PHEAA

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

PENNSYLVANIA STUDENT AID GUIDE



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The **Pennsylvania Student Aid Guide** includes a complete overview of the financial aid process with information on most of Pennsylvania's financial aid programs and services. You may qualify for free money, like grants and scholarships, or work-study programs that allow you to earn money to help cover your education costs. And, if you need additional help paying for your education, there are loans available for both students and parents.

NOTE: If changes were made to federal and state aid programs since this publication was printed, updates are available at PHEAA.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Financial Aid Programs & Related Services:
PHEAA.org

Career & College Planning:
EducationPlanner.org
MySmartBorrowing.org

Debt Management:
YouCanDealWithIt.com

Pennsylvania State Grant, Special Programs & State Work-Study:
800.692.7392

Assistance for individuals with speech or hearing impairments:
TTY: 711

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FREE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES

EducationPlanner.org offers in-depth resources to help students learn about and explore hundreds of careers, colleges and financial aid opportunities.

PHEAA.org offers information on Pennsylvania's grant, scholarship and work-study programs.

YouCanDealWithIt.com offers college students and recent graduates a comprehensive guide to financial decisions and situations that they will soon encounter.

MySmartBorrowing.org provides students with information they can use to help make smart decisions about career choice and paying for their education.

PA529.com is an educational savings plan to help families and students save for higher education expenses.

Your school counselor has information on schools, standardized test dates, local scholarships, and much more.

College financial aid administrators are available to answer your questions and provide information on school-specific awards and other financial aid.

School and public libraries are great resources for researching postsecondary schools and financial aid.

The U.S. Department of Education offers information on federal guidelines for student financial aid programs and how to manage student loans. They also operate the following websites:

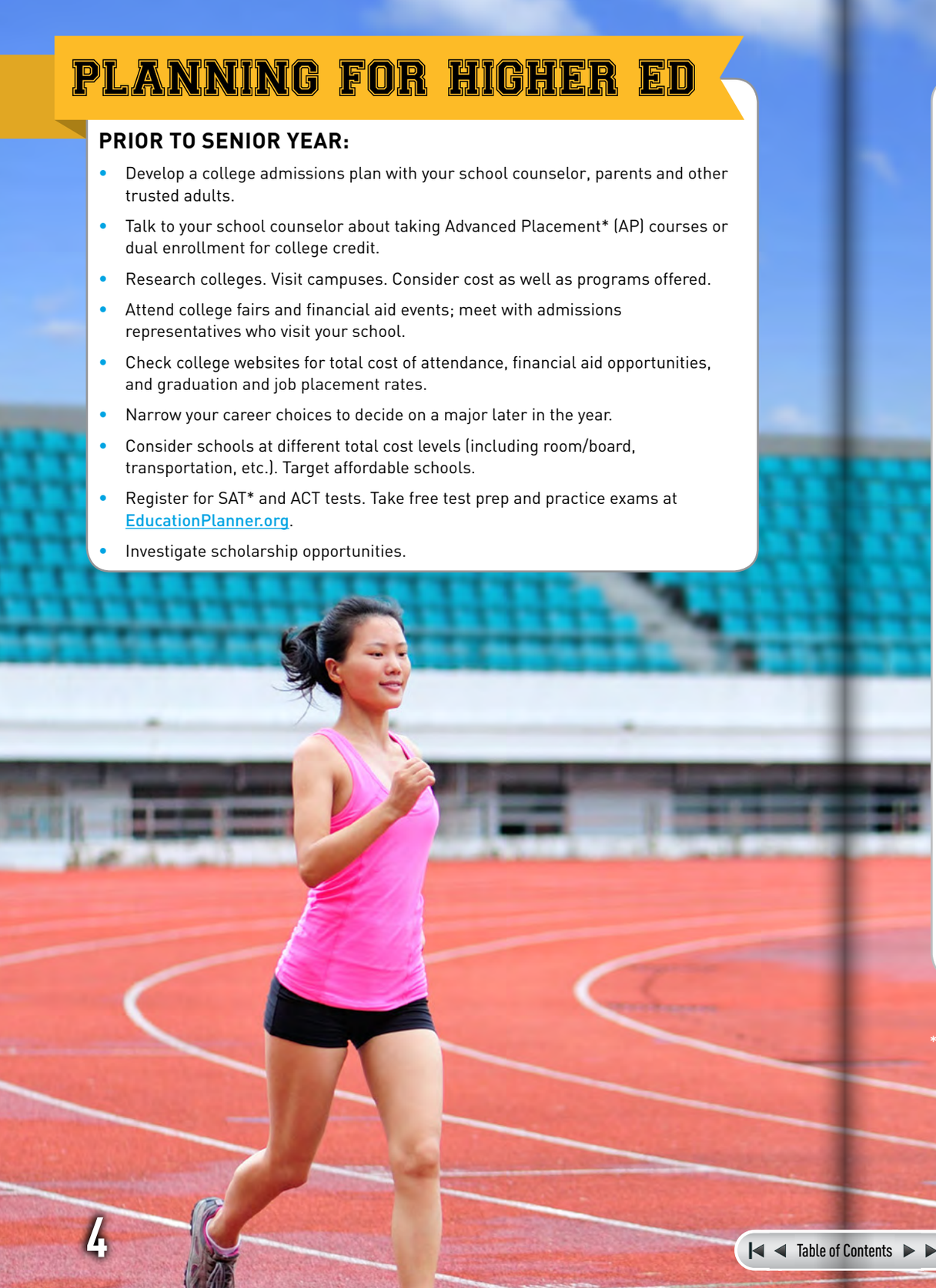
- FAFSA.gov
- studentaid.ed.gov
- StudentLoans.gov
- FAFSA4caster.ed.gov
- collegecost.ed.gov
- nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator



PLANNING FOR HIGHER ED

PRIOR TO SENIOR YEAR:

- Develop a college admissions plan with your school counselor, parents and other trusted adults.
- Talk to your school counselor about taking Advanced Placement* (AP) courses or dual enrollment for college credit.
- Research colleges. Visit campuses. Consider cost as well as programs offered.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid events; meet with admissions representatives who visit your school.
- Check college websites for total cost of attendance, financial aid opportunities, and graduation and job placement rates.
- Narrow your career choices to decide on a major later in the year.
- Consider schools at different total cost levels (including room/board, transportation, etc.). Target affordable schools.
- Register for SAT* and ACT tests. Take free test prep and practice exams at EducationPlanner.org.
- Investigate scholarship opportunities.



SENIOR YEAR – FALL:

- Attend college fairs and financial aid events and meet with admissions representatives who visit your school.
- Narrow your college choices further, understand admission requirements and deadlines, and submit application materials. Stay organized to ensure colleges receive your transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- Inquire about all financial aid sources from the colleges you are considering and meet application requirements and deadlines.
- Continue applying for scholarships from local organizations, as deadlines vary.

SENIOR YEAR – WINTER:

- After January 1: Complete the FAFSA at FAFSA.gov and submit on time.
- Electronically sign your FAFSA by using a Personal Identification Number (PIN). You may apply at pin.ed.gov or link when you complete and sign your FAFSA.
- In Pennsylvania, your FAFSA information is used for PA State Grant consideration. Complete the State Grant Form, which is linked to the FAFSA Confirmation Page. (If you miss this link, you will receive an email notice directing you to the State Grant Form.)
- Watch your email for your Student Aid Report (SAR), which summarizes your FAFSA information and allows you to make corrections. If you did not provide an email address on the FAFSA, your SAR will be sent by postal mail.
- **DEADLINES** – For the PA State Grant, the FAFSA filing deadline is **May 1** for students attending colleges, universities and college-transferable programs (excluding community colleges), and for all renewal students. The deadline is **August 1** for first-time students attending community colleges, business, trade, or technical schools, hospital schools of nursing, "open admissions" institutions**, or 2-year, non-transferable degree programs at a junior or 4-year college. Before selecting your major or course of study, research whether you will be able to find a job in this career after graduation.
- Submit required applications and paperwork for each school to which you are applying.
- Apply for scholarships through the colleges you are considering and other organizations.

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*AP, SAT are registered trademarks of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

**"Open Admissions" institutions include Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Gratz College, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, Lackawanna College, Peirce College, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Pennsylvania Institute of Technology, and Valley Forge Military Academy.

SENIOR YEAR – SPRING:

- Receive financial aid award letters (or aid packages) from the colleges to which you applied.
- Compare the total free money (grants and scholarships) to the total cost of the school (including books and transportation). You will need to cover the difference through savings, earnings, or student and/or parent borrowing.
- Determine if the schools you are considering offer some type of payment plan.
- Consider lower cost alternative schools as you make your final college choice.
- Decide which school you will attend and submit your enrollment deposit on time. Inform every school to which you were accepted of your decision.
- Complete your housing arrangements, orientation and course registration requirements at your school of choice.
- Be sure your PA State Grant record reflects the school you plan to attend. Update this information via Account Access at PHEAA.org.

AFTER SENIOR YEAR – SUMMER:

- Inform your school's Financial Aid Office of any additional grants or scholarships you will receive from outside sources.
- If you are eligible, apply for work-study jobs on campus.
- Loan borrowers (students and/or parents) must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) at StudentLoans.gov. Only borrow what you absolutely need.
- Students borrowing federal student loans for the first time must complete "entrance counseling." Contact the Financial Aid Office to complete this process.
- Satisfy your first semester tuition bill by the college's payment or registration deadline.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The cost of your education includes more than just tuition and fees. Include room and board, books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses in planning your student budget.

ANNUAL TUITION AND FEES

This is usually the biggest cost item and differs greatly depending on the type of school. You can receive the same education at different schools at varying prices. Consider carefully how much you will be able to afford in monthly loan repayment once you've graduated from college. Keep this figure in mind when choosing your school.

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS	TUITION AND FEES*			AVERAGE
4-Year Public Colleges**	$8,678	to	$18,451	$13,239
4-Year Private Colleges	$11,322	to	$48,371	$35,694
Community Colleges	$3,411	to	$4,790	$4,130
2-Year Private Colleges	$7,447	to	$31,802	$16,204
Business, Trade or Technical Schools	$6,922	to	$29,281	$15,294
Nursing Schools	$4,341	to	$21,187	$12,978

Source: PHEAA College Cost Tables as of April 4, 2014. Tuition and Fees enrollment weighted.

*Based on Fall 2012 Enrollment and projected 2014-15 Tuition and Fees. Check with your school for actual cost.

**Pennsylvania has two types of 4-year public universities. There are 14 state-owned Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Universities: Bloomsburg University, California University, Cheyney University, Clarion University, East Stroudsburg University, Edinboro University, Indiana University, Kutztown University, Lock Haven University, Mansfield University, Millersville University, Shippensburg University, Slippery Rock University, and West Chester University. There are also four state-related universities: Lincoln University, The Pennsylvania State University, Temple University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

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ROOM & BOARD, BOOKS & SUPPLIES

INSTITUTIONAL TYPE	LIVING EXPENSES	BOOKS & SUPPLIES	OTHER COSTS
Public 2-Year – Commuter	$8,042	$1,500	$4,130
Public 4-Year – On Campus	$10,480	$1,500	$3,389
Private 4-Year – On Campus	$11,957	$1,500	$2,709

Source: Living Expenses - PHEAA 2014-15 projected room, board and commuter expenses, weighted with Fall 2012 enrollment.
Other Costs - 2013 Trends in College Pricing, The College Board.

"Other Costs" include personal expenses and transportation.

Your personal expenses could range from $1,670 to $2,336 per academic year.

Your transportation expenses could range from $1,040 to $1,793 per academic year.

STUDENT BUDGET WORKSHEET

List your estimated cost for each category below to determine your cost of attendance for one year.

Tuition & Fees	$
Room & Board	$
Books & Supplies	$
Transportation	$
Personal Expenses	$
Miscellaneous	$
Total Student Budget	**$ 0.00**

For more information on managing your expenses, check out YouCanDealWithIt.com.

NET PRICE CALCULATOR

CLEAR WORKSHEET

This tool estimates the "net price" to attend a particular college or university. Net price is the difference between the full cost to attend, minus any grants and scholarships. This includes direct costs (tuition and fees, room and board) and indirect costs (books and supplies, transportation and personal expenses). All schools participating in federal Title IV student aid programs are required to post a net price calculator on their website.

NOTE: Schools that do not enroll full-time, first-time students (such as graduate schools) are not required to provide a net price calculator on their website.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

Nearly two-thirds of students receive some type of financial aid. Consider all types of financial aid to help with higher education expenses. There are three types of aid. Grants and scholarships are free money and do not have to be repaid. Work-study provides part-time jobs for students with financial need. Loans must be repaid – with interest.

THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

The FAFSA, available January 1 for the upcoming award year, is the most important application for qualifying for almost all types of financial aid. Many state, local and private entities use the FAFSA to determine eligibility for grants and scholarships, all with different deadlines. **Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1.** You may use estimated income if you will not file your income tax return before your earliest financial aid deadline.

A set of questions on the FAFSA determines your dependency status; how you answer will determine if parental information is required. Dependent students must report their parents' income and assets on the FAFSA, as well as their own. Independent students report their own income and assets, and those of their spouse, if married (see page 12).

NOTE: Dependency criteria for federal financial aid purposes are different from dependency criteria used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

HOW TO FILE THE FAFSA

- It is best to file the FAFSA online; it speeds up turnaround time and helps to eliminate errors. You may access it at FAFSA.gov or PHEAA.org/FAFSA.
  - » To file online, you and a parent (if you are a dependent student) will need a Personal Identification Number (PIN) as your electronic signature. Visit pin.ed.gov to obtain your PIN. Keep your PIN in a safe spot, as you will need it each year.
- You can also download a PDF of the FAFSA at FAFSA.gov.
- If you do not have Internet access, you can get a paper copy of the FAFSA by calling the U.S. Department of Education toll-free at **800.4.FED.AID** (800.433.3243).
- Filing the FAFSA is **FREE** for all students. You are not on the official government website if there is a cost.

YOU MUST FILE YOUR FAFSA IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR A PA STATE GRANT!

IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL

The U.S. Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have collaborated to develop a tool that saves students and families time and increases the accuracy of FAFSA information. The IRS Data Retrieval tool allows FAFSA applicants and parents to request and retrieve their tax data directly from the IRS. Once retrieved from the IRS, data can be transferred to the FAFSA application.

REAPPLY FOR AID EACH YEAR

- A FAFSA must be completed each award year. Go to FAFSA.gov or PHEAA.org/FAFSA to reapply.
- Every applicant who meets the eligibility requirements will automatically receive an online FAFSA renewal reminder if his/her email is still valid.

AFTER YOU FILE THE FAFSA

- Once your FAFSA is processed, you will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR summarizes the information on your FAFSA and, provides you with your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Review this form carefully and submit corrections promptly.
  - » You will receive your SAR by email within 3-5 days if your email is valid.
  - » If your email is invalid, you will receive a paper SAR by postal mail within 7-10 days.
  - » If you estimated your income, you will need to update this information once your tax return has been filed.
- Your processed FAFSA results will be shared with the school(s) you listed on the FAFSA, as well as with PHEAA for purposes of determining PA State Grant eligibility.

NOTE: After completing the FAFSA online, you will receive a confirmation page with a link to the online State Grant Form (SGF). PHEAA recommends this option. Students who do not complete the SGF at this time will receive an email directing them to PHEAA's secure Account Access site for completion. If a valid email address is not provided on the FAFSA for first-time applicants, the student will be contacted via U.S. Mail to complete the SGF.



INDEPENDENT STUDENTS

If you are an independent student pursuing higher education on a full- or part-time basis, the state and federal programs listed in this guide may be available to you.

If you answer **"YES"** to any of the following questions on the FAFSA, you may be considered "independent" for financial assistance purposes. You may be asked to verify your status. Note: The award year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year.

- Were you born before January 1, 1992?
- Are you **married?**
- Are you a graduate student working on a Master's or Doctoral degree, such as a MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, EdD or graduate certificate, etc., at the beginning of the award year for which the FAFSA is being completed?
- 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 **have at least one child** who will receive more than half of his/her support from you during the award year?
- Do you have **dependents** (other than your children or spouse) **who live with** you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30 of the award year?
- At any time after you were 13 or older, were your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent/ward of the court?
- Are you an emancipated minor or are you in legal guardianship as determined by a court in your state of legal residence? (The court must be located in your state of legal residence at the time the court's decision was issued.)
- At any time on or after July 1 of the year preceding the year for which you are filing the FAFSA did your high school or school district homeless liaison, or the director of an emergency shelter program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless?
- At any time on or after July 1 of the year preceding the year for which you are filing the FAFSA did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you were an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or were self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

If you qualify as an independent student, your eligibility for aid will be determined **based only on your (and your spouse's, if married) financial and family circumstances.** Your parents' income and assets will not be considered.

Many state and federal programs, including the **Pennsylvania State Grant Program (page 16) and the Federal Direct Loan Program (page 27),** are available to independent students who are studying on at least a half-time basis (as determined by your school). Direct Unsubsidized Loan limits for independent students are greater than those for dependent students.



YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD

Once you complete the FAFSA application, the Financial Aid Office at the school you plan to attend will develop a financial aid award package that will outline your financial aid eligibility. **A financial aid package is simply a list of the amounts of aid that you may receive from various financial aid programs.**

CALCULATING YOUR FINANCIAL NEED

Cost of Attendance (COA)
– Your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
= **YOUR FINANCIAL NEED**

THE FOUR BASIC TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID:

1. **GRANTS**
   Federal and state grants are awards that **do not have to be paid back** (provided you meet the requirements) and are **typically based on financial need** (some grants include merit criteria). PHEAA administers the Pennsylvania State Grant Program.

2. **SCHOLARSHIPS**
   Scholarships are federal, state, institutional, and private funds that **do not have to be paid back.** They are awarded to students who demonstrate or show promise of high achievement in academics, athletics, music, art, or other fields. Scholarships may be offered by civic organizations, religious institutions, businesses, or associations. Eligibility for some scholarships may be based on financial need. Visit free scholarship search sites such as EducationPlanner.org, finaid.org and fastweb.com. It's best to begin searching during your sophomore or junior year of high school in order to become familiar with these sites, identify potential awards, and meet various application deadlines.

3. **WORK-STUDY AWARDS**
   Work-study awards are potential **wages earned by students working in jobs** on or off campus to help pay for school costs. PHEAA coordinates the Pennsylvania State Work-Study Program. Check with your school's Financial Aid Office to determine the availability of work-study awards and positions.

4. **LOANS**
   Loans are **funds borrowed that must be paid back with interest**.

When you have exhausted all free money and student employment options, consider a student loan only as a last resort. Give careful consideration to how much, realistically, you'll be able to afford to pay once you enter into repayment. Before borrowing, research how much you can expect to earn in your future career and whether jobs are readily available in that field. Then select a school that both meets your educational needs and is reasonably affordable. **BORROW ONLY WHAT YOU ABSOLUTELY NEED.**



PA STATE GRANT PROGRAM*

The PA State Grant Program provides grants to eligible Pennsylvania residents who are in need of financial assistance to attend PHEAA-approved postsecondary schools as undergraduate students.

Award amounts are based on the allowable college costs and a student's demonstrated need. Applicants for 2014-15 are eligible to receive up to $4,011 as a full-time student at a Pennsylvania school and up to $512 ($683 for veterans) at a college outside of Pennsylvania.

NOTE: Pennsylvania State Grants may be used at eligible institutions in Delaware, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

Students enrolled on a half-time basis (at least six credits per semester or its equivalent) are eligible to receive up to $2,006 at a Pennsylvania school and up to $500 ($500 for veterans) at a college located outside of Pennsylvania. Students enrolled in summer study may also be eligible for a Summer State Grant.

*This information is accurate at time of printing. The maximum award is dependent upon available funding and subject to review and adjustment.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

To be considered for a **PA State Grant**, you **must demonstrate financial need AND**:

- **Be a Pennsylvania resident**, as stipulated in the Pennsylvania State Grant law
- **Be a high school graduate**, as stipulated in the Pennsylvania State Grant law
- **Attend a postsecondary school approved by PHEAA** for Pennsylvania State Grant purposes
- **Be enrolled at least half-time** (at least six semester credits or the equivalent)
- **Be enrolled in an approved program of study of at least 2 academic years** in length
- **Be enrolled in a program of study where at least 50% of the total credit or clock hours** needed for completion of the program are earned through classroom instruction:
  - » The program itself must be structured to allow you to complete at least 50% of your credits or clock hours in the classroom.
  - » Your enrollment pattern must also consist of at least 50% classroom instruction per term (unless you have a medical disability approved under ADA specifications).
- **Make satisfactory academic progress** (as defined by PHEAA)
- **Not have already earned a bachelor's degree** or its equivalent
- **Be of satisfactory character** (for example, not be incarcerated)
- **Not have received the maximum number of Pennsylvania State Grants permitted**
- **Not be in default or pending default on an educational loan** (This also applies to any program where the award has been converted to a loan due to failure to meet all eligibility or service requirements and the loan is in a default status.)
- **File and complete the application process** by the appropriate deadlines

For more details, a Rights and Responsibilities Certification Document is available at PHEAA.org.

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TO APPLY:

1. FILE THE FAFSA BY THE APPROPRIATE DATE.

FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS

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), you must submit the FAFSA and the Pennsylvania State Grant Form.

AUGUST 1 — If you plan to enroll in a community college, a business, trade, or technical school, a hospital school of nursing, a Pennsylvania" open admissions" institution (visit **PHEAA.org** for a list of these schools), or a non-transferable 2-year program, you must submit the FAFSA and the Pennsylvania State Grant Form.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

May 1 — You must submit a renewal FAFSA and any appropriate State Grant documents indicating any changes that may affect your State Grant award, such as a change in your marital status or a change in your income.

SUMMER-TERM APPLICANTS

AUGUST 15 — You must submit the online Summer State Grant application. You must also have submitted the FAFSA and, if required, the State Grant Form.

NOTE: If you miss the State Grant deadline for the academic year, apply anyway. Late applications (for terms other than summer) may qualify if funding permits.

2. COMPLETE THE STATE GRANT FORM.

If you meet the PA State Grant eligibility requirements, then it's time to complete your State Grant Form (SGF).

- To apply for a State Grant when you complete the FAFSA (Recommended):
  - » Complete the SGF online directly from your FAFSA confirmation page. Look for the link that reads "Optional Feature—Start your state application—Click here if you want to apply for Pennsylvania state-based financial aid."
- To apply for a State Grant after you've completed the FAFSA:
  - » If you've already submitted your FAFSA online and missed the direct link, you may need to wait 24-48 hours before you can complete the SGF. You will receive an email directing you to aesSuccess.org to complete the SGF. (AES is a division of PHEAA.)

NOTE: Most renewal students are not required to complete the SGF.

3. CHECK YOUR STATUS.

After you apply, visit PHEAA.org and sign into Account Access to check the status of your application, make changes, and manage your account information.

THE PA STATE GRANT PROGRAM HAS AWARDED MORE THAN $8 BILLION TO PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS SINCE 1965.

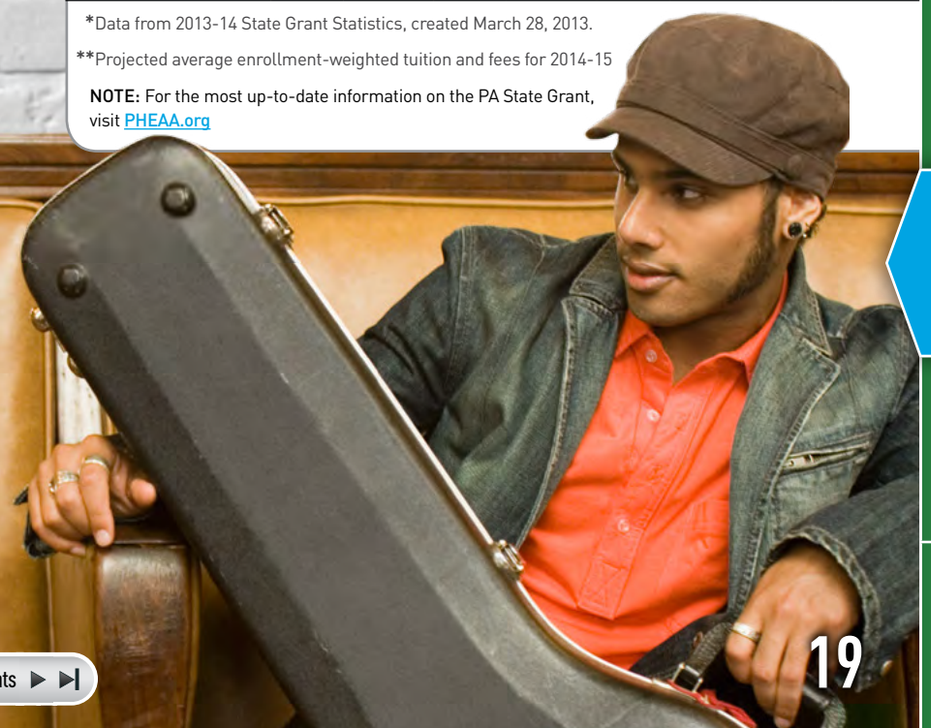
PERCENTAGE OF APPLICANTS RECEIVING STATE GRANT AWARDS 2013-14*

2014–15**	PARENTS' ANNUAL INCOME			
AVERAGE TUITION & FEES	UNDER $25,000	$25,000 – $49,999	$50,000 – $74,999	$75,000 – $99,999
4-Year Private Colleges $35,694	99% $3,803 - $4,269	98% $3,802 - $4,236	94% $3,474 - $4,212	63% $2,249 - $3,637
PA State System Schools $9,155	99% $3,428 - $3,713	97% $3,336 - $3,713	84% $2,385 - $3,165	30% $1,794 - $2,524
PA State-Related Schools $16,319	99% $3,484 - $3,902	97% $3,487 - $3,903	89% $3,097 - $3,807	41% $2,415 - $3,428
Junior Colleges $16,204	98% $3,254 - $3,796	97% $3,224 - $3,850	83% $2,971 - $3,821	29% $2,851 - $3,843
PA Community Colleges $4,130	99% $1,656 - $2,321	88% $1,670 - $2,306	48% $1,470 - $2,152	10% $1,365 - $2,163
Nursing Schools $12,978	99% $3,358 - $3,890	92% $3,359 - $3,840	88% $2,611 - $3,815	28% $2,572 - $3,541
Business, Trade or Technical Schools $15,294	98% $3,492 - $3,991	84% $3,505 - $3,990	51% $3,016 - $3,891	16% $2,081 - $3,378

*Data from 2013-14 State Grant Statistics, created March 28, 2013.

**Projected average enrollment-weighted tuition and fees for 2014-15

NOTE: For the most up-to-date information on the PA State Grant, visit PHEAA.org



SPECIAL STATE AID PROGRAMS

PHEAA administers a number of financial aid programs, some in partnership with other state agencies, that can assist you with meeting college costs.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROGRAMS:*

- Be a **Pennsylvania resident**
- Be a **graduate of an approved high school**, the **recipient of a GED,** or have completed an **approved home school program**
- Attend an **eligible postsecondary school**
- **Not be in default** on a federal student loan
- File a **FAFSA** and apply for a **PA State Grant**
- Meet **minimum enrollment status** required of program
- Maintain **satisfactory academic progress** in program of study

Some of these programs require financial need; eligibility criteria can be found under Funding Opportunities at PHEAA.org.

*PA-TIP does not require a PA State Grant Application.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION (PATH) PROGRAM

The PATH Program partners with nonprofit organizations that provide scholarships to eligible, needy students. These scholarships have the potential to be matched by PHEAA on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to an annual maximum amount. To be eligible to receive a PATH Grant, you must first be awarded a scholarship or grant by a participating PATH partner and receive a PA State Grant. A list of participating PATH partners is available at PHEAA.org.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for a PATH scholarship, complete the FAFSA and contact a participating PATH organization in your area. For more information, visit PHEAA.org or contact path@pheaa.org.



POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY PROGRAM (PEGP)

This program assists birth or adoptive children of Pennsylvania police officers, firefighters, rescue and ambulance squad members, corrections employees, and National Guard members who died in the line of duty since January 1, 1976. The program also includes the birth and adoptive children of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, National Guard members, or other individuals who were on federal or state active military duty and died after September 11, 2001, as a direct result of performing his or her official duties.

For full-time students, this program covers all institutional charges for tuition, fees, room and board not covered by other grants and scholarships at a Pennsylvania community college, state-owned or state-related postsecondary institution.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, complete the FAFSA, provide a completed application, a certified copy of your birth certificate or adoption record and a copy of the letter of admission to an eligible school. Download an application at PHEAA.org. Contact PHEAA at **800.692.7392** or pegp@pheaa.org.

PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), PHEAA jointly administers EAP for members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. This program provides assistance for students who enter into a service commitment with the Pennsylvania National Guard, typically for a period of 6 years.

MAXIMUM EAP AWARDS:

- **FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS** – Either actual tuition charged for the full-time course of study, or 100% of tuition charged to a Pennsylvania resident studying full-time at a state-owned university, whichever is less
- **PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS** – Either actual tuition charged for the part-time course of study, or two-thirds of the full-time tuition charged to a Pennsylvania resident at a state-owned university, whichever is less
- **PART-TIME GRADUATE STUDENTS** (or those who already hold a bachelor's degree) - Either one-half of the actual tuition charged for the part-time course of study, or one-third of the full-time tuition charged to a Pennsylvania resident at a state-owned university, whichever is less

HOW TO APPLY

Active members of the Pennsylvania National Guard may obtain an application from their **individual unit of assignment**. Additional information can be obtained from **your local National Guard recruiting office** or by calling the Pennsylvania National Guard at **800.GO.GUARD**. To view the status of your EAP application, sign into Account Access at PHEAA.org.

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PENNSYLVANIA STATE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM (SWSP)

Through the State Work-Study Program (SWSP), Pennsylvania students can gain career-related, on-the-job work experience, up to 40 hours per week, while earning money to help pay for higher education.

HOW TO APPLY

Download an application/placement at PHEAA.org. For additional information, contact the financial aid office or student employment office at the school you plan to attend or email matchingfunds@pheaa.org. To view the status of your SWSP application, sign into Account Access at PHEAA.org.

BLIND OR DEAF BENEFICIARY GRANT PROGRAM

Blind or deaf students who are residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may apply for funds to help defray the necessary expenses of postsecondary education. Blind or deaf students who are enrolled at least half-time at a postsecondary school and maintain satisfactory academic progress (as defined by the school) may apply for these funds. The maximum award is $500 per year.

HOW TO APPLY

Download an application at PHEAA.org. Contact PHEAA at **800.692.7392** or bdbg@pheaa.org.

PENNSYLVANIA TARGETED INDUSTRY PROGRAM (PA-TIP)

PA-TIP is administered by PHEAA and provides need-based awards to students enrolled in short-term programs that are not State Grant eligible in the following career areas:

- Energy
- Advanced Materials and Diversified Manufacturing
- Agriculture and Food Production

PA-TIP provides awards up to the equivalent of the maximum State Grant award or 75% of the allowable program costs, whichever is less, per award year. Awards can be used to cover tuition, fees, books, supplies, and specific living expenses.

HOW TO APPLY

Download an application at PHEAA.org. Contact PHEAA at **800.692.7392** or patip@pheaa.org.

FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS

Each year, the federal government offers financial aid programs for students and families, which are supported by federal funding and subject to federal budget appropriations.

FEDERAL PELL GRANT

- If you qualify for a Pell Grant, you may receive between $574 and $5,730 (in 2014-15) depending on your family income, cost of education and enrollment status.
- All other need-based financial assistance will be awarded after your Pell Grant has been determined.
- The federal government may revise the amount available for the Pell Grant each year.
- Eligibility is limited to the equivalent of 12 full-time semesters of study.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)

- Annual awards range from $100 to $4,000 for first-time undergraduate students.
- Priority is given to students who receive Federal Pell Grants.
- An eligible student's award amount depends on the funding available at each school and the school's policy for awarding aid.

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FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN

- You may qualify to borrow up to $5,500 annually as an undergraduate student, not to exceed $27,500, with a 5% annual interest rate and up to 10 years to repay your loan.
- Graduate students may borrow up to $8,000 per year, not to exceed $60,000, which includes amounts borrowed as an undergraduate.
- The amount awarded to an eligible student is dependent upon the funds available at the school and the school's policy for awarding aid.

To apply, you must file a FAFSA (FAFSA.gov or PHEAA.org/FAFSA). For more information, visit studentaid.ed.gov.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAFEE EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant Program provides grants to Pennsylvania undergraduate students who are aging out of foster care and are attending a postsecondary institution approved for Federal Title IV student financial assistance programs. Maximum awards are determined each year ($4,000 during 2013-14). However, no award may exceed the student's cost of attendance minus other financial aid the student is receiving. Awards are contingent upon federal funding and are not guaranteed.

For eligibility requirements and to download an application, visit PHEAA.org. For more information, email paetg@pheaa.org.

TEACHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION (TEACH) GRANT

Students who intend to teach in an elementary school, secondary school or education service agency that serves students from low-income families may be eligible to receive a TEACH Grant. In exchange, you must agree to work as a full-time teacher in a high-need field for at least 4 academic years within 8 calendar years from the date you complete the program of study for which you received a TEACH Grant. If you fail to complete this service, the TEACH Grant will convert to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid. You will be charged interest from the date the TEACH Grant is disbursed. Not all schools participate.

For TEACH Grants first disbursed on or after October 1, 2013 and before October 1, 2014, the maximum award is $3,964. For TEACH Grants disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015, the maximum award is $3,708.

For eligibility requirements and grant amounts, visit studentaid.ed.gov.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- A student whose parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and died as a result of service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001 may be eligible to receive the Iraq-Afghanistan Service Grant. Visit studentaid.ed.gov.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program provides benefits to students who have a parent who has a permanent disability or died as a result of service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Call your local Veterans Service Division of the Veterans Administration Office.
- The Vocational Rehabilitation Program provides student aid for students with hearing, sight and other disabilities. Call your local Vocational Rehabilitation Office. Federal and state governments work in partnership to fund the Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAM (FWSP)

- The FWSP provides job opportunities for financially needy students.
- Students can generally work 10-20 hours per week during the academic year and up to 40 hours per week during the summer.
- The hourly rate is at least the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is greater, and may be higher depending on the required job skills.
- Colleges try to arrange for jobs that correspond to your academic or career interests.
- The amount awarded to an eligible student is dependent upon the funds available at the school and the school's policy for awarding aid.

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AMERICORPS

- AmeriCorps offers public service positions where service members learn valuable work skills, earn money for education, and develop an appreciation for citizenship.
- Upon successful completion of the service, members are eligible to receive an education award. The education award may be used to pay educational costs as well as to repay qualified student loans.

For more information and specific eligibility requirements, visit nationalservice.gov.

BECOME A SMART BORROWER

When you have exhausted every possibility of gift aid (scholarships and grants), you may find that a student loan is your last option for affording higher education. If borrowing is a necessity, educate yourself on the many loan options available before borrowing.

Don't borrow more than you'll be able to repay. Before selecting your major, research expected job availability in this field. If you can't find a job, you won't be able to repay your loan. Then research your expected salary in this career and find an affordable school, making sure that you'll be able to afford your loan repayment in the future on your expected salary.

PHEAA's new interactive tool makes it easy for you to research this information. MySmartBorrowing.org helps you make smart decisions about career choice and paying for your education. If you don't need to borrow, don't. But if you do, make sure you're a smart borrower.



FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM

The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program is the largest federal student loan program. Under this program, the U.S. Department of Education is the lender and loans are available to help students and parents pay for education beyond high school. They typically have lower interest rates and more flexible repayment options.

The Direct Loan Program offers the following: Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans and Direct PLUS Loans. To be eligible, students must be enrolled at least half-time and meet general eligibility requirements.

Before taking out a loan, educate yourself on the many loan options available to you and assess which is best for your situation. Never borrow more than you need or can afford to repay based upon your intended career.

DIRECT LOANS

Direct Loans are for undergraduate, graduate and professional degree students.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:*

- Complete a FAFSA for the appropriate award year
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be accepted for enrollment at a participating school or enrolled in an eligible program at a participating school and be making satisfactory academic progress
- Maintain at least a half-time enrollment status in a degree or certificate program
- Not be in default on any education loan
- Be registered with Selective Service, if you are a male 18-25 years old (Failure to register by age 26 may result in permanent loss of federal student aid eligibility. Visit www.sss.gov.)

*For additional requirements, visit studentaid.ed.gov.

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DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOANS

- The federal government will pay the interest for undergraduate study while you are in school and during any authorized periods of deferment after repayment has begun.
- You must meet the criteria for financial need to qualify for the interest subsidy benefits.
- Your school determines the amount you can borrow, but cannot exceed the annual loan limit or your financial need.
- If your Direct Subsidized Loan is first disbursed between July 1, 2012 and July 1, 2014, you will be responsible for paying interest that accrues during your grace period. If you choose not to pay the interest during your grace period, the interest will be capitalized (added to your principal balance of your loan(s)).

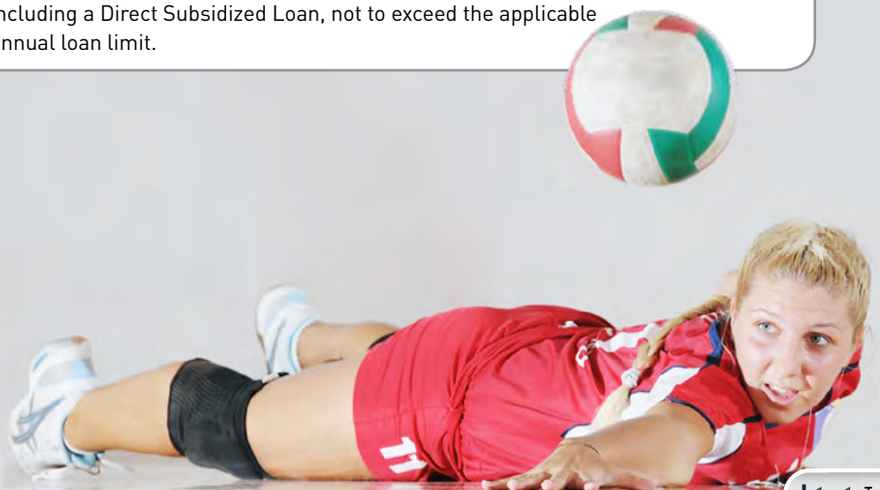
NOTE: As a result of legislation enacted in July 2012, eligibility for the Direct Loan interest subsidy will be limited for new borrowers on or after July 1, 2013. The law restricts the period of time for which a borrower may receive subsidized loans, in the aggregate, to 150% of the published length of the student's current educational program. If you do not complete your program of study within 150% of the published program length, you may not receive any additional subsidized loans; and, under certain conditions, you may lose the interest subsidy on your previously disbursed Direct Subsidized Loan.

WHAT IS A GRACE PERIOD?

The grace period, typically 6 months, generally begins the day after the student graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time status and ends the day before repayment begins. During this time, the borrower is not required to make loan payments. Not all loans have a grace period.

DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS

- You are responsible for the interest from the date the loan is disbursed, including interest that accrues during periods of deferment and forbearance. You may pay the interest while you are in school and during your grace period, or you may have the interest capitalized (added to your principal loan balance).
- Financial need is not required. Eligibility is limited to your total Cost of Attendance (COA), as determined by your school, minus other student aid you may receive, including a Direct Subsidized Loan, not to exceed the applicable annual loan limit.



HOW TO APPLY FOR A DIRECT LOAN

- Complete a FAFSA.
- Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) online at StudentLoans.gov.

The following chart shows the maximum Direct Loan Limits:

DEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES (Does not include students whose parents are unable to borrow under the PLUS program.)	ANNUAL LOAN LIMITS	
First year	**$5,500** of which no more than	**$3,500** may be subsidized
Second year	**$6,500** of which no more than	**$4,500** may be subsidized
Third year and beyond	**$7,500** of which no more than	**$5,500** may be subsidized
INDEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES (And dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow under the PLUS program.)	**ANNUAL LOAN LIMITS**	
First year	**$9,500** of which no more than	**$3,500** may be subsidized
Second year	**$10,500** of which no more than	**$4,500** may be subsidized
Third year and beyond	**$12,500** of which no more than	**$5,500** may be subsidized
Graduate/Professional students	**$20,500** all of which is unsubsidized	
AGGREGATE LIMITS		
DEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES	**$31,000** of which no more than	**$23,000** may be subsidized
INDEPENDENT UNDERGRADUATES (And dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow under the PLUS program.)	**$57,500** of which no more than	**$23,000** may be subsidized
Graduate/Professional students	**$138,500** of which no more than	**$65,500** may be subsidized*

*Graduate/Professional students are no longer able to receive subsidized loans.

- Certain health profession students may qualify for higher limits.
- Undergraduate annual loan limits are subject to prorating if the student's program of study or final period of enrollment is less than an academic year in length.
- Undergraduate students who do not meet the financial need requirements to receive a Direct Subsidized Loan or have reached the aggregate limit in subsidized loans may receive up to this entire annual or aggregate amount in Direct Unsubsidized Loans, assuming he or she has remaining eligibility for the loan(s).

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DIRECT LOAN INTEREST RATES*

- Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans for undergraduate borrowers with a first disbursement between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015 have a fixed interest rate of 4.66%. Direct Unsubsidized Loans for graduate and professional students with a first disbursement between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 have a fixed interest rate of 6.21%. (Graduate borrowers are not eligible to receive Direct Subsidized Loans.)
- The loan fee for undergraduate Direct Subsidized and undergraduate and graduate Direct Unsubsidized Loans is 1.072% for loans first disbursed on or after December 1, 2013 and before October 1, 2014, and 1.073% for loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015.

*The Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013 ties federal student loan interest rates to financial markets. Under this Act, interest rates will be determined each June for new loans being made for the upcoming award year, which runs from July 1 to the following June 30. Check with your Financial Aid Office for the most current information.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU BORROW?

The following examples demonstrate how eligibility is determined for Direct Loans for two first-year dependent students whose parents are eligible to borrow a Direct PLUS Loan.

	EXAMPLE #1	EXAMPLE #2
Student Budget	$25,000	$25,000
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	– $2,000	– $19,000
Financial Need	= $23,000	= $6,000
Grants & Scholarships	– $19,500	– $3,000
REMAINING NEED	= $3,500	= $3,000
Total Approved Subsidized Loan	**$3,500** *	**$3,000** *
Total Approved Unsubsidized Loan	**$ 2,000** **	**$2,500** **

*This amount represents the maximum base Direct Loan a student can receive his/her first year of school. The remaining need may be financed with Direct PLUS Loans or private loans.

**This amount represents the maximum additional Direct Unsubsidized Loan that a dependent student, whose parent(s) is eligible to borrow a Direct PLUS Loan, may borrow. The remaining need or cost of attendance may be financed with Direct PLUS Loans or private loans.

DIRECT PLUS LOANS

Parents of dependent students, as well as students pursuing a graduate or professional degree, can borrow from the **Direct PLUS Loan Program**.

DIRECT PLUS LOANS FOR PARENTS

A Direct PLUS Loan for **PARENTS** is generally the best loan for parents who want to help pay for the education of their dependent, undergraduate students.

PARENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Be the student's biological parent, adoptive parent or a stepparent whose data would be required on the FAFSA
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have no education loans in default or owe an overpayment on an educational grant
- Have no adverse credit history (A credit check will be conducted.)

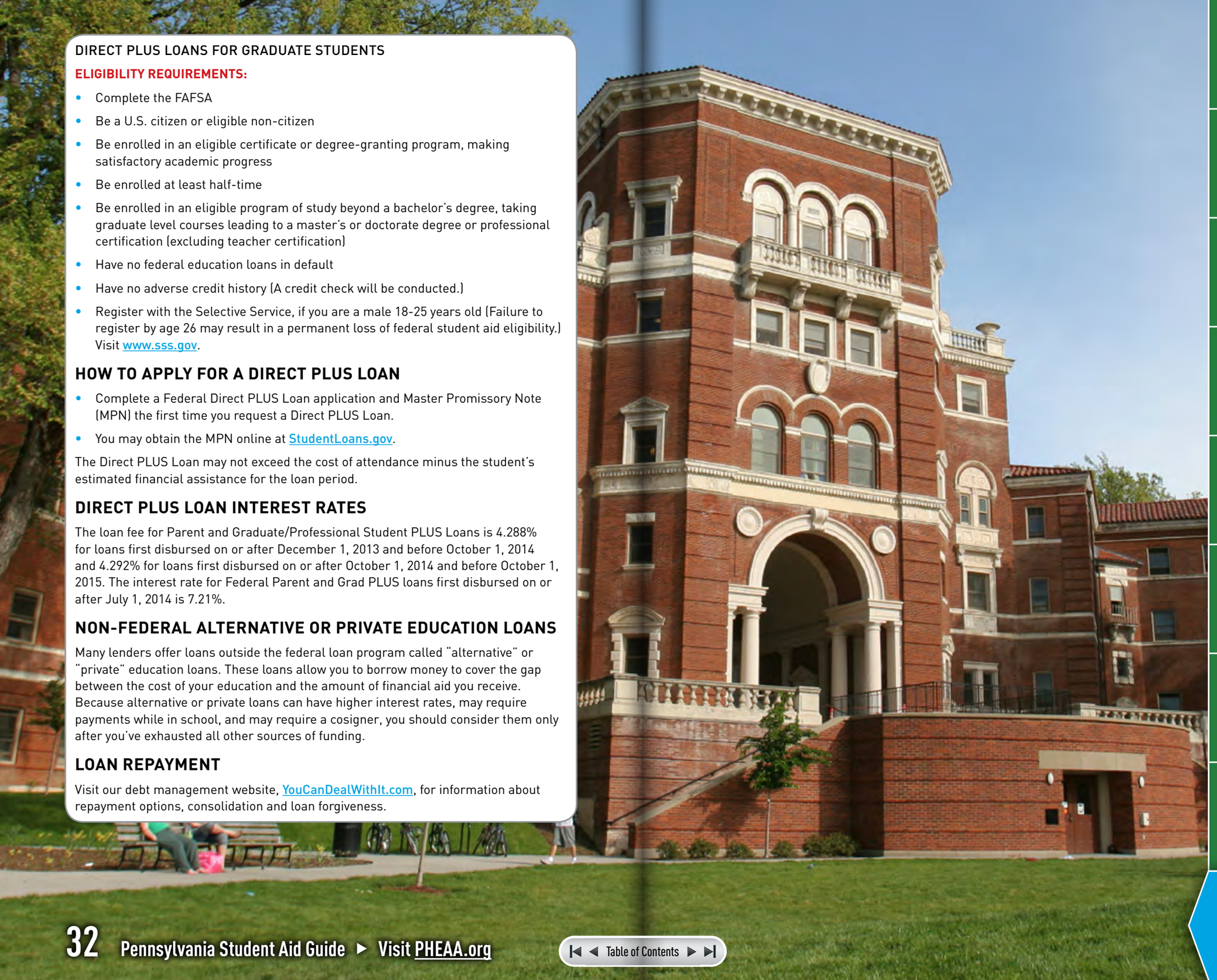
STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

For a parent to borrow a Direct PLUS Loan, the student MUST:

- Be a dependent student (parents of independent students are not eligible.) Note: Dependency criteria for federal financial aid purposes are different from dependency criteria used by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- Be enrolled in an eligible undergraduate certificate or degree-granting program, making satisfactory academic progress
- Complete the FAFSA
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be enrolled at least half-time while working toward a degree or certificate
- Have no education loans in default or owe educational grant refunds
- Register with the Selective Service, if the dependent student is a male 18-25 years old (Failure to register by age 26 may result in a permanent loss of federal student aid eligibility. Visit www.sss.gov.)

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DIRECT PLUS LOANS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete the FAFSA
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be enrolled in an eligible certificate or degree-granting program, making satisfactory academic progress
- Be enrolled at least half-time
- Be enrolled in an eligible program of study beyond a bachelor's degree, taking graduate level courses leading to a master's or doctorate degree or professional certification (excluding teacher certification)
- Have no federal education loans in default
- Have no adverse credit history (A credit check will be conducted.)
- Register with the Selective Service, if you are a male 18-25 years old (Failure to register by age 26 may result in a permanent loss of federal student aid eligibility.) Visit www.sss.gov.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A DIRECT PLUS LOAN

- Complete a Federal Direct PLUS Loan application and Master Promissory Note (MPN) the first time you request a Direct PLUS Loan.
- You may obtain the MPN online at StudentLoans.gov.

The Direct PLUS Loan may not exceed the cost of attendance minus the student's estimated financial assistance for the loan period.

DIRECT PLUS LOAN INTEREST RATES

The loan fee for Parent and Graduate/Professional Student PLUS Loans is 4.288% for loans first disbursed on or after December 1, 2013 and before October 1, 2014 and 4.292% for loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015. The interest rate for Federal Parent and Grad PLUS loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 is 7.21%.

NON-FEDERAL ALTERNATIVE OR PRIVATE EDUCATION LOANS

Many lenders offer loans outside the federal loan program called "alternative" or "private" education loans. These loans allow you to borrow money to cover the gap between the cost of your education and the amount of financial aid you receive. Because alternative or private loans can have higher interest rates, may require payments while in school, and may require a cosigner, you should consider them only after you've exhausted all other sources of funding.

LOAN REPAYMENT

Visit our debt management website, YouCanDealWithIt.com, for information about repayment options, consolidation and loan forgiveness.

Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has evolved into one of the nation's leading student aid organizations. Today, PHEAA is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, financial aid processing, outreach, and other student aid programs. PHEAA's earnings are used to support its public service mission and to pay its operating costs, including administration of the Pennsylvania State Grant and other state-funded student aid programs. PHEAA continues to devote its energy, resources and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for students, families, schools, and taxpayers. PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing activities nationally as American Education Services (AES) and FedLoan Servicing.

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