Welcome to the PHEAA Financial Aid Presentation



We will begin promptly at 6:00! Thank you for silencing your cell phone ③

Your Presenter



Amy Sloan

Higher Education Access Partner Northwest Region PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) 724-977-3662 Amy.sloan@pheaa.org



Topics



• BE A SMART CONSUMER

- Necessary Things to consider
- Financial Aid Made Simple 5 Steps
 - Free Money (scholarships & Federal & PA grants)
 - Deadlines
 - Filing the FAFSA
 - Comparing Financial Aid Offers
 - Be sure you have the funds
- Student and Parent Federal Loans
- Alternative Loans
- Tips and Strategies
- Web Resources

Be a Smart Consumer

DO YOUR RESEARCH

What is the net price you will pay?

What is the graduation rate?

What is the average debt of graduates?

What is the employment outcome?

Necessary Things to Consider

Students – Return On Investment

- Your Academic Major, Employment Demands – Realistic?
- What is your Expected Salary?
 - Versus the Cost of Your Education Choice

Parents – Affordability

- College Costs Tuition, Housing, Food, Books, Fees
- Cost of Transportation Logistics between semesters, breaks
- Are you willing to commit to loans for your student?



Net Price Calculator

What is the Net Price that you will pay?

- Net Price Calculator

U.S. Department of Education Net Price Calculator Center



Search for Schools' Calculator

Begin typing to search for schools



6

What does Net Price mean?

Net Price is the amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year AFTER subtracting scholarships and grants the student receives. Scholarships and grants are forms of financial aid that a student does not have to pay back.

What is a Net Price Calculator?

Net price calculators are available on a college's or university's website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account.

collegecost.ed.gov/net-price

Smart Borrowing Tips

- Begin with the end in mind
- Research the expected salary in your future career, find an affordable school, and borrow realistically
- There are many paths to the same degree
- Research every option, including community colleges and commuting
- Only attend a school you can reasonably afford
- Only borrow what you absolutely need to attend
- Approach education from a consumer standpoint

MySmartBorrowing.org

An interactive, online tool created by PHEAA to help students and families.

(THE RULE - Do not borrow more than you can reasonably expect to make your first year out of college)

MySmartBorrowing.org





How it Works









View the Results

You can:

- View potential salary in your new career
- Add & compare up to four colleges
- See if you're borrowing too much



Financial Aid 101







Financial aid consists of funds provided to students and families to help pay for postsecondary educational expenses.



Gift Aid

Grants/Scholarships



Self-Help

Work-Study



Loans

Federal Student Loans, PLUS, Private Loans

Funding Sources



Federal Government



State Government



School or College

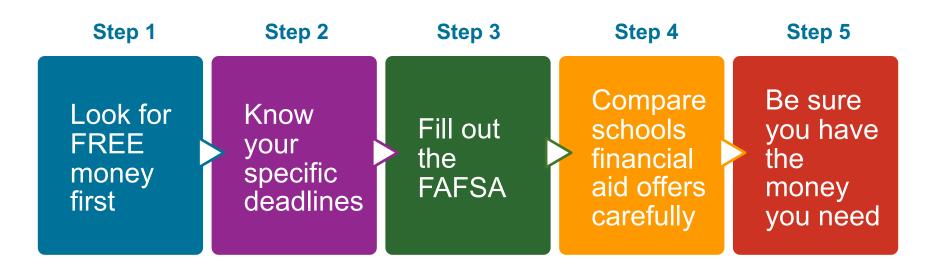


Scholarships

Financial Aid Made Simple

5 Steps to Financial Aid

14



Step 1: Look For Free Money First

- Scholarships are obtainable Effort pays off!
- Available beyond the first year
- Wide variety of criteria



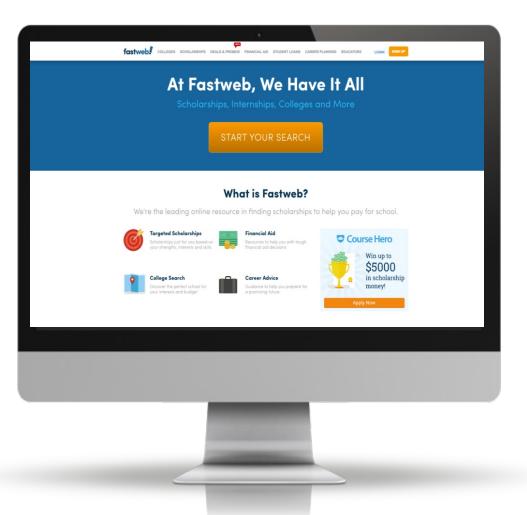
Scholarship Search Tips

- Start searching early
- Use FREE scholarship search sites
- Don't ignore scholarships with smaller award amounts
- Don't miss deadlines
- Search for scholarships every year



Fastweb.com

- Matches
 scholarships
 to specific
 student criteria
- Sends email message when students qualify for a scholarship



17

Watch for Scholarship Scams

- Application fees
- "Guaranteed" scholarships
- Solicitations
- Official-looking companies



18

Federal Grant Programs

- Pell Grant max award \$6,895
 - Max EFC to be eligible for the Pell Grant is 6206
 - Eligibility is the same for every postsecondary institution
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) – max award \$4,000
 - Eligibility determined by Financial Aid Office at each potential school
 - Student must be enrolled at least half-time
 - Awarded to most financially needy students

PA State Grant Program

- In-state max award \$5,750 (full-time)
- Reciprocal states: Delaware, DC, Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, West Virginia
 - Up to \$600 for full-time students (\$800 for veterans)
- Award amount determined in part by the cost of the school

Must be at least half-time to be eligible



2022-23 Award Amounts

Cost Tier	Maximum Award	Minimum Award
\$0 - \$12,000	\$3,059	\$500
\$12,001 - \$19,000	\$4,894	\$500
\$19,001 - \$29,000	\$5,261	\$500
\$29,001 - \$32,000	\$5,750	\$500

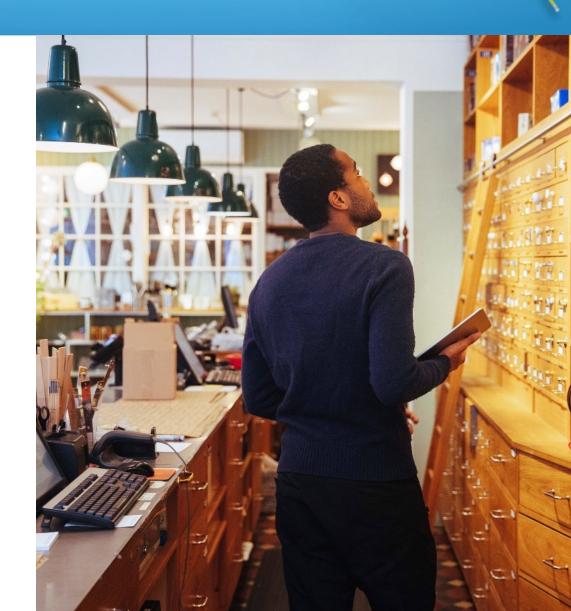
Other State Programs

- State Work-Study
- 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, or visit <u>PHEAA.org</u>.



Work-Study

- You must have financial need in order to qualify for work-study
- A work-study position is not guaranteed and may even require an interview
- Work-Study income is not reported on the FAFSA



Step 2: Know Your Deadlines

- Applications for admission
- Deadlines for scholarships
 - Institutions,
 Outside Sources
- Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA)
 - Schools have priority deadlines



24

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



25

Step 3: The FAFSA is Your Connection to Funding

The FAFSA is a federal form used to determine student eligibility for the following: 26

FAFSA

- Federal programs
- State programs
- School programs

FAFSA- (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- File a FAFSA each year. It is available October 1st
- File online at studentaid.gov/fafsa
- Students do not have to be accepted for admission to list a school on the FAFSA.
- Senior families will complete the 2023-24 FAFSA form



27

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 <u>studentaid.gov/fsa-id</u>.
- Create prior to completing the FAFSA.
- Legal signature for student and parent.



For Dependent Students, Who Reports Info on the 2023-24 FAFSA?

YES

- Married parents living together
- Biological parents living together
- 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
- Adoptive parents

NO

- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
 - By court order
- Anyone else the student is living with



Information Needed for FAFSA



Social Security Numbers



Federal Tax Returns and W-2's (2021)



2021 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)

Parents Income and Assets

Income

 Allowances are made for taxes, working households, and living allowances based on family size

Assets

 Started with the 2023-24 year
 there is no asset
 protection
 allowance for
 parents

Student Income and Assets

Income

- Allowances are made for taxes
- Earnings from workstudy are excluded
- Income protection allowance of up to \$7,600 and remaining income assessed at 50%

Assets

- Dependent students must report assets in their name
- Student assets are assessed at 20%
- Student has no asset protection allowance

What is considered an asset?

Report the current value at time of filing the FAFSA:

✓ Cash

✓ Stocks ✓ Checking ✓ Bonds

Mutual funds

33

✓ 529 Plans – for all children

- ✓ Savings ✓ Certificates of deposit (CD) ✓ Net value of real estate
- ✓ Investments ✓ Bitcoin
- Farm Value unless primary place of residence
- Business Value Unless family owned and employs 100 employees or less

Not reported on FAFSA as an asset:

- Value of primary home
- Value of qualified retirement accounts
- Value of life insurance policies
- Value of personal property

When is a Student Considered Independent?

- 24 or older on Jan 1st of 2023
- ✓ Married
- Veteran (includes active-duty personnel)
- Working on graduate level degree
- Emancipated minor in legal guardianship
- Orphan, in foster care or ward of the court at anytime when student was age 13 or older

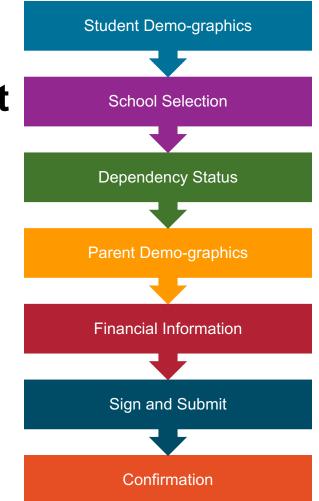
34

- Have legal dependents other than spouse
- Student deemed homeless by proper authority (PA State Grant status can be different)

FAFSA Steps



- **2.** Disclaimer select accept
- 3. Application year
- 4. Save key
- 5. Introduction



School Selection

- List more than one! Only schools that are listed will be able to see your FAFSA information.
- Students can list up to 10 colleges at a time – Schools can be added or deleted at any time
- Once the final school choice is made, students should update their PA State Grant record.

	Student	School	Dependency	Parent	Financial	Sign &	Confirmatio
	Demographics	Selection	Status	Demographics	Information	Submit	
	School Selec	tion					
	🚺 🛛 Larry, ba	ased on the inform	ation you provide	d we have determ	ined that you may qu	alify for federal s	tudent
					much aid you can re		ludent
	 Applicati 	ion was successf	ully saved.				
	You can add up to	o 10 coleges to yo	our FAFSA. If you	know your college's	s school code, use th	e option to the ri	ght to search. If
N	you need help fin search.	ding your college,	use the state (re	quired), city (option	al), and school name	e (optional) fields	to begin your
1							
	State	Select		~	Federal	School Code	
	City			(optional)	OR		



IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

- Automatically imports tax info from tax return and adds it to the FAFSA (can be used by student, parent(s), or both!)
- There are some exceptions not everyone can use the IRS DRT.
- Not everyone is required to file taxes, filing is not required to complete the FAFSA.



0

Español

Get My Federal Income Tax Information

See our Privacy Notice regarding our request for your personal information.

Enter the following information from your 2021 Federal Income Tax Return.

Required fields*

First Name *	Dependent	
Last Name *	Data	
Social Security Number *	*** ** ****	
Date of Birth *	01 / 01 / 1994	
Filing Status * 🕜	Single •	
Address – Must match your 2021 federal income tax return		
Street Address *		
P.O. Box (Required if entered on your tax return) 😯		
Apt. Number (Required if entered on your tax return)		
Country *	United States -	
City, Town or Post Office *		
State/U.S. Territory *	Select One	
ZIP Code *		

Select the button below to exit the IRS system and return to your FAFSA. By submitting this information, you certify that you are the person identified. Use of this system to access another person's information may result in civil and criminal penalties.

Return to FAFSA

Submit



2021 Federal Income Tax Information

Jane Austin

Based on the information you provided, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) located your income tax return. With your permission below, the IRS will securely transfer your tax information to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to populate any applicable FAFSA[®] questions.

For your protection, the IRS will not display your tax information and will further encrypt any tax information transferred using the IRS DRT; therefore, ED is unable to display your tax information on your FAFSA form.

The data retrieved from your tax return is limited to the items listed below as you reported to the IRS:

Tax Year	Type of Return Filed	
Name(s)	Adjusted Gross Income	
Social Security Number	Income Earned from Work	
Filing Status	Income Tax	
IRS Exemptions	Education Credits	

Untaxed Portion of IRA Distributions & Pensions/Annuities

Tax-exempt Interest Income

IRA Deductions and Payments

Status of Amended Returns Received

Refer to your tax records if you have a question about the values you reported.

Transfer My Tax Information into the FAFSA Form (?)

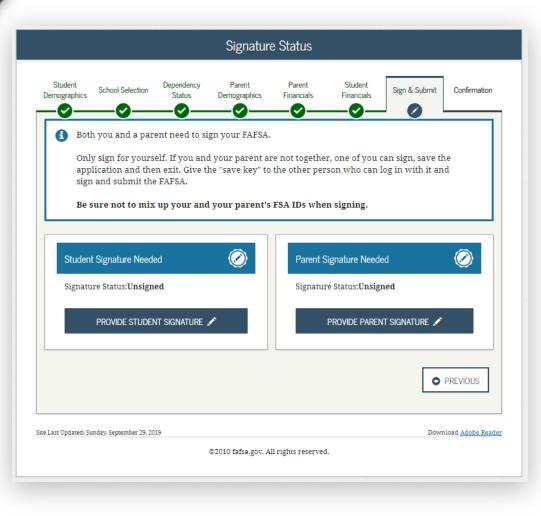
The tax information provided to fafsa.gov will populate the answers to the appropriate FAFSA questions. After the FAFSA questions are populated, your IRS session will end, and you will return to your FAFSA form. Check this box if you are choosing to transfer your information.

Do Not Transfer My Tax Information and Return to the FAFSA Form 🥡

By clicking the "Do Not Transfer" button, you are choosing not to transfer your tax information electronically. Your IRS session will end, and you will return to your FAFSA form. TRANSFER NOW

DO NOT TRANSFER

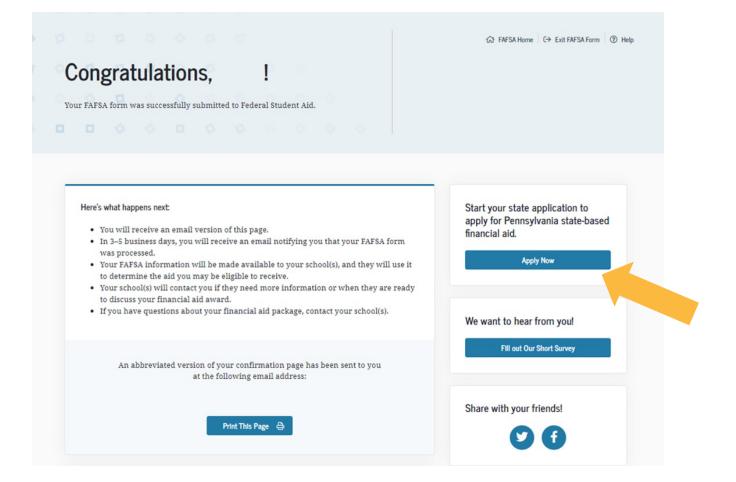
Signing with the FSA ID



Student and one parent will sign the FAFSA using their SEPARATE FSA ID & password.

 A FAFSA is not complete until it is signed!

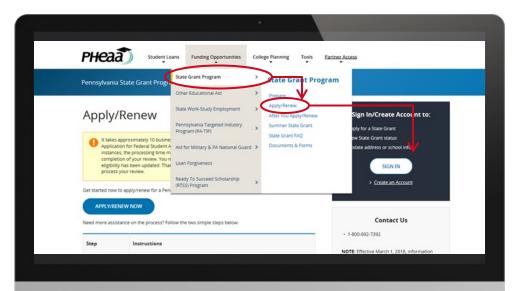
Confirmation Page & Link to the PA State Grant Form



PHEAA Account Access

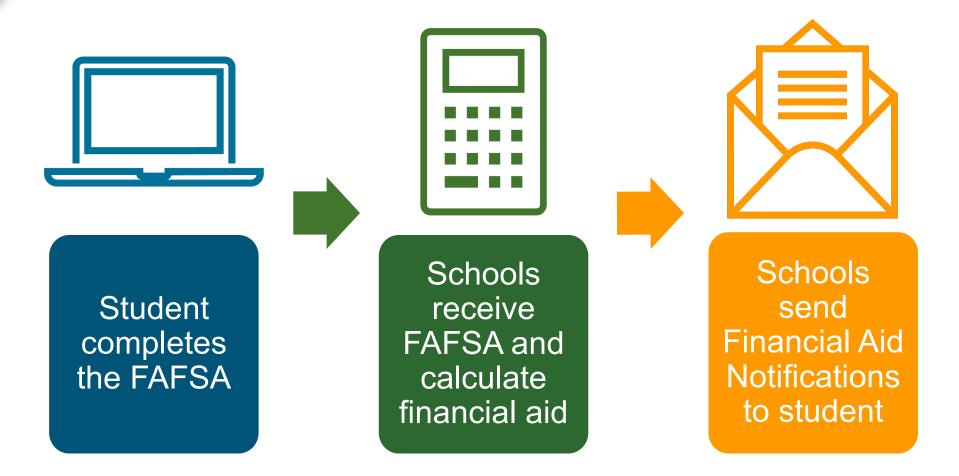
Create an account to:

- Check your PA State Grant eligibility
- Update your school of choice listed on the PA State Grant Form
- Complete State Grant Form, if you missed the link at the end of the FAFSA





FAFSA is Filed... Now What?



How is the EFC Calculated?

- Primarily income-driven
- Major factors for dependent student:
 - Parental & student income and assets
 - Family size and number of family members in college
 - Age of older parent

A student's EFC remains the same no matter which school the student attends.



Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The EFC is a number derived from a federal formula which considers a family's income, assets and other factors.

In theory, the EFC is the amount a family can reasonably be expected to pay toward college expenses each year.

In reality, it is not the amount a family is required to pay and it is rarely the amount a family actually pays.

Special Circumstances

If things change....

- Divorced or separated parents
- Stepparents
- Adoptive parents
- Foster parents

- Legal guardians
- Living with others
- Recent death or disability
- Reduced income

Step 4: Compare Schools' Financial Aid Notices Carefully

- There is no required standard format
- If you receive a scholarship, do you know if there are conditions for maintaining it?
- Do you understand what is free money vs money that has to be paid back?

Bottom Line: What are your out-of-pocket costs?



Reviewing the Financial Aid Notification

How much of the financial aid is free money?

Which awards are based on need, and which are based on merit?

Are there any conditions on the free money? GPA requirement?

Will awards increase as tuition increases? Will awards change from year to year?

Will loans be needed?

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	\$ O	\$ 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

Step 5: Be Sure You Have The Money You Need

- Have you considered annual out of pocket costs beyond the first year?
- Do you understand your actual costs?
- Do you have a strategy for handling out of pocket costs?



Financial Aid 101

Federal Student Loans





Federal Student Loans

- Available to ALL students (US citizens and eligible non-citizens) REGARDLESS of need
- In student's name, no collateral or credit check, must sign MPN
- No payments required while attending school & six-month grace period
- Flexible Repayment
 options



Unsubsidized

No interest charged to student while enrolled or in grace

Subsidized

- Based on financial need
- There is a 1.057% fee deducted from loan amount at disbursement
- Interest will not be charged during the grace period, if the loan was first disbursed after June 30, 2014

Interest accrues in school and grace

- Any interest not paid during grace will be capitalized at repayment
- There is a 1.057% fee deducted from loan amount at disbursement

Student Loan Borrowing Limits

Dependent Students (excluding students whose parents cannot borrow PLUS)	Base Stafford Loan Amount Subsidized/Unsubsidized	Additional Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Amount
Freshmen	\$3,500	\$2,000
Sophomores	\$4,500	\$2,000
Juniors, Seniors	\$5,500	\$2,000
Graduate or Professional	\$8,500	\$12,000



ONLY consider PLUS loans and/or private loans after looking into all other sources of financial aid.

Federal Direct PLUS Loan

- For parents of dependent undergraduate students
- In parent's name for student costs
- Rates set every July 1st for the life of that year's loan; fees are deducted from disbursement
 - 7.54% variable/fixed interest rate; 4.228% fees
- MUST apply each year
- Principal can be deferred while student is in school; Interest will continue to accrue

If denied - student is eligible for an additional \$4,000 unsubsidized loan

Private/Alternative Loans

- From private lenders or financial institutions
 - In student's name/co-signer usually required
 - Terms vary by lender compare before making choices
 - Based on credit scores and debt-to-income
 - Repayment may be deferred until education completed



Undergraduate & Graduate

- Low-cost, fixed interest rates
- Zero fees
- Borrow up to 100% certified cost of attendance including tuition, fees, room, board, books, etc. (Subject to aggregate loan limits)
 - Loans taken for a less than half-time academic period may borrow up to \$5,000
- Low minimum loan amount: \$1,500
- 0.50% interest rate reduction for graduating
- 0.25% interest rate reduction for enrolling in Direct Debit
- No pre-payment penalty
- Multiple repayment plans
- Co-signer release option

Visit PHEAA.org/PAForward today!

Pennsylvania's Student Loan Program

Parent Loan Information

- Low-cost, fixed interest rates
- Zero fees
- Borrow up to 100% certified cost of attendance including tuition, fees, room, board, books, etc. (Subject to aggregate loan limits)
- Low minimum loan amount: \$1,500
- 0.25% interest rate reduction for enrolling in Direct Debit
- No pre-payment penalty
- Multiple repayment plans

Visit PHEAA.org/PAForward today!

Pennsylvania's Student Loan Program





PA's Low-Cost Way to Pay for College!

Low, Fixed Rates 3.82-7.69%^{1,2}

Effective as of 6/8/22

Learn more at PHEAA.org/PAForward

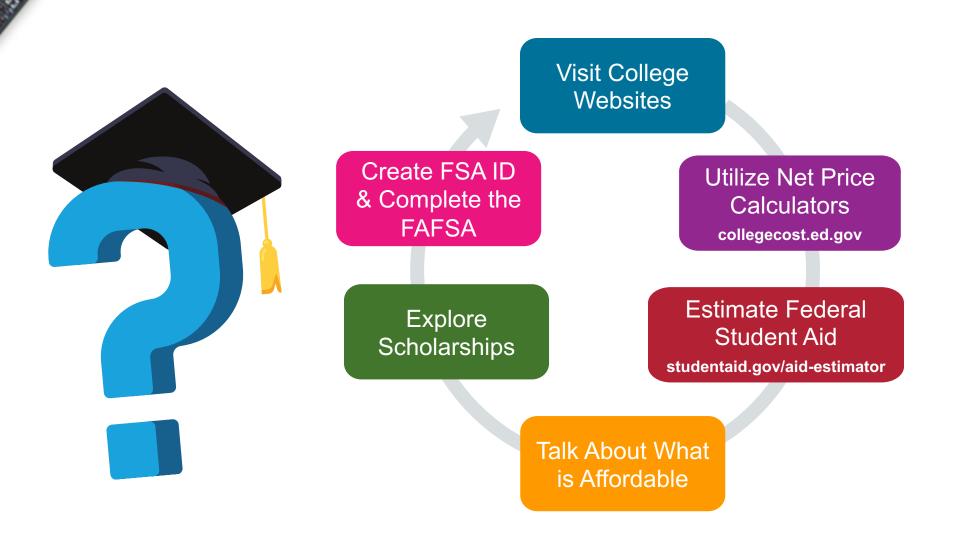
1) Annual Percentage Rate (APR) Calculations – The lowest APR is based on the following assumptions: a loan of \$10,000 made in a single disbursement, a student borrower who selected an Immediate Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 60 months, monthly payments of \$183.49 and a final payment \$175.40, a fixed periodic interest rate of 4.10%, and a total amount repaid of \$11,001.26. The student 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 student 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 repaid of \$23,596.64. The student borrower received an in-school deferment of 46 months and a grace period of 6 months. The student borrower in this sample did not qualify for any interest rate of a case estimates and may differ from the actual rates received.

2) The provided rate range includes Undergraduate, Graduate, and Parent loans and may change based on loan type, loan term, repayment plan, and applicable discounts (not all discounts apply to all loan products). See individual loan programs for more specific information. PHEAA uses applicant credit scores to determine eligibility and interest rates. Higher credit scores may mean an applicant is offered a lower interest rate.

Applicants, including co-signers, are subject to credit qualifications, completion of an application and credit agreement, and verification of application information

PHEAA reserves the right to discontinue all programs or benefits without prior notice.

What Can You Do Now?

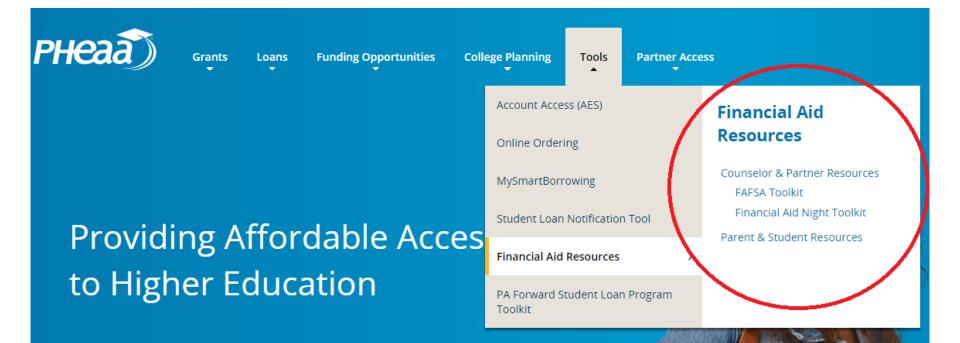


Use Your Resources

- PHEAA.org
- MySmartBorrowing.org
- YouCanDealWithIt.com
- PHEAA toll free: 800-692-7392
- Federal Student Aid Info Center: 800-433-3243

- studentaid.gov The one-stop shop site for all financial aid information.
- studentaid.gov/FAFSA Direct link to the FAFSA
- studentaid.gov/FSA-ID Direct link to the FSAID

PHEAA.org/ResourcesStudents



Social Media Outreach





PHEAA American Education Services



@PHEAAaid
@aesSuccessorg



PHEAA

Ways to Reduce the Need for Financial Aid

- Graduate on time!
- Earn college credits in high school
- 2+2 or 3+2 Strategy
- Buy/rent textbooks
- Consider commuting
- Find cheaper meal plan





Amy Sloan asloan@pheaa.org 724-977-3662

QUESTIONS?