results of FAFSA
- Don't have to have applied/been accepted to list school
- May go back and add schools at a later time

Can add up to 10 colleges at a time

NOTE: Once your Final Decision is made, Update your PA Grant Information with the school you WILL attend.



Whose information goes on the FAFSA?

YES

- Student
- Biological parents living in the same household
- Adoptive parents
- Divorced or separated parents:
 - » The parent the student lived with the most over the past 12 months
 - » If equal, then the parent who provided more than 50% of student's support
- Stepparent If part of the student's household

NO

- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
 - » By Court Order
- Anyone else the student is living with

When Is A Student Considered an "Independent" student?

- 24 or older on Jan 1st of 2021
- Married
- Veteran (includes active duty personnel)
- Working on graduate level degree
- Emancipated minor
- Legal guardianship
- Orphan, in foster care or ward of the court at anytime when student was age 13 or older
- Have legal dependents other than spouse
- Student deemed homeless by proper authority (PA State Grant status can be different)



Special Circumstances

If things change...

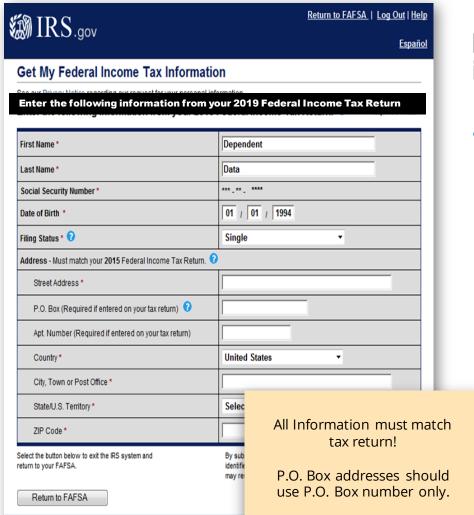
- Recent death or disability
- Reduced income/Unemployment
- Unusual Circumstances
- Financial hardship due to COVID-19



Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

- Contact schools listed on FAFSA: Only a school can change a FAFSA based on your circumstances
- Contact PHEAA for the PA State grant

IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)



The IRS DRT allows students and parents to transfer IRS tax return income into the FAFSA.

- Unable to use DRT if:
 - Married filing separate or Married filing Head of Household
 - Filed a Puerto Rican or foreign return
 - Marital status is different than status on tax return
 - Identity Theft flag is on account

Financial Information:

See page 16 of the PA Student Aid Guide for more details



Assets:

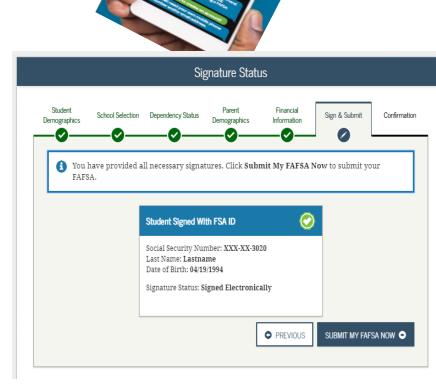
- Some families qualify for a Simplified EFC Formula and do not need to report assets
- If total asset amounts are higher than the Asset Protection Allowance, then the net value of the assets must be reported
 - "As of today, does the total amount of your (parent's) current assets exceed (a specific amount unique to the applicant)"
 - Assets are reported as of the date the application is filed
 - 529 plans owned by the student or the custodial parent are reported as Parental Investments on the FAFSA
- Do <u>not</u> report the value of:
 - Qualified retirement funds
 - Life insurance policies
 - Primary home
 - Family business, if it employs less than 100 full-time employees
 - Family farm, if the family lives on the farm

Do not include: Gl Bill, Dependents Education Assistance Program, VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program, VEAP Benefits, etc.

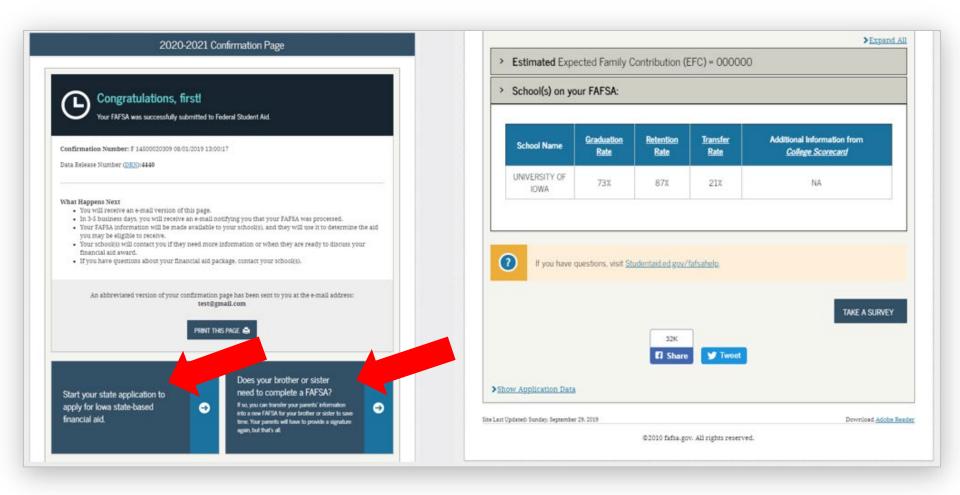
Federal Student Aid Account:
Don't forget to sign!

Signature Options:

- Federal Student Aid Account:
 - allows the student and parent to electronically sign the FAFSA (student & 1 parent must sign)
 - Signature is accepted for PA State Grant
- Signature Page:
 - Option if unable to sign electronically
 - Follow instructions on FAFSA to print, sign and mail
 - FAFSA is not considered received until the signature page has been received



Confirmation Page & Link to the PA State Grant Form

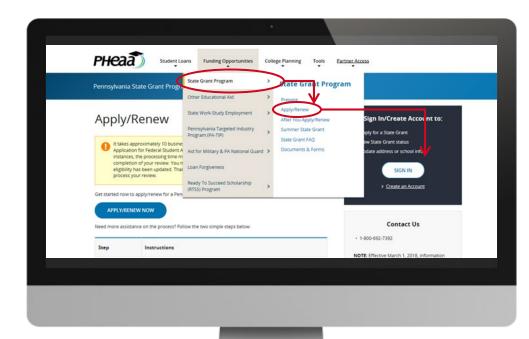


Online State Grant Application

- Link off the FAFSA Application Confirmation Page
 - » Missed the link or it wasn't available?
 - Link in an email sent to student/parent from PHEAA,

OR

- Go to <u>PHEAA.org</u>; State Grant Program; and complete the form.
- Additional information needed to determine PA State Grant eligibility:
 - » Enrollment status (full-time/part-time)
 - » Value of PA 529 College Savings Program
 - » Program of study for students in vocational programs
 - » Employment status



P Help screens are available for all questions

Financial Aid Forms

Know which financial aid forms each school requires

Additional form that may need to be completed:

- State Grant Form (SGF) through PHEAA
 - Required for first -year students (addl. information may be required in subsequent years)
 - Can link to the State Grant application from FOTWs confirmation page or may access at <u>www.pheaa.org</u>

Some Schools Require:

- CSS Profile (College Scholarship Service) required by some postsecondary schools and scholarship organizations
 - https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile
- Institutional Financial Aid Forms
 - Internal forms specific to each school
 - Required by some schools





Forms are Filed - Now What?





After Filing

Information will be shared with PHEAA and all college choices.

In a few days an email will be sent to the student regarding the processing of their FAFSA and their Student Aid Report.

Students should monitor the email account provided on the FAFSA and respond to requests from Federal Student Aid, PHEAA and the colleges.

Step 4: Compare Schools' Financial Aid Notices Carefully

- No standard format for Financial Aid Notices from schools.
- Generally include type and amount of aid
- Generally describes what needs to be done to accept the aid
- Some notices include parent loans, some do not.
- Scholarships:
 - » Are there conditions for maintaining it?
 - » Is the scholarship for the first year only or renewable?

Bottom Line: What are your out of pocket costs?

Comparing Packages

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

What happens if there is a gap and all costs are not covered?



- Exhaust all free financial aid options before borrowing student loans
- Seek federal student loans before private student loans
- Only borrower the amount needed (loans must be repaid)
- Do your research!
- MySmartBorrowing.org: An interactive, online tool created by PHEAA that helps students and families:
 - » Estimate career, salaries & college tuition
 - » View the impact of savings on overall cost
 - » Calculate loan repayment
 - » Avoid borrowing too much money









Types of Federal Student Loans

- Undergraduate Students
 - » Subsidized
 - » Unsubsidized
- Graduate Students
 - » Unsubsidized
 - » GradPLUS Loan
- Parents
 - » PLUS Loan

Federal Direct Stafford Loan Borrowing Limits

Undergraduate Students			Graduate Students
Annual Limits	Dependent Students	Independent or dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS Loan	Graduate or Professional Studies
1 st Year	\$5,500 Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	\$9,500 Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	
2 nd Year	\$6,500 Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	\$10,500 Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	\$20,500 each academic year Graduate / Professional students are no longer eligible for subsidized loans
3 rd Year and beyond	\$7,500 Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	\$12,500 Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	
Aggregate Limits	\$31,000 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	\$57,500 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	\$138,500 Total No more than \$65,000 may be subsidized

Student Loans



Federal Direct Loans

- Loan is in the student's name
- Max. borrowing limits
- May receive a Direct Subsidized and/or Direct Unsubsidized loan
- Fixed rate: 2.75%
- Origination fee of 1.057% of the amount requested
- Deferred payments
- Must complete the FAFSA
- Must complete entrance exam & MPN

Federal PLUS Loans

- Loan is in the parent's name
- Must meet credit requirements
 - May apply with a credit worthy cosigner
 - If denied, student may borrow additional unsubsidized amount
- May borrower up to the COA minus any other aid
- Fixed interest rate: 5.30%
- Origination fee of 4.228%
- Payments may be deferred
- Student must complete the FAFSA

Private Loans

- Loan is in the student's name (cosigner is generally required)
- Student or Cosigner must meet income & credit requirements
- May borrower up to the COA minus any other aid
- Variable or fixed interest rate
- May have cosigner release clauses
- Terms vary by lender
 - Do your research
 - Read the fine print

Student Loans



PHEAA's new PA Forward Student Loan Program is designed specifically for PA students and families.

Because student loans must be paid back, we always encourage students and families to borrow only what is needed to cover costs. If you need additional funds after obtaining financial aid through grants, scholarships,

and federal loan programs, consider a PA Forward Student Loan.

- Undergraduate
- Parent
- Graduate
- Refinance



For more information visit

PHEAA.org/PAForward



What Can You Do Now?



Apply for FSA ID Account

Explore Scholarships

Visit College Websites

Use Net Price Calculators

Talk about what is affordable

Resources - PA Student Aid Guide, p.40

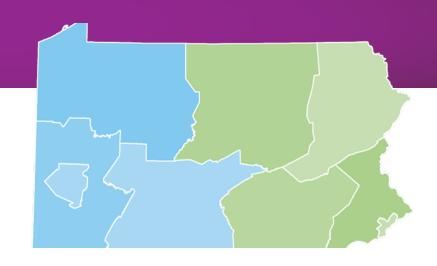
College & Career Planning Websites



- PHEAA.org
- EducationPlanner.org
- MySmartBorrowing.org
- YouCanDealWithIt.com
- MyFedLoan.org
- PHEAA toll free: 800-692-7392
- Federal Student Aid Info Center: 800-433-3243
- StudentAid.gov general financial aid info



Your Presenter



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