

# Financial Aid, 101



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- Source of Financial Aid
- Applying for Financial Aid
  - The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)
- Financial Aid Notifications
- Tips and Strategies
- Your Resources



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



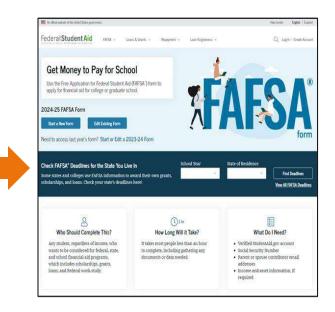
## State Government



## School or College



## **Scholarships**







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Local and Regional Scholarships



#### National Scholarships

## 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





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## Federal & State Government Programs

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### Federal Grant Programs

## Pell Grant - max award \$7,395 (**2023- 2024**)

• 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
- Awarded to most financially needy students

## **Qualified for a Pell Grant?**

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Federal Work-Study Students who participate in the federal work-study program are more likely to graduate and be employed 6 years after college than their similar counterparts who don't participate in the program, according to a new study.

Study conducted by two Columbia University researchers, Judith Scott-Clayton and Veronica Minaya

## PA State Grant Program

- In-state max award \$5,750 (fulltime)
- 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





The maximum award for student attending an approved school in a reciprocal state is \$600 and \$800 (veterans)

\* Must be at least half-time to be eligible

Cost Tier	Maximum Award	Minimum Award
\$0 - \$12,000	\$3,058	\$500
\$12,001 - \$19,000	\$4,894	\$500
\$19,001 - \$29,000	\$5,260	\$500
\$29,001 - \$32,000	\$5,750	\$500

# **Other State Programs**

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- PA State Work-Study Program
- PA National Guard Educational Assistance Program
- PA National Guard Military Family Education Program
- Chafee Education and Training Grant Program
- PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program
- PA Blind or Deaf Higher Education Beneficiary Grant Program
- PA Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program
- PA Partnerships for Access to Higher Education Program
- PA Targeted Industry Program
- PA Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program

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



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## Federal Student & Parent LOANS

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## **Types of Federal Loans**

- Undergraduate Students
  - Subsidized (5.50% interest and 1.057% fee)
  - Unsubsidized (5.50% interest and 1.057% fee)
- Graduate Students
  - Unsubsidized (7.05% interest and 1.057% fee)
  - Grad PLUS Loan (8.05% interest and 4.228% fee)
- Parents
  - PLUS Loan (8.05% and 4.228% fee)

## 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





#### Undergraduate Education (Dependent Student)

## **\$31,000** (\$23,000 maximum Subsidized Loan)

Undergraduate Education (Dependent Student OR Dependent Students whose Parents were denied PLUS Loan)

**\$57,500** (\$23,000 maximum Subsidized Loan)

Graduate / Professional Education

\$138,500

## 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
  - 8.05% 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



## WARNING UE DATES ARE CLO' THAN THEY APPE

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### PA State Grant Deadlines

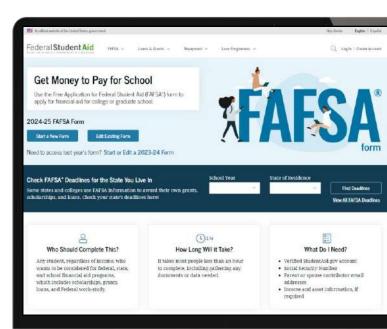
- May 1 If you plan to enroll in a degree program or a college transferable program at a junior college or other college or university (excludes community colleges)
- August 1 If you plan to enroll in a community college; a business, trade, or technical school; a hospital school of nursing; or a 2-year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

# DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE

## \* FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – StudentAid.gov/fafsa

# FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) – StudentAid.gov/fafsa

- The FAFSA is the primary federal form for financial assistance to attend postsecondary school.
- Must file a FAFSA each year a student attends school to be eligible.
- File online Fast, Secure, SKIP LOGIC and Built-in Edits.
- While filing the FAFSA online is preferred, a printable PDF version is available at StudentAid.gov.



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#### **Information Needed for FAFSA**





Social Security Numbers

Federal Tax Returns and W-2's (2022)



2022 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)

#### Creating a Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)

#### What you need to know...

What is a Federal Student Aid (FSA) Account?

An FSA Account is a username and password that you will use to log into the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA\*) and other U.S. Department of Education websites.

Who should create an FSA Account?

Students interested in receiving federal student aid should create an FSA Account. All students and contributors (such as parents and spouses) must create a FSA Account—even if the contributor does not have a Social Security number.

When should I create an FSA Account?

Due to processing time, we recommend you apply at least 4 days **before** filing the FAFSA or attending a FAFSA Completion Event.

What do I need to create an account?

An email address is required to set up an account.

**NOTE:** A student must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen to be eligible for federal student aid. You will need to provide these credentials while creating your account.

## Creating an FSA ID

- ONLY the owner of the FSA Account should create the account
- NO SSN? Parent may use an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN)
- Student and parent need separate FSA Accounts.
- Use Parent Wizard to determine if more than one parent needs to create an FSA Account.

### For Dependent Students, Who Reports Info on the 2024-25 FAFSA?

### YES

- Married parents living together
- Biological parents living together
- Divorced or separated parents:
  - The parent that provided the most financial support to student over the past 12 months
  - If equal, then student would invite the parent with the higher income
- 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



# When Is A Student Automatically Considered "Independent"?

- 24 or older on Jan 1st of 2024
- Married
- Veteran (includes active-duty personnel)
- Working on graduate level degree
- Legally emancipated minor or in a legal guardianship with someone other than their parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in state of residence
- Orphan, in foster care or ward of the court at anytime since the student turned 13
- Have legal dependents other than spouse
- Student deemed homeless by proper authority
- (PA State Grant status can be different)

# Providing Consent

- Applicant and any required contributor on the FAFSA must provide consent. They are consenting to:
  - Direct Data Exchange to import applicant, parent, parent spouse, and/or student spouse Federal Tax Information (FTI).
  - Redisclose FTI to state entities, institutions, and scholarship organizations.

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- System integration allows users' federal tax information to be retrieved and transferred directly into the FAFSA form via IRS direct data exchange, replacing the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.
- The data exchange with the IRS may not work if the student or parent:
  - has had a change in marital status after the end of the tax year.
  - filed a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return.
  - was victim of identity theft, involving their federal tax return.

## **Student Income and Assets**

#### Income

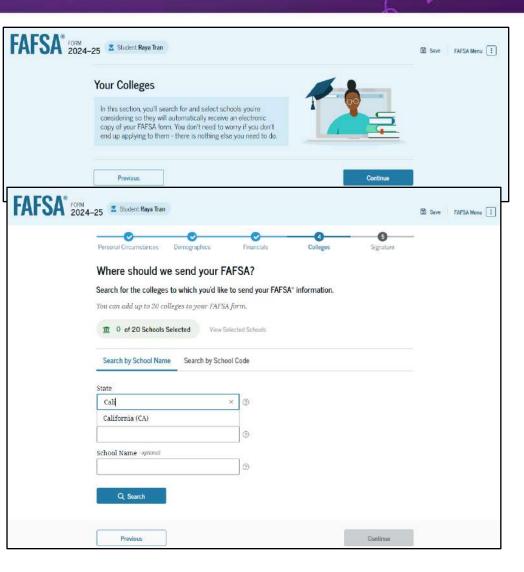
- Allowances are made for taxes
- Earnings from workstudy are excluded
- Income protection allowance of up to \$9,410 and remaining income assessed at 50%

#### Assets

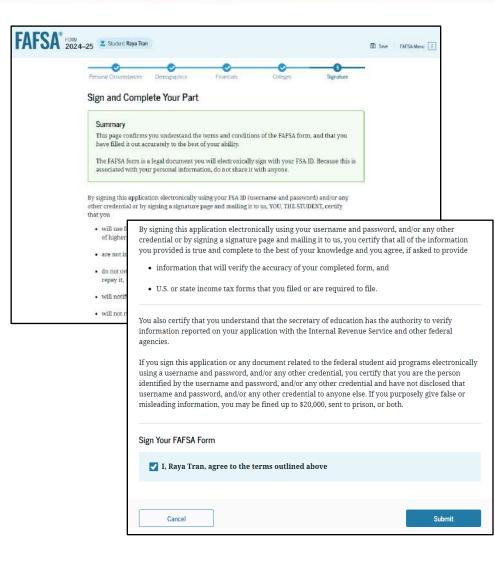
- Dependent students must report assets in their name
- 20% of the value of the assets is used in the calculation of the SAI

## **FAFSA – School Selection**

- List more than one!
- Only schools that are listed will be able to see your FAFSA information.
- Students can list up to 20 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.



Signing with the FSA ID

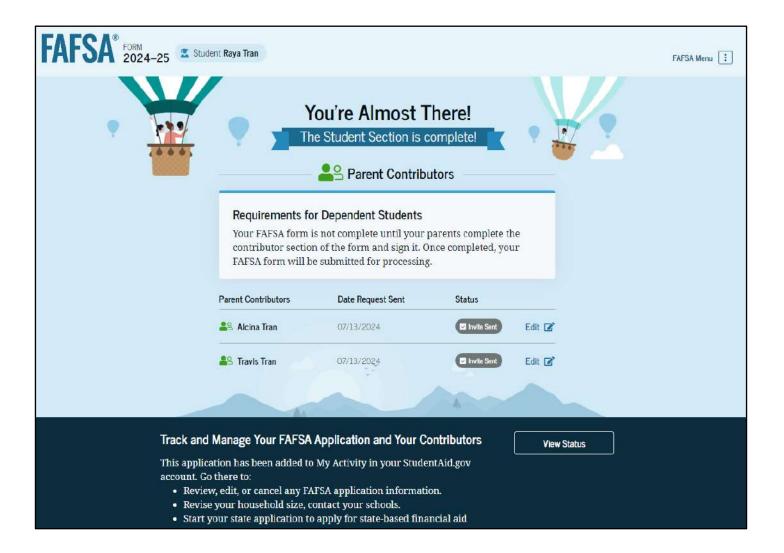


On this page, the student acknowledges the terms and conditions of the FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form and signs their section. After agreeing and signing, the student is able to submit their section of the FAFSA form. Since parent information has not

been provided, the FAFSA form is not considered complete and

can't be processed yet.

**Dependent Student Section Complete** 



# Inviting Parents / Contributors

the same as their account username and pass	word (FSA 1D).
Parent	Other Parent optional
First Name	First Name
.ast Name	Last Name
Date of Birth	Date of Birth Month Day Fear
Social Security Number (SSN)	Social Security Number (SSN)
Hde ()	Hote ()
My parent doesn't have an SSN.	My parent doesn't have an SSN.
Email Address	Email com

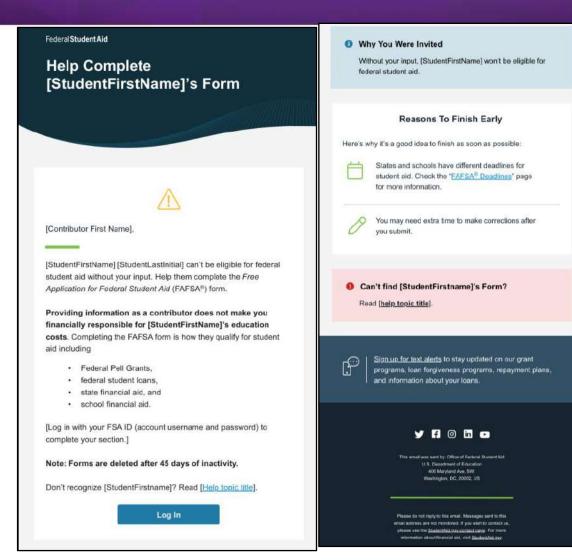
- Depending on which or if both parents are selected through the Wizard, the student will need to invite them to complete their portion of the FAFSA.
- To do so, the student will need to enter the information shown on this slide: First Name, Last Name, Date

of Birth, Social Security Number, E-mail Address.

 FSA will e-mail the parent(s) to log in to complete their portion.

## **Parent's Invitation Email**





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# Parent Demographics



FAFSA® FORM 2024-25 Parent of Raya Tran Save FAFSA Menu 0 0 Demographics Financials Signature Parent Current Marital Status Single (Never Married) Unmarried and both legal parents living together Married (not Separated) Remarried Separated Divorced Widowed Previous Continue

- The parent is asked about their current marital status.
- Parent(s) demographic questions before advancing to the Financials portion of the FAFSA.

# **Parents Income and Assets**

### Income

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

### Assets

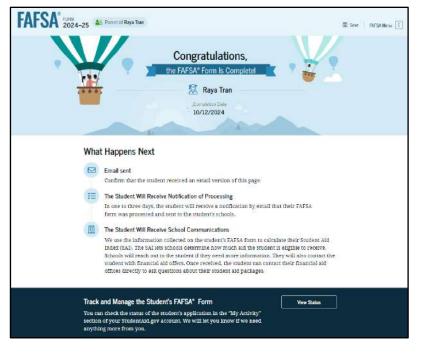
 After the Asset Protection is deducted from the value of assets, **12%** of the remaining asset value is used in the SAI calculation

#### Report the current value at time of filing the FAFSA:

- ✓Cash
  ✓Stocks
  ✓Bitcoin
  ✓Bonds
  ✓Mutual funds
  ✓Savings
  ✓Certificates of deposit (CD)
  ✓Net value of real estate
- Value of 529 accounts for the student owned by the parent(s) of a dependent applicant or owned by the student applicant
- Child support received for the most recently complete calendar year
- Net Worth of your businesses or for-profit agricultural operations.
  <u>Not</u> reported on FAFSA as an asset:
  - Value of primary home
  - Value of qualified retirement accounts
  - Value of life insurance policies
  - Value of personal property
  - Value of 529 for any other family members (excluding applicant)

# FAFSA Confirmation





- Upon submitting the student's FAFSA<sup>®</sup> form, the parent is presented an abbreviated confirmation page.
- This page displays information about tracking the student's FAFSA form and next steps.
- 3. The student will receive an email with the full, detailed confirmation.
- 4. With the student and parent sections completed and signed, the FAFSA form is now considered complete and submitted for processing.

PA State Grant Form (SGF)

- In addition to the FAFSA, first-time applicants must also complete the PA State Grant Form (SGF).
  - If the **contributor submits** the completed FAFSA, the student will receive the confirmation page via email.
    - However, there is no link in the confirmation email.

# **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



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# FAFSA is FILED... WHAT'S NEXT

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# **After Filing**

The SAI can be a negative number down to negative 1500 (-1500).

Information will be shared with PHEAA and all college choices.

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

SAI values can be capped on the upper end at 999,999.



- Primarily income-driven
- Major factors for dependent student:
  - 2022 parental income and value of assets at the time of FAFSA submission
  - 2022 student income and value of assets at the time of FAFSA submission
- Family size
  - Number of children in college at the same time is no longer used in the calculation, although that information is still gathered on the FAFSA
- The Student Aid Index (SAI) remains the same no matter which school the student attends

## How is SAI Calculated?

# **Calculating Financial Need**

- Schools/colleges receive FAFSA information and calculate financial need
- Financial Aid Office (FAO) "packages" student based on financial need and available funding (varies from school to school)
- Financial aid notification sent to student



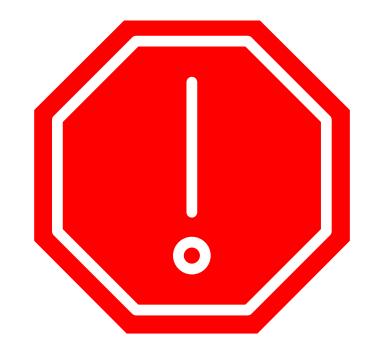
# **Comparing Packages**

#### **OFFER!!**

Cost	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$50,000
SAI	\$ 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

# Filling the GAP

- The RULE:
- Don't borrow more to get your education than you can reasonably expect to make during your very first year in the workforce.
- This keeps your loan payment <12% of your gross earnings





• Source: NEFE.org)



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

**PA FORWARD** Student Loans by **PHEAR** 

Parent Loans

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



Effective as of 11/30/23

#### 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, monthly payments of \$188.16 for a period of 60 months, a fixed periodic interest rate of 5.13% and total payments of \$11,289.78. The borrower in this sample qualified for a 0.25% Direct Debit benefit for the entirety of the repayment period. The highest APR is based on the following assumptions: A loan of \$10,000 made in a single disbursement, a borrower who selected an Interest Only Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 180 months, monthly payments of \$76.92 for 46 months and monthly payments of \$102.80 for the remainder of the repayment term, a fixed periodic interest rate of 9.23% and total payments of \$22,042.06. The borrower in this sample did not qualify for any interest rate discounts. These APRs are estimates and may differ from the actual rate received.

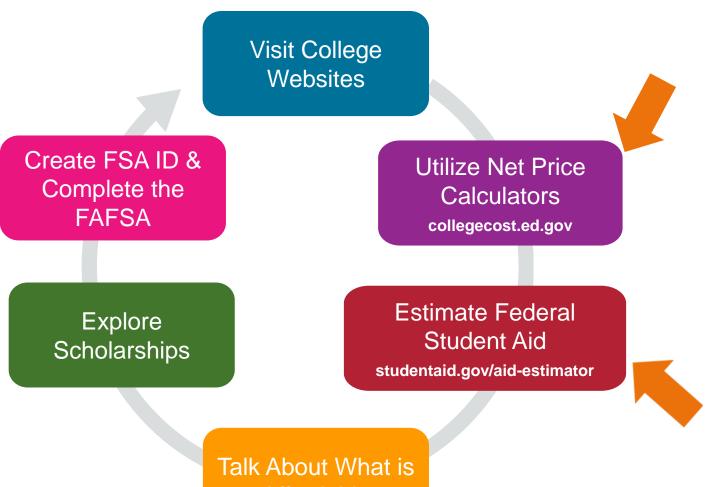
2) The provided rate range applies to Parent loans and may change based on loan type, loan term, repayment plan, and applicable discounts (not all discounts apply to all loan products). See individual loan programs for more specific information. PHEAA uses applicant credit scores to determine eligibility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



### Ways to Reduce the Need for Financial Aid

- Graduate on time -15 credits / semester
- Earn college credits in high school
- 2+2 or 3+2 Strategy
- Buy/rent textbooks
- Consider commuting
- Find cheaper meal plan

# What Can You Do Now?



Affordable

## Use Your Resources

#### • PHEAA.org

- Financial Aid Resources for Parents & Students
- Federal Student Aid Info Center: 800-433-3243
- StudentAid.gov The onestop shop site for all financial aid information.
- StudentAid.gov/FAFSA Direct link to the FAFSA



## **Social Media Outreach**

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**American Education Services** 

@aesSuccessorg

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# **QUESTIONS?**