

## Financial Aid 101

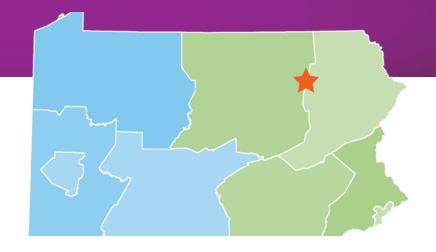
#### Welcome

 We will be taking questions using the Q&A feature at the end of our presentation.



 Click the ? symbol to see the feature box on the right of your screen.

#### **Your Presenter**



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## **Topics**



- BE A SMART CONSUMER
- 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

## **Necessary Things to Consider**

### **Students – Return On Investment**

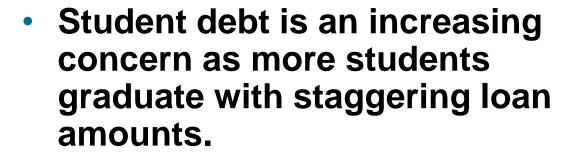
- Your Academic Major Choice,
   Academic Demands Realistic?
- What is your Expected Salary?
  - » Versus the Cost of Your Education Choice
- What are the Employment Demands? Now/Future?
- Where are your best Employment Options?
  - » Big city? Rural location? What is theCost of Living where you may work?

## **Necessary Things to Consider**

## **Parents – Affordability**

- College Costs Tuition, Housing, Food, Books, Fees
- Out of pocket costs beyond just the first year
- Cost of Transportation Logistics between semesters, breaks
- Are you willing to commit to loans for your student's education?
- Do you know your best parent loan options?
  - » Federal Parent (PLUS) Loans, Private Loans

#### Be a Smart Borrower





- Consider every potential free financial aid option before borrowing.
- The federal government has made it very easy to borrow – this is good for access, but students need to be aware of the pitfalls of borrowing too much.
- If you must borrow, only borrow what you need.

## 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 over borrowing

### MySmartBorrowing.org



#### View the Results

## Once you input your selections, you can:

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



#### 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</li>

(Recommendation from the National Endowment for Financial Education – **NEFE.org**)



#### What Is Financial Aid?

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

- Gift Aid Grants/Scholarships free money
- Self-Help: work, savings, Tuition Account Programs – 529s,etc.
- Loans

## **Funding Sources**



## Federal Government



State Government



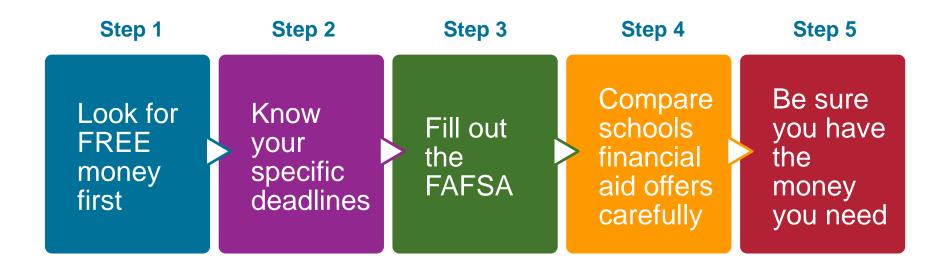
School or College



Scholarships

## Financial Aid Made Simple

### **5 Steps to Financial Aid**



## **Step 1:** Look For Free Money First

- Scholarships are obtainable Effort pays off!
- Available beyond the first year
- Wide variety of criteria
  - » Community Service, Unique Achievements, Grades, Sports, Ethnicity, Religion, Heritage, Parent Occupations, High School Location, Students Major Selection
- Will reduce your debt and need to borrow with loans

## Scholarship Search Tips

- Start searching early
- Use FREE scholarship search sites
- Don't ignore scholarships with smaller award amounts
- SCHOLARSHIPS

- Don't miss deadlines
- Search for scholarships every year
- Check corporate websites such as Target, Walmart, Kentucky Fried Chicken:
  - » All have scholarship programs and you don't have to work there to be eligible

#### Fastweb.com

- The largest most accurate and frequently updated scholarship database
- Matches scholarships to specific student criteria
- Sends email message when students qualify for a scholarship



## **Federal Programs**

- Pell Grant max award \$6,345\*
- Max EFC is 5711
- Campus-based aid (amounts determined by Financial Aid Office at each potential school)
  - » FSEOG.....up to \$4,000
  - » Federal Work-Study...FAO determines

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

<sup>\*</sup> Goes to most financially needy students

## Pennsylvania State Grant\*

- In-state (PA) Full-time: up to \$4525\*
- In-state (PA) Part-time: 1/2 of the FT award
- Reciprocal States Delaware, DC, Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, West Virginia
  - » Maximum Award in these states: \$578
  - » Maximum Award in these states for qualified veterans: \$770
    - Minimum Award: \$500
- \*Amount determined in part by the cost of the school.
- \* Must be at least half-time to be eligible

## **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>.



## **Step 2: Know Your Deadlines**

- Applications for Admission
- Deadlines for Scholarships
  - » Institutions, Outside Sources
- Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA)
  - » Available October 1 of Senior Year
  - » Schools have Priority Deadlines
    - Find out what the Deadlines are

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

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

#### **Deadlines Are Crucial**

- Make sure you know the priority FAFSA filing deadlines for the schools you are researching.
- File your FAFSA prior to the earliest deadline of your school possibilities.
- Students do not have to be accepted for admission to list any schools on the FAFSA.

**FAFSA** 

# **Step 3:** The FAFSA (Your Connection to Funding)

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

 Federal programs- Pell Grant student loans

- State programs PA State Grant, and other special programs
- School programs needbased grants and scholarships

# Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

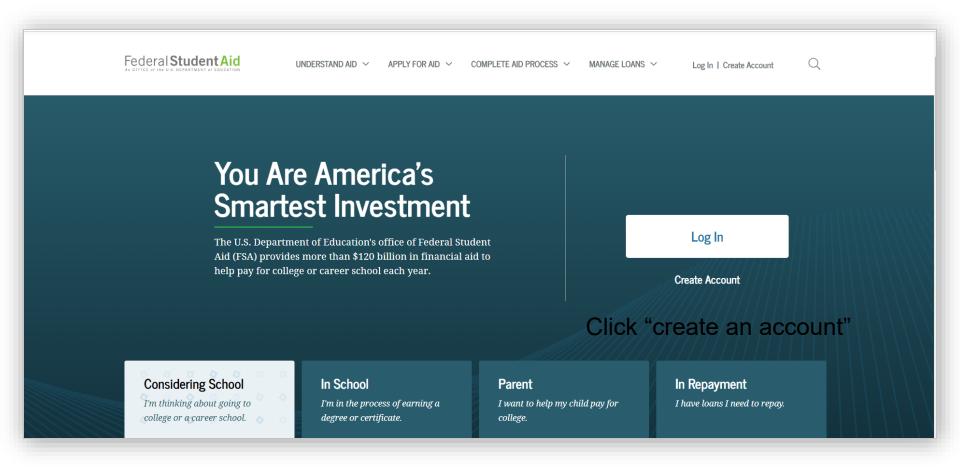
Studentaid.gov

myStudentAid app (Mobile App)

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

 The FAFSA is available October 1 of student's senior year of high school and every year thereafter!

## StudentAid.gov



#### **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 fsaid.ed.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

## 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)

# Aside from the Student, Who Reports Info on the 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



#### **Parents Income and Assets**

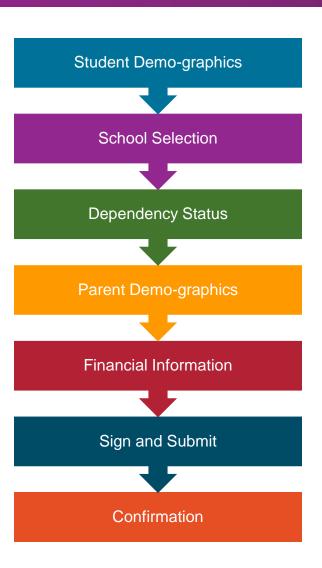
- Income is based on prior-prior year (2019)
- Tax filers report AGI from tax return and income from work from W-2
- Allowances are made for taxes, working households, and living allowances based on family size
- An asset protection allowance is applied
- Assets are reported as of the date the FAFSA is filed
- Not an asset: Value of primary residence, personal property, qualified retirement accounts and life insurance policies

#### Student Income and Assets

- Allowances are made for taxes
- Earnings from work study are excluded
- Income protection allowance of up to \$6,970 (AY 21/22) and remaining income assessed at 50%
- Dependent students must report assets in their name
- Student assets are assessed at 20%
- Student has no asset protection allowance

## FAFSA Steps

- 1. Login student or parent
- 2. Disclaimer select accept
- 3. Application Year
- 4. Save Key
- 5. Introduction



#### 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 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.



## IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

#### After taxes are filed:

- Automatically pulls in IRS Tax info for parents and students and places data into the FAFSA
- REQUIRED!
- ALSO in Student Section, if student is filing taxes



 If estimated income is used to complete the FAFSA, go back later and use IRS Data Retrieval Tool

return to your FAFSA form.



#### 2018 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.

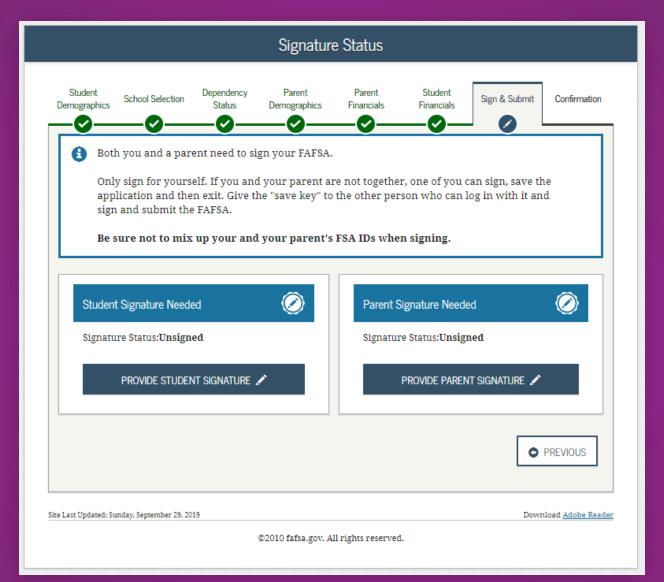
For your protection, the IRS will not display your tax information and will further encrypt any tax information transferred using the IRS DRT; therefore, ED is unable to display your tax information on your FAFSA form.

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

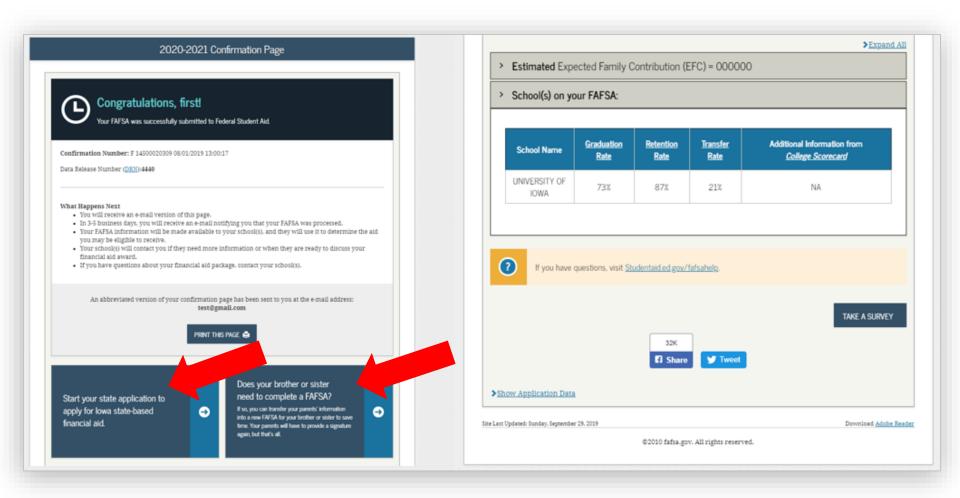
Tax Year	Type of Return Filed	Untaxed Portion of IRA Distributions & Pensions/Annuities
Name(s)	Adjusted Gross Income	1 STORTON BIRTHING
Social Security Number	Income Earned from Work	Tax-exempt Interest Income
Filing Status	Income Tax	IRA Deductions and Payments
IRS Exemptions	Education Credits	Status of Amended Returns Received
Refer to your tax records if you have	re 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.		TRANSFER NOW
Do Not Transfer My Tax Informat	ion 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		DO NOT TRANSFER

## Signing the FAFSA Electronically with the FSA ID

- A FAFSA IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL THE STUDENT AND PARENT (If the student is dependent) HAVE SIGNED!
- You'll use it again for:
  - » Renewal FAFSA
  - » FAFSA status and corrections
  - » Signing a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN)
  - » Complete required entrance and exit loan counseling

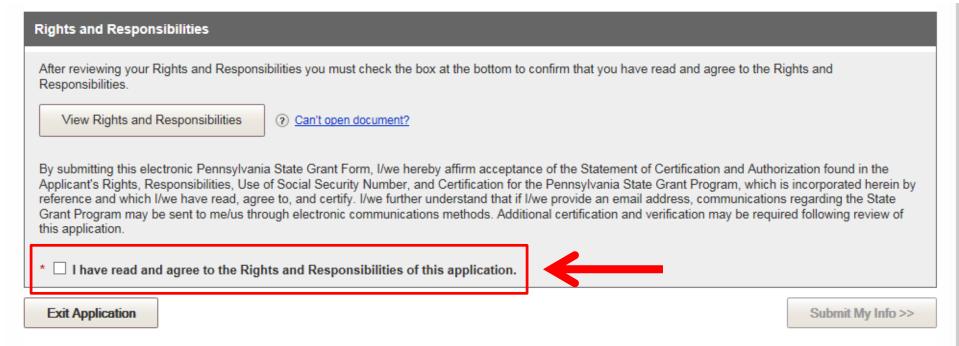


# Confirmation Page & Link to the PA State Grant Form



# PA State Grant Form (SGF)

✓ Check Rights and Responsibilities Box to electronically sign SGF

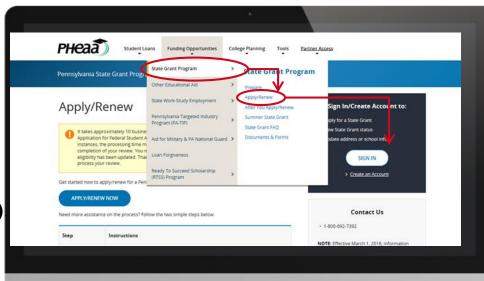


## **Online State Grant Application**

- 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
- (24-48 Hrs. after completing FAFSA)
- 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



Pelp screens are available for all questions

## **FAFSA Tips**

### Ensure SSN accuracy on FSA ID and FAFSA

Gender question is optional – answer it for selective service

Don't mix student and parent information – SSNs, Email addresses, phone numbers

Have federal tax and other related information to use as a reference – w-2's

It's OK to estimate if taxes aren't file yet – update later using IRS DRT

## **FAFSA Tips**

Review untaxed income questions

Review asset questions

529 Plans must be reported as a parent asset

Assets do NOT include home, retirement or insurance

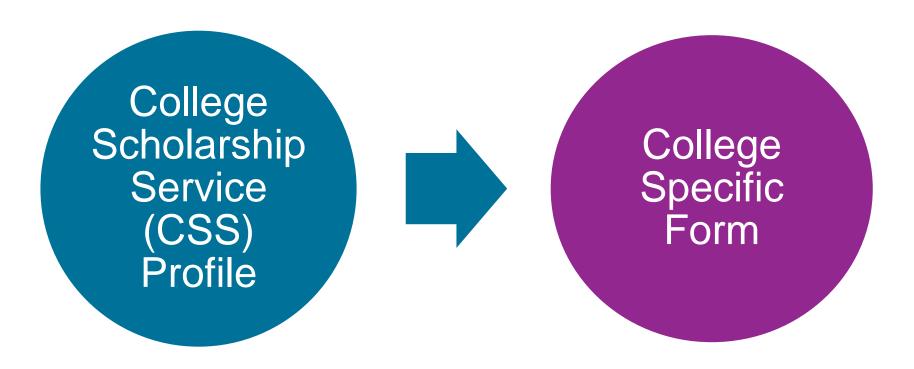
Do not report a business if it employs less than 100 full-time employees

Do not report farm, if you live on farm

Some can skip asset questions

# Other Forms You May Need to Complete

Check with your school



## FAFSA Renewal, CSS Profile

- Renew Every Year for Aid Opportunities
- Submit Your Renewal Early – It Matters!
- If Your School
   Requires the CSS
   Profile, You Need to
   Also Renew Every
   Year for Aid Options
   at Your School

### **LUCKY YOU!**

You don't get to fill out the FAFSA or the CSS Profile just once! You get to go through the process EVERY YEAR you attend college in order to continue receiving aid.

# What Happens After Filing You FAFSA

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.

# **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.

# The EFC and How it is Calculated?



- Remains the same no matter which school the student attends
- Primarily income-driven
- Major factors for dependent student:
- Parental & student income & assets
- Family size and number of family members in college
- Age of older parent

## **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 School Financial Aid Offers Carefully

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	\$ 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

# Ways to Save

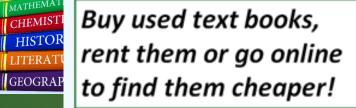
Dual Enrollment





Plan ahead to graduate on-time!

Ask about a cheaper meal plan.







## Types of Federal Student Loans

- Undergraduate Students
  - » Subsidized/Unsubsidized (2.75% interest and 1.057% fee)
- Graduate Students
  - » Unsubsidized (4.30% interest and 1.057% fee)
  - » GradPLUS Loan (5.30% interest and 4.228% fee)
- Parents
  - » PLUS Loan (5.30% and 4.228% fee)

## Federal Direct Loan Program

- Available to ALL students REGARDLESS of need
- Additional unsubsidized funds available for Independent & Parent PLUS denials
  - » 2.75% interest rate (AY 20-21), 1.057% fee
  - » Rates set every July 1st for the life of that year's loan; fees are deducted from disbursement
- In student's name, no collateral or credit check, must sign MPN
- Available loan amounts increase in subsequent years
- No payments required while attending school & six-month grace period
- Flexible Repayment options
- 150% RULE applies New borrowers as of 7/1/13

### Based on FAFSA, students have a combination of:

- Subsidized: Federal government pays interest in school and grace status
- Unsubsidized: interest accrues in school and grace

Studentaid.gov & school's website!

# 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
Freshman	\$5,500 Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	<b>\$9,500</b> Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	
Sophomore	\$6,500 Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	\$10,500 Total  No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	<b>\$20,500</b> each academic year Graduate / Professional students are no longer eligible for subsidized loans
Junior/Senior	<b>\$7,500</b> 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

### **Federal Direct PLUS Loan**

- For parents of dependent undergraduate or graduate level 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
- Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance
- MUST apply each year
- No Debt-to-Income test, only lenient credit check
- Repayment starts immediately. 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





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

### **Private/Alternative Loans**

- From private lenders or financial institutions
  - » In student's name/co-signers usually required
  - » Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance
  - » Based on credit scores and debt-to-income
  - » Repayment may be deferred until education completed
  - » Terms vary by lender compare before making choices
  - » Students must sign a "Self Certification Form" per DOE
- READ THE FINE PRINT

## PHEAA.org/PAForward

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



# PA Forward Education Loans Pennsylvania's Student Loan Program

- Low cost affordable student loan products, originated and serviced through PHEAA, available to help Pennsylvania Students & families.
- Variety of repayment options.

#### Who can use PA Forward?

- Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Students
- Parents, Stepparents, Guardians
- Refinancing Option
- PA Residents attending any Title IV eligible school
- OH, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA residents attending a PA school



It's worth a look to find what works for you!





### What Can You Do Now?



Apply for FSA ID Account

Explore Scholarships

Visit College Websites

**Use Net Price Calculators** 

Talk about what is affordable

# Ways to Reduce the Need for Financial Aid

- Graduate on time!
- Research and find the right school and major
  - » Minimize transferring and change of major
- Earn college credits in high school
- 2+2 or 3+2 Strategy
- Consider cost cutting options (commute, buy used books on-line, make practical decisions!)
- BE A SMART CONSUMER!



### **Use Your Resources**

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

## FederalStudentAidHelp.gov



#### Welcome to the Federal Student Aid Information Center.

#### How may we help you?

#### **FAFSA**

Learn how to complete, sign, correct, and check the status of your application.

#### FSA ID

Get help creating, recovering, and managing your FSA ID.

#### oans

View your loan and grant history, find your loan servicer and find who to contact to get out of default.

#### Awards & Eligibility

Learn more about receiving your money and how your award was calculated.

#### Need further assistance? Contact us.

Chat with Us	Call Us	Hours of Operation	Email Us
Chat with Us Your expected wait is 0 seconds.	1-800-4FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)  International Caller? Can't make a toll-free call? 1-334-523-2691  Hearing Impaired? — TTY calls only. 1-800-730-8913	We are currently Open.  Monday – Friday8 a.m.–11 p.m. ET Saturday – Sunday 11 a.m.–5 p.m. ET  We are closed on federal holidays, the day after Thanksgiving and on December 24th.	For general questions you can E-mail Us.  We can not reset FSA ID passwords or provide loan information through E-mail.  For assistance with these issues, please Chat with Us or Call Us.

### **Social Media Outreach**





PHEAA
American Education Services
FedLoan Servicing



@PHEAAaid

**@FedLoan Servicing** 

@aesSuccessorg



**PHEAA** 

# QUESTIONS?

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Best of luck ©