

FINANCIAL
AID:
101

Welcome

Your Presenter



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Counties: Dauphin, Juniata, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry,
Schuylkill, Snyder & Union



Topics of Discussion

- Understanding the Basics
 - School choice & financial fit
 - Types & sources of Aid
- Federal & State Programs
- The Application Process
- Forms are filed- What's next?
- Resources

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Understanding the Basics

What Is Financial Aid?

PA Student Aid Guide (SAG) Pg. 5

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

Financial Aid Basics

Keep in mind:

- **Eligibility criteria may apply in order to receive/maintain financial aid**
 - Criteria varies based on type/source of aid
 - Important to understand the terms and conditions
- **Students should play an active role in the process**
 - Share goals & career plans
 - Research careers, schools and available opportunities
 - Attend college fairs, tour schools & visit their websites (check in with financial aid offices)
 - Ask for assistance, if necessary
- **Some students may not qualify for all forms of aid**
- **Must apply to be considered**



School Choice: visit collegecost.ed.gov & EducationPlanner.org

Choosing the right school:

- Courses and Class Size
- Location: City, Rural, Urban
- Student Services: Academic Advisors, tutors, etc.
- Housing: Commute, dorms, co-ed, etc.
- Campus Life: activities, clubs, sports, etc.
- **Cost**



Research: visit campuses, school websites, attend college fairs & speak with alumni

- Consider needs vs. wants
- Compare schools

The above choices will affect the cost of attendance at each school.

College Affordability & Transparency Center: [Collegecost.ed.gov](https://collegecost.ed.gov)



U.S. Department of Education

College Affordability and Transparency Center

Help

College Scorecard

info

Enter

College Navigator

info

Enter

90/10 Information

info

Enter

Net Price Calculator Center

info

Enter

Start here to find information about

- How much it costs students to attend different colleges.
- How fast those costs are going up.
- Why costs are going up.

College Affordability and Transparency List

info

Enter

State Spending Charts

info

Enter

College Financing Plan

info

Enter

Students & Parents can:

- Research schools
- Compare college costs
- Review Net price
- <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price>
- Research additional college and career ready information.

Financial Aid Basics



Cost of Attendance(COA):

Costs that the student can expect to incur during a specific academic school year

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

School costs include:

- **Tuition and fees**
- **Housing & Food**
- **Books and supplies**
- **Transportation**
- **Miscellaneous living expenses**
- **Childcare, if necessary**

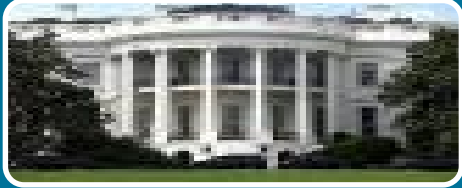
Student Aid Index (SAI)

- Used to determine eligibility for federal student aid by assessing a student's ability to pay.
- Based on information collected from the Free Application From Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

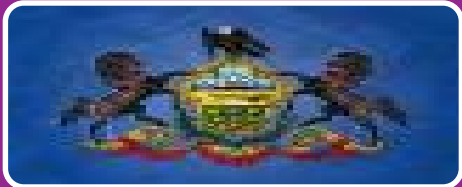
Financial Need = COA – SAI

- Schools will determine need after reviewing financial aid applications
- Schools determine aid based on need, eligibility & available funding at their schools

Sources of Aid



Federal Government (studentaid.gov)



State Government (pheaa.org)



School or College



Scholarships

Scholarships

There is something for everyone!



Postsecondary
Scholarships



Local and Regional
Scholarships

[Www.sacfoundation.com](http://www.sacfoundation.com)



National
Scholarships

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Federal & State Programs

Federal Student Aid Programs

MUST SUBMIT
FAFSA®

Visit studentaid.gov & SAG pgs.12 & 13 for details

Federal Program	Program Details	Annual Max Award *
Pell Grant	Awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need	\$7,395
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	Awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need	\$4,000
Federal Work-Study	Provides jobs for students with financial need, to earn money to help pay school expenses	Determined by School
TEACH	For students who are enrolled in programs designed to prepare them to teach in a high-need field at the elementary or secondary school level	\$3,772
Direct Loan	Federal student loan to help cover school expenses (must be repaid)	Ranges from \$5,500 to \$12,500 per year
Direct PLUS Loan	Federal <u>parent</u> student loan to help cover school expenses (must be repaid)	\$20,000 per student

*Max award amounts reviewed annually

Work-Study

- Student must have financial need to qualify for work-study
- A work-study position is not guaranteed and may even require an interview
- Not offered at all schools
- Make sure you can balance your school and work schedules



Federal Direct Loans

Visit studentaid.gov & PA SAG pgs.13 -15 for details



- Loan is in student's name
- Max. borrowing limits
- May receive a Direct **Subsidized** and/or Direct **Unsubsidized** loan
- Fixed rate: set July 1st for 1st time borrowers
- Origination fee
- Deferred payments
- Must complete the FAFSA®
- Must complete entrance counseling & MPN

Undergraduate Students		
Annual Limits	Dependent Students	Independent or dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS Loan
1 st Year	\$5,500 Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	\$9,500 Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized
2 nd Year	\$6,500 Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	\$10,500 Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized
3 rd Year and beyond	\$7,500 Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	\$12,500 Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized
Aggregate Limits	\$31,000 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	\$57,500 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized

Additional Student Loans

Visit studentaid.gov & PA SAG p.16 & p. 18 for details



Federal PLUS Loans

- Loan is in the parent's name
- Must meet credit requirements
 - May apply with a credit worthy cosigner
 - If denied, student may borrow additional unsubsidized amount
- **Max limits effective 7/1/26**
 - Borrower up to 20,000/student/AY
 - Aggregate limit \$65,000/student
- Fixed interest rate: set July 1 for 1st time borrowers
- Origination fee
- Payments may be deferred
- Student must complete the FAFSA®

Private Loans

- Borrower = student or someone else who meets the requirements (cosigner is generally required for student borrowers)
- Student or Cosigner must meet income & credit requirements
- May borrow up to the COA minus any other aid
- Variable or fixed interest rate
- May have cosigner release clauses
- **Terms vary by lender**
 - Do your research
 - Read the fine print



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

Low, Fixed Rates
3.29 – 10.45% ^{1,2} APR

Effective as of 06/5/25

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 and a repayment term of 60 months, monthly payments of \$186.52 and a final payment \$178.29, a fixed periodic interest rate of 4.77%, and total payments of \$11,183.03. The borrower in this sample qualified for a 0.25% Direct Debit benefit for the entirety of the repayment period and a 0.50% Graduation benefit was applied 47 months into repayment. The highest APR is based on the following assumptions: a loan of \$10,000 made in a single disbursement, a borrower who selected an Interest Only Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 180 months, monthly payments of \$108.07, a fixed periodic interest rate of 10.1%, and total payments of \$23,829.83. The borrower received an in-school deferment of 46 months and a grace period of 6 months. The borrower in this sample did not qualify for any interest rate discounts. These APRs are estimates and may differ from the actual rates received.

2) The provided rate range includes Undergraduate, Graduate, and Parent loans and may change based on loan type, loan term, repayment plan, and applicable discounts (not all discounts apply to all loan products). See individual loan programs for more specific information. PHEAA uses applicant credit scores to determine eligibility and interest rates. Higher credit scores may mean an applicant is offered a lower interest rate. Applicants, including co-signers, are subject to credit qualifications, completion of an application and credit agreement, and verification of application information. PHEAA reserves the right to discontinue all programs or benefits without prior notice.

Visit pheaa.org & PA SAG p.19 for details

Be a Smart Borrower

PA Student Aid Guide (SAG) Pg. 2



A free tool for calculating an affordable future

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



1 Select a Career



3 Factor in Savings



2 Select a School



4 Get Results

Pennsylvania State Aid

Visit pheaa.org & PA SAG pgs. 7-8 for details



MUST SUBMIT
FAFSA & PA
STATE GRANT
FORM

PA State Grant: 2024-25 max award \$5,750

- Awarded to eligible PA residents who demonstrate financial need
- Required: approved school/ approved program of study
- Out of State schools in DE, MA, OH, WV, VT & DC: max \$600
 - Veterans: up to \$800

Cost Tier	Minimum Award	Maximum Award
\$0 - \$13,000	\$500	\$3,059
\$13,001 - \$20,000	\$500	\$4,894
\$20,001 - \$29,000	\$500	\$5,261
\$29,001 - \$32,000	\$500	\$5,750

*Max award amounts reviewed annually

PA State Administered Programs

- PA Active Volunteer Tuition and Loan Assistance (Active Volunteer) Program
- PA Blind or Deaf Higher Education Beneficiary Grant
- Chafee Education and Training Grant Program—co-administered with the PA Department of Human Services
- PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program (FosterEd)
- PA Mental Health Education Learning Program in Schools (PA HELPS)
- Military College Educational Assistance Program
- PA National Guard Educational Assistance Grant (EAP)
- PA National Guard Military Family Education Program (MFEP)
- PA Postsecondary Educational Gratuities Program (PEGP)
- PA Partnerships for Access to Higher Education (PATH)
- PA State Work-Study - job related to major
- PA Student Loan Relief for Nurses (SLRN) Program
- PA Targeted Industry Program (PA –TIP)
- PA Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS)
- Student Teacher Support Program

Visit pheaa.org & PA SAG pgs. 9-11 for details

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The Application Process

Know Your Deadlines

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

Deadlines for the 2026-27 academic year

- Federal Deadline for FAFSA: June 30, 2027
- PA State Grant Deadlines for FAFSA
 - **May 1, 2026** – First-time and renewal students attending colleges, universities & college transferrable programs (excluding community colleges)
 - **August 1, 2026** – First-time students attending community college; a business, trade or technical schools, hospital school of nursing; Open Admissions Institutions or a 2-year non-transferrable degree program at a Jr or 4-year college.
- School Deadlines – vary (check with each school for priority filing deadline)

File the FAFSA by the earliest deadline

Financial Aid Forms

Know which forms are required by each school

All Schools Require:

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
 - Required by PHEAA, and some scholarship organizations as well
- **PA State Grant Forms**
 - Required for first -year students & some returning students
 - PA State Grant application process - www.pheaa.org
 - After filing FAFSA, look for email from PHEAA with next steps
 - Create or access PHEAA online account
 - Complete required PA State Grant forms

Some Schools Require:

- **CSS Profile** (College Scholarship Service)
- <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>
- **Institutional Financial Aid Forms**



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)

24

- **FAFSA®** - primary form to determine aid
- File annually (beginning Sr. year in high school)
- Skip logic & built-in edits
- **Free to file**
- **2026-27 FAFSA®**
 - Available October 1, 2025
 - File online at studentaid.gov
 - Available in Spanish

Be One of the First to Submit the 2026-27 FAFSA!

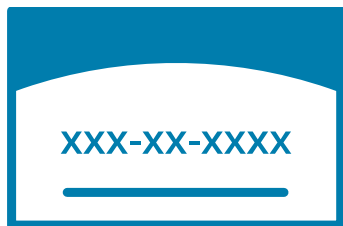
- Submit your 2026-27 FAFSA form early
- Get a head start on the financial aid process

Sign up at [StudentAid.gov/joinbeta](https://studentaid.gov/joinbeta)

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the 'Federal Student Aid' logo and links for 'FAFSA® Form', 'Grants and Loans', 'Loan Repayment', and 'Loan Forgiveness'. Below this, a main heading reads 'Get Money To Help Pay for School', followed by a subtext: 'Use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.' The central area features three main options: 'Start a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form' (with a 'Start New Form' button), 'Edit a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form' (with an 'Edit Existing Forms' button), and 'Accept an Invitation for a 2026-27 FAFSA® Form' (with an 'Accept an Invitation' button). To the right is a large 'FAFSA form' logo with an illustration of students. Below these options, a section asks 'Need the 2025-26 FAFSA Form?' with links to 'Start New Form' and 'Edit Existing Forms or Accept an Invitation'. Further down, a 'Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in' section includes dropdowns for 'School Year' and 'State of Residence', a 'Find Deadlines' button, and a link to 'View All FAFSA Deadlines'. At the bottom, three informational cards are displayed: 'Who should complete the FAFSA® form?' (stating 'Any student, regardless of income, who'), 'How long will it take?' (stating '30 minutes' and 'It takes most people 30 minutes to fill out the FAFSA form, including'), and 'What do I need?' (listing 'Verified account username and password (FSA ID)').

File online at studentaid.gov

Information Needed for 2026-27 FAFSA®



Social Security Numbers



Email Addresses
(high school email address not recommended)



2024 Federal Tax Returns



Current bank statements
and records of other
investment accounts (as of
the FAFSA® filing date)



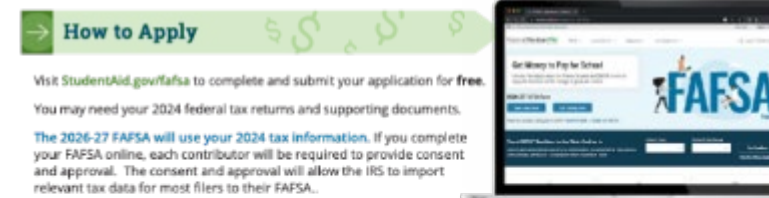
Current Records of any
stocks, bonds and other
investments, including 529
for student for whom the
FAFSA® is being completed



Total child support received
from the most recently
complete calendar year



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the most important application you must complete to qualify for almost all types of financial aid (money for school). Colleges and career schools use the FAFSA form to decide how much financial aid you qualify to receive. In Pennsylvania, we also use it to award the PA State Grant. Any student, regardless of family income, should complete a FAFSA to be considered for federal, state, and school financial aid programs.



Also Prepare...

- Your [Federal StudentAid.gov Account](https://studentaid.gov)
- Your Social Security number and alien registration number, if applicable
- Records of child support payments, including the total amount received for the last complete calendar year
- Current bank statements, records of stocks, bonds, 529 savings plans, and other investments
- List of colleges or career schools you want to include on your FAFSA
- A personal email address (not your school email)

Dependent students will also need their contributor's name and email address.

NOTE: A contributor can be a student, student's spouse, biological or adoptive parent, or stepparent.

Login

EMAIL ADDRESS OF FAFSA CONTRIBUTOR

First Name Last Name

Password Your Password

Log In

What is a Federal StudentAid.gov Account?

A Federal StudentAid.gov account is your verified account username and password. You will use the account you create at [StudentAid.gov/fsa-id](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id) to log in to and sign the FAFSA. If you are a dependent student, you and all contributors must have their own username and password.

Consent & Approval

Summary

Your consent and approval are needed to retrieve and disclose federal tax information. With your consent and approval, we can obtain tax return information automatically from the IRS to help you complete the FAFSA® form. If you don't provide consent and approval, you will not be eligible for federal student aid, including grants and loans. You must provide consent and approval even if you didn't file a U.S. federal tax return or any tax return.

- Get your 2023 tax return Information for the 2025–26 FAFSA form.
- Tax return Information Is required to complete the FAFSA form.
- Federal tax Information Is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

Select "Approve" to provide consent and approval for the use of your federal tax information to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. If you select "Decline," you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

Previous

Decline

Approve



We're securely importing your information.



Success!

We have confirmed your information with the IRS, but you may have to answer additional questions in the Finances section. Select "Continue" to proceed.

Previous

Continue

Consent and approval: required to retrieve & disclose federal tax information.

Create Your StudentAid.gov Account

Students, parents & borrowers must have a StudentAid.gov account to:

- Start the FAFSA® form online
- Electronically sign & submit the FAFSA
- Apply for a federal student loan
- Review federal student aid received
 - Parents- If married and filed a joint return, only one needs an account.
 - <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account>
- Users without an SSN will be able to acquire a StudentAid.gov Account.



FAFSA® Steps

Key sections on the 26-27 FAFSA®



- Onboarding steps, wizards and help tools to guide students & contributors
- Student completes all sections
- Contributors (parents) complete three sections:
 - Demographics
 - Financials
 - Signature
- After all required data has been provided and all sections have been signed, the student or contributor can submit the FAFSA form

Personal Circumstances



Demographics



Financials



Colleges



Contributor Invite



Signature

Student's Dependency Status

- Born before January 1, 2003
- Married (and not separated)
- Veteran (includes active-duty personnel)
- Working on graduate level degree
- ☐ Emancipated minor
- ☐ Legal guardianship
- ☐ Anytime since the age of 13 has been either:
 - ☐ An orphan,
 - ☐ In foster care
 - ☐ Ward of the court
- ☐ Have legal dependents other than spouse
- ☐ Student unaccompanied and homeless or self-supporting and at risk of being homeless

Dependent – parental
information needed

or

Independent - Parental
information is NOT
needed

Dependent Students- Who Reports Info on the 2026-27 FAFSA®?

Student and legal parent(s)

- Dependent students can use the new Who's my FAFSA Parent? wizard to determine which parent(s) will be a required contributor on the FAFSA.
- Scan QR code or visit website listed below to access the Parent Wizard



<https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents>

Dependent Student Invites Parent

The student is asked to invite a parent contributor.

- The student enters parent's email address and sends invite.
- The parent receives an invitation code via email and on their studentaid.gov dashboard
- The parent enters code to complete their section of FAFSA

Personal Circumstances Demographics Financials Colleges **Contributor Invite** Signature

Invite Your Parent to This FAFSA® Form

To determine your student aid eligibility, we need more information on your household financial situation. You'll need to invite a contributor to provide this information.

As a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent as a contributor. You only need to invite one parent. We may ask them to invite their spouse or partner.

[Who counts as a parent on the FAFSA form?](#)

Parent

Invite a Parent Contributor

Email

?

Send Invite

Previous Continue

FAFSA® – Colleges Section

Colleges Section:

- Only schools listed will receive results of FAFSA®
- Don't have to have applied/been accepted to list school
- List up to 20 schools
- May add schools later

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

The screenshot shows the FAFSA 2026-27 interface for Student Alex Tran. At the top, the FAFSA logo and form year are displayed. A progress bar indicates the current step is 'Colleges' (step 4), with previous steps (Personal Circumstances, Demographics, Financials) completed and subsequent steps (Contributor Invite, Signature) pending. The main heading asks 'Where should we send the FAFSA® information?' and instructs the user to 'Add at least one college or career school now.' It also states that schools can be added or removed before or after submission, with a note that up to 20 schools can be listed. Below this, a green box shows '0 out of 20 schools selected' with a 'View Selected Schools' link. A search section includes a dropdown for 'Search by State' (currently set to 'California (CA)') and a text input for 'Enter School Code'. A blue 'Search' button is positioned below the input fields. At the bottom, 'Previous' and 'Continue' navigation buttons are visible.

Financial Information:



Income: 2024 income required on the 2026-27 FAFSA

If required to report assets:

- Do not report the value of:
 - Primary home
 - Qualified retirement funds
 - Life insurance policies
 - Small business if less than 100 employees
 - Family farms
- Report the net value of assets, as of the day you are completing the FAFSA®.
 - Balance of checking & savings accounts, records of stocks, bonds, bitcoins, etc.
 - 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 completed calendar year
 - Net Worth of your business (over 100 employees)

Signing with the FSA ID

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) website, illustrating the signing process for a student.

Top Screenshot: Shows the FAFSA 2024-25 Student Page. The progress bar indicates the 'Sign' step is active. The main heading is 'Sign and Complete Your Part'. A summary box states: 'This page confirms that you have filled in your part of the FAFSA form. The FAFSA form is not complete until all required contributors have signed.' Below this, a list of items to be signed is shown.

Middle Screenshot: Shows the 'You're Almost There! The Student Section is complete!' message. It highlights the 'Parent Contributors' section, stating: 'Requirements for Dependent Students: Your FAFSA form is not complete until your parents complete the contributor section of the form and sign it. Once completed, your FAFSA form will be submitted for processing.' It lists the names of the parent contributors: 'Alaina Tran' and 'Thao Tran'.

Bottom Screenshot: Shows the 'Congratulations, the FAFSA Form is Complete!' message. It displays the student's name 'Raya Tran' and the completion date '10/12/2024'. Below this, a section titled 'What Happens Next' outlines the next steps: 'Email sent: Confirms that the student received an email overview of this page.', 'The Student Will Receive Notification of Processing: In one to three days, the student will receive a notification by email that their FAFSA form was processed and sent to the student's school.', and 'The Student Will Receive School Communications: We use the information submitted on the FAFSA form to notify your school, the Department of Education (DOE), and the State Department of Education (SDE). The SDE will notify the school if the student is eligible to receive federal aid. Schools will reach out to the student if they need more information. They will also contact the student with information and offers. Once processed, the student can contact their school's aid office directly to ask questions about their student aid package.' At the bottom, there is a 'Track and Manage the Student's FAFSA Form' section with a 'View Status' button.

- FAFSA® must be signed by Student & all required contributors before it is considered complete.
- If parent submits the FAFSA®, then student will receive an email and can access the detailed confirmation page.
- If Student submits the FAFSA®, then they will have a different view of the confirmation page than the parent.

Special Circumstances

If things change...

- Recent death or disability
 - Reduced income/Unemployment
 - Tuition expenses at secondary schools
 - Unusual medical or dental expenses
-
- **Contact schools listed on FAFSA: Only a school can change a FAFSA based on your circumstances**
 - **Contact PHEAA for the PA State Grant (800-692-7392)**



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Forms are Filed...What's Next?

FAFSA Submission Summary



After the FAFSA® is filed:

- Student receives FAFSA® Submission Summary
 - Review for errors, make corrections if necessary
 - Share with scholarship organizations, if requested
- Monitor emails & respond to requests from Federal Student Aid, PHEAA & schools.
- Results shared with PHEAA & schools listed on FAFSA®

The screenshot shows the FAFSA Submission Summary page for student Raya Tran. The page header includes the FAFSA logo and the title 'FAFSA Submission Summary'. Below the header, there is a section for student information and application details. The main content area is titled 'Your Estimated Federal Student Aid' and lists three types of aid: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct Loans, and Federal Work-Study. Each aid type has a description and an estimated amount. To the right of the aid list, there is a button to 'View All of Your Federal Student Aid in One Place'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Find the Right College or Career School' with a button to 'Visit College Scorecard'. A disclaimer at the bottom states that the amounts shown are only estimates and that the student should refer to their school's financial aid offer for a final determination.

FAFSA[®] FORM 2025-26 FAFSA Submission Summary

Student Raya Tran Application Received Sept 11, 2024 Application Processed Jan. 16th, 2024 Data Release Number 1234 Viewing: Submission 1

Eligibility Overview FAFSA Form Answers School Information **Next Steps**

Your Estimated Federal Student Aid

Federal Pell Grant A Federal Pell Grant is awarded to undergraduate students who have financial need and who have not earned a degree or are in a teacher certification program. Federal Pell Grants don't need to be repaid.	Up to \$4,556
Federal Direct Loans A federal direct loan is money lent to you by the government to you that you must repay with interest.	Up to \$4,556
Federal Work-Study Federal Work-Study is a way for students to earn money to pay for school through part-time jobs on or off campus.	You May Be Eligible

Amounts shown here are only estimates of federal student aid based on full-time enrollment and the average cost of attendance. Your school will determine how much student aid to offer you, which may include additional aid from your school or state.

[Learn more about financial aid](#)

Keep in mind, this is only an estimate
Always refer to your school's financial aid offer for a final determination of financial aid available.

View All of Your Federal Student Aid in One Place
View detailed information about your federal loan and grant aid, including your enrollment history, payment history, and subsidized usage.
[Visit My Aid](#)

Find the Right College or Career School
Use College Scorecard to compare schools by size, location, graduation rate, and more.
[Visit College Scorecard](#)

Review Financial Aid Notices Carefully

- Notices vary amongst schools
- Presented by the school(s) and typically includes:
 - Types and amounts of aid
 - Source of aid (federal, state or school)
 - Student's rights and responsibilities & academic requirements
 - Explains what must be done to accept or reject aid
- Contact the school's financial aid office with questions

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

Sample Award Letter

Financial Aid		\$39,945
GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS		
	Fall	Spring
Faculty Scholarship	\$10,000	\$10,000
Federal Pell Grant	\$1,320	\$1,320
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)	\$400	\$400
LOANS		
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$4,150	\$4,150
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$1,000	\$1,000

Estimated Cost of Attendance			\$61,826
DIRECT BILLABLE COSTS			
	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
Fees	\$100	\$100	\$200
Room/Boarding	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$8,000
Books/Meal Plan	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
INDIRECT COSTS			
Books/Supplies	\$200	\$200	\$400
Transportation	\$125	\$125	\$250
Other Educational Costs	\$175	\$175	\$350

Total Estimated Balance\$21,881

ESTIMATED MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

\$2,188

10 payments per year

\$1,823

12 payments per year

VIEW PAYMENT PLAN

METHODS OF PAYMENT

Resources to Pay Your Balance

ACCEPTING YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD

Log into our website and accept, decline or partially accept your financial aid award.

WORK STUDY		Fall	Spring	Total
Federal/Institutional Study		\$1,250	\$1,250	\$2,500

PAYMENT PLAN

We offer 10 and 12 monthly payment plans. Payment plans are calculated by semester and subject to change. You need to sign up for a payment plan each semester.

*Funds from any position or account related to this institution please contact the financial aid office.



Compare & Understand Financial Aid Offers

Do you understand your aid offers?

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?

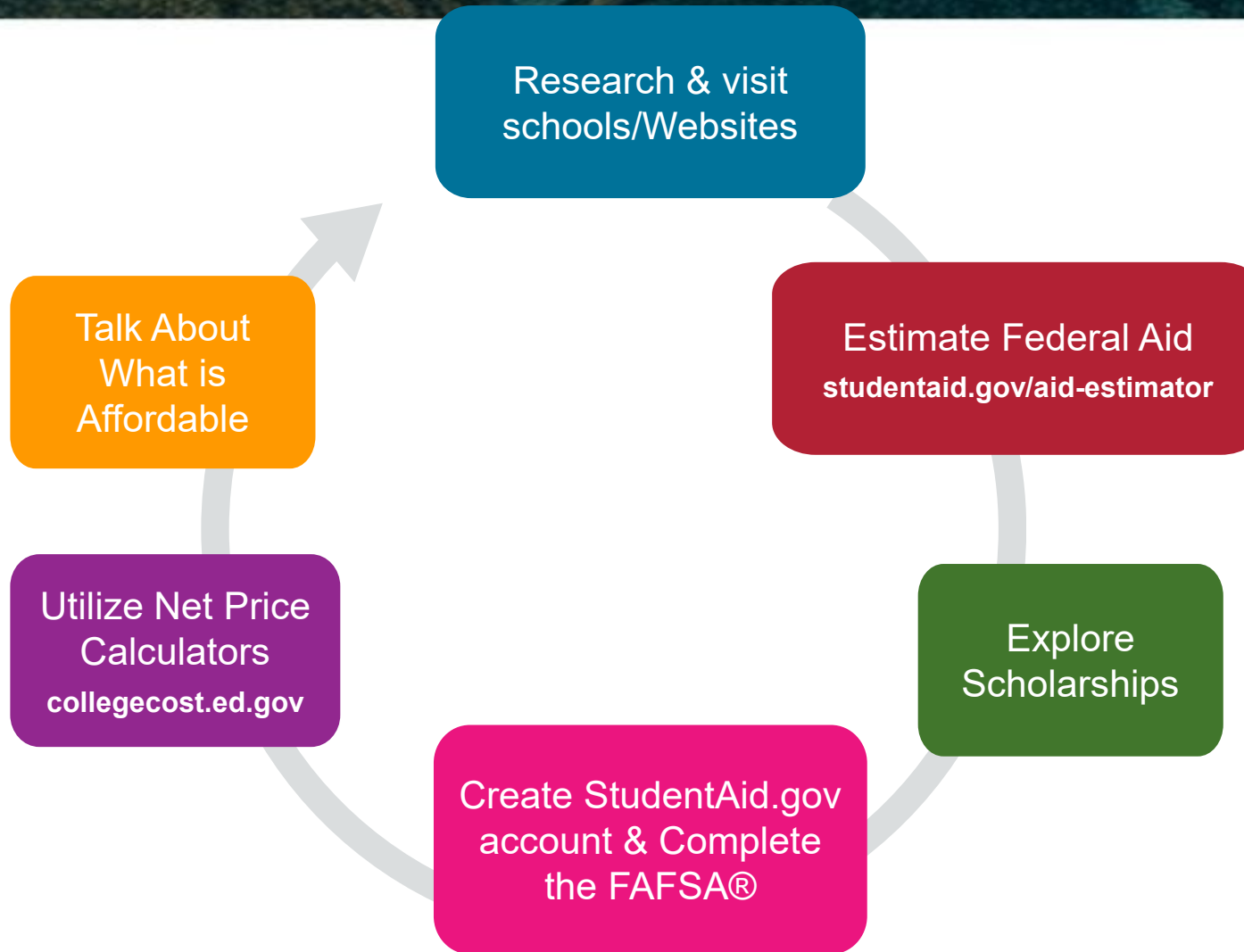


Ways to Reduce Your Costs

- Find the right school & major
- Graduate on time
- Commute
- Earn college credits in high school
- Select a more affordable meal plan
- **APPLY for FINANCIAL AID!**



What Can You Do Now?



FINANCIAL
AID:
101

Resources

Need assistance with the FAFSA?

Federal Student Aid Information Center

- Email, call or chat with customer service agents
- Phone: 800-433-3242 (800-4-FED AID)
- Website [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- YouTube – [Federal Student Aid Channel](#)

— Financial aid offices

- Attend a FAFSA Completion Workshop
 - Check with your local High School
 - Visit PHEAA.org for additional sessions

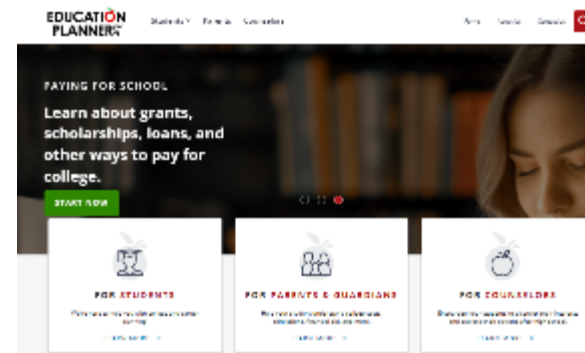
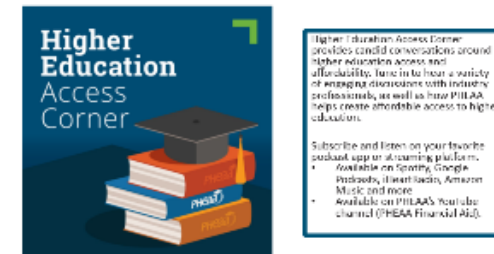
The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'FAFSA® Form', 'Loans and Grants', 'Loan Repayment', and 'Loan Forgiveness'. There are also links for 'Log In' and 'Create Account'. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the text 'How can we help?' and a 'Search' button. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'Browse Help Topics' and contains six items: 'Getting Started' (understand the aid process and who's eligible), 'Managing Your Account' (review your aid amounts, manage payments, and update your personal information), 'Completing the FAFSA® Form' (get tips on how to fill out the FAFSA® form and browse other common FAFSA topics), 'Repaying Loans' (find the right repayment plan, learn about loan forgiveness, and find help if you can't afford your payments), 'Types of Aid' (learn about types of aid including grants, work-study, loans, and scholarships), and 'Glossary' (understand terms and definitions related to student aid). The right column is titled 'Most Common Questions' and contains six numbered questions with links to answers: 1. How do I apply for an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan?, 2. How do I apply for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)?, 3. How much money can I get from a Federal Pell Grant?, 4. How do I find scholarships?, 5. How do I complete entrance counseling?, and 6. How do I apply for a PLUS loan?.

Financial Aid Resources

- **Federal Student Aid Information Center**
 - Email, call or chat with customer service agents
 - Phone: 800-433-3242 (800-4-FED AID)
 - Websites: [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) & collegecost.ed.gov
- **PHEAA**
 - Email: granthelp@pheaa.org
 - Phone: 800-692.7392
 - Podcast: [Higher Education Access Corner](https://www.pheaa.org/podcast)
 - Website: [PHEAA.org](https://www.pheaa.org)
 - [MySmartBorrowing.org](https://www.mysmartborrowing.org)
 - [Educationplanner.org](https://www.educationplanner.org)
 - [Youcandeaalwithit.com](https://www.youcandeaalwithit.com)
 - YouTube Channel: [PHEAASStudentAid](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPHEAAStudentAid)
- **Financial Aid Offices**



Higher Education Access Corner Podcast



Stay Up to Date with PHEAA

Sign up for more
information on our
programs and services!



Scan the QR to sign up!

PHEAA Resources

- Email: granthelp@pheaa.org
- Phone: 800-692.7392
- Podcast: [Higher Education Access Corner](#)
 - Available on Spotify, Amazon Music, iHeartRadio & YouTube
- Website: PHEAA.org
 - MySmartBorrowing.org
 - Educationplanner.org
- YouTube Channel: [PHEAAStudentAid](#)

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Questions?