

FINANCIAL AID WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT
CHELTENHAM HS

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Introduction

- What is Financial Aid
- Sources of Financial Aid
- The Application Process
- Comparing Aid Offers
- Financing Alternatives
- Helpful Websites



WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial Aid are funds to assist students and families to help pay for postsecondary education. In forms of:

- **Grants** (household income, US Poverty guidelines)
 - Federal
 - State
- **Scholarships**
 - College/University
 - Outside (organization, church, employer, high school, banks)
- **Loans**
 - Federal Direct
 - Private



Merit-Based Aid vs. Need-Based Aid

Merit-Based Scholarships = based on students' merit (academic record, skills/talents, involvement, special characteristics), does not have to be paid back, usually renewable from year to year

Need-Based Grants = awarded based on financial need (information from the FAFSA) Re-evaluated each year as financial situations may change.

EMPLOYMENT = an opportunity to make money thru working hours at a job on campus (includes Federal Work Study or Institutional budget-based jobs)

DIRECT LOANS = available to all students regardless of need, in the student's name (no credit check), variable-fixed interest rate (reset each year in July), repayment begins 6 months following graduation



Federal Direct Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

Federal Direct Subsidized

- Based on financial need and offers a reduced fixed interest rate and flexible repayment terms
- interest does not accrue on loan while student is enrolled

Unsubsidized

- Available to ALL students, regardless of need
- Interest accrues when loan is disbursed; however can paid while student is in school

Payments

- Of your principal does not begin until six months after graduation
- Provided the student remains enrolled on at least a half-time (6 credits) basis.

Variable-fixed interest rate

- Meaning, the rate will be set each year in July
- Various Repayment Option (speak with the loan provider)

Parent Plus Loan

- credit-worthy parents of dependent students
 - *Can obtain an endorser when needed*
- Repayment begins within 60 days of the second disbursement
- Deferments are available upon request for up to four years while the student is enrolled as an undergraduate
- Maximum borrowing – \$20,000 per year with a 4 year cap of \$65,000 (effective July 1, 2016)

Loan Limits and Aggregate

Maximum annual loan limits based on grade level for **dependent undergraduate students** are as follows

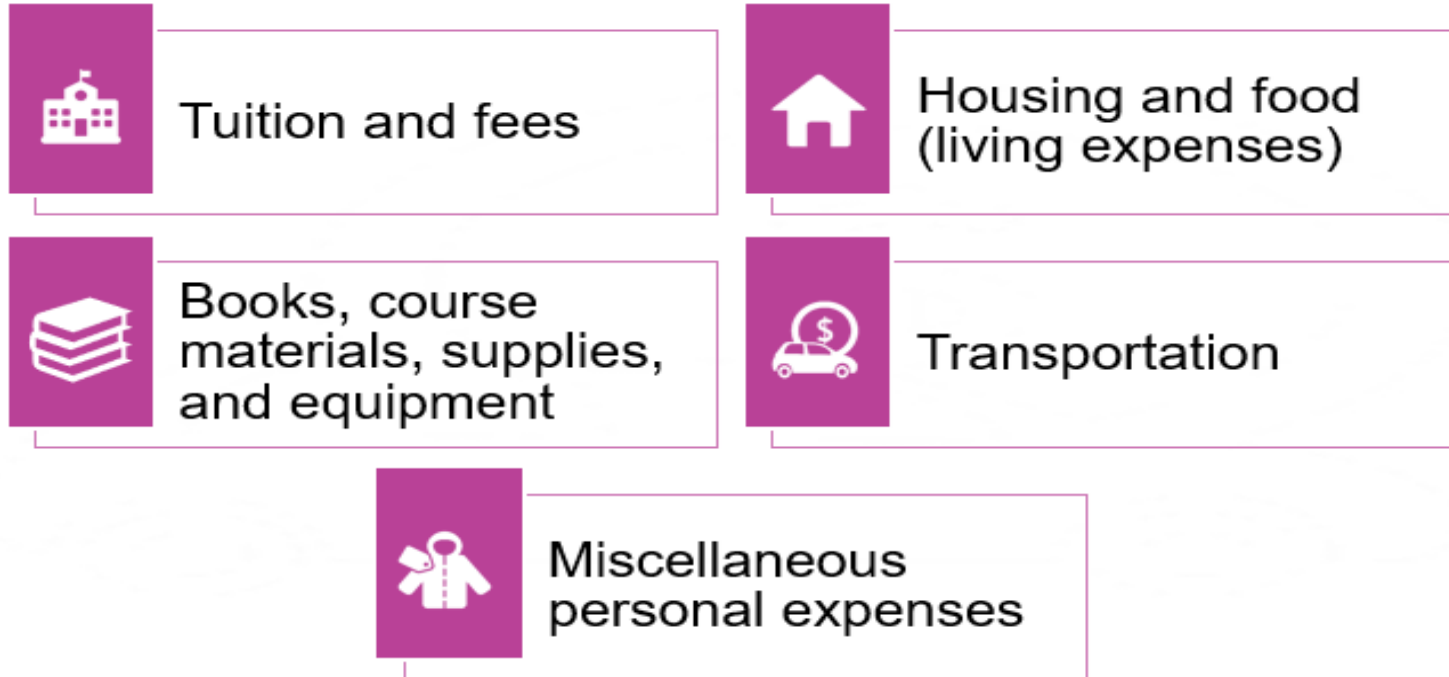
Credits Completed	Maximum Subsidized	Unsubsidized	Total
0-26	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
27-56	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
57+	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500

Maximum annual loan limits per grade level for **independent undergraduate students or for dependent undergraduate students whose parents are denied on the Federal Direct PLUS Loan** are as follows:

Credits Completed	Maximum Subsidized	Unsubsidized	Total
0-26	\$3,500	\$6,000	\$9,500
27-56	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,500
57+	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500

Cost Of Attendance

(COA)





Are You Ready!!

ARCADIA
UNIVERSITY

Application Process

FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Information will be sent to the Dept. of Ed for processing then to all the schools listed on the form (up to 20 schools), and the State

- Opens October 1st

- FAFSA on the Web** –preferred method
(also available by paper and in Spanish)

- o Built in skip logic to streamline the application
- o Electronic signature & consent for both the student & parent(s)

State Grant aka PHEAA

Student will receive activation link email to complete State Grant application from noreply@grantus.pheaa.org (very important not to miss the May 1st deadline)

grantus.pheaa.org/StudentAid
(to access account after setup)

Where do I go to apply?

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Filing the FAFSA – Password (FSA ID)

Apply for an FSA ID:

- FSA ID – is a username and password used to complete the FAFSA
- the student & contributor will need a FSA ID



Use your legal name as it appears on your Social Security card. Do NOT use a nickname on the FAFSA.

What to look for:

Common Student Errors

- **Grade level**
- **Name or Date of Birth**
- **“Yes” to Bachelor’s Degree Earned**

Student School Year

What year will the student be in college when they start their classes for the 2027–28 school year? ⓘ

☒ First (freshman)

☐ Second (sophomore)

☐ Third or higher (junior and up)

☐ Graduate-level (such as a master’s or doctorate)

Student Holds Bachelor’s Degree

Will the student already have a bachelor’s degree when they start their college classes for the 2027–28 school year? ⓘ

☐ Yes

☒ No

FOIA

Real Time
Identity
Verification

Direct Data Exchange (DDX)- Granting Consent

Contributor(s) must
consent for
Department of
Education to use
their FTI

Includes
authorization to
disclose FTI to
institutions, state
agencies and other
scholarship
organizations

Only Department of
Education may
obtain consent

Consent *cannot* be
revoked during aid
year

Complete Your Section of Raya's FAFSA Form



Alicia,

Raya T. started their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and added you as a contributor. Raya won't be eligible for federal student aid without your input.

Login or create an account on StudentAid.gov.

Accept Invitation

Provide this code when prompted:

88R4U7T

1 Why You Were Invited

We need some information from you to determine what aid Raya is eligible for. Being a contributor doesn't mean you are financially responsible for Raya's education costs.

The FAFSA form is used to determine a student's eligibility for financial aid including:

- Federal Pell Grants
- federal student loans
- state financial aid
- school financial aid

2 Don't Recognize Raya?

If you believe this invitation was sent in error or don't want to participate, **decline the invitation.**

Inviting Contributor

(there will be pop-ups along the way to help explain who is a contributor)

Invite a Parent as a Contributor

A contributor is anyone who's required to provide information on your FAFSA form. In this section, you must invite a legal parent. A legal parent is a biological or adoptive parent as determined by the state.

So, keep in mind the following:

- If your stepparent or legal guardian has legally adopted you, you can invite them to your form.
- If your legal parent is married to someone who hasn't legally adopted you, don't invite them to your form. When your legal parent fills out their section, they will invite them to your form if needed.



Who should I invite as a parent on the FAFSA form?

Previous

Continue

FAFSA®

Form 2027-28

Student Base Year

100% Free

100% Free

Background Information | Eligibility Information | Financial Information | Review & Sign

Invite One Parent to This FAFSA® Form

You'll need to invite one parent only because we need more information about your household financial situation to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

If a dependent student, you need to invite a legal parent or a stepparent.

Who should I invite as a parent on the FAFSA form?

Parent

Invite a Parent Contributor

First

Save

Previous

Continue

Log In

Email Address or Username

alicia.tan

Forgot email address or username?

Continue

Log In

alicia.tan

Password

Show

Forgot password?

Log In

← FAFSA Homepage

Accept 2027-28 FAFSA® Invitation

Enter the code you received for the FAFSA form.

Invitation Code

8BR4U7T

Accept Invite

How long will this take?

8 min

Why We Need Your Information

Your part is needed to finish the student's FAFSA Form. It lets us determine if the student qualifies for federal grants, work-study jobs, and/or loans.

Don't have an invitation code?

Speak with the person who invited you to the form and ensure they have sent it to your email. Check your inbox for your invitation code.

Compare Financial Aid Offers

Different schools have different resources, so financial aid offers can vary greatly from school to school. There are several components of a financial aid offer you should consider:

- Direct costs are billed to you by the school
- Indirect costs (expenses not paid directly to the institution, including rent for off-campus housing and payments for food outside a meal plan)
- Scholarships and grants, referred to as gift aid (some schools stack, some schools reduce institutional aid)
- Loans and work-study, also referred to as self-help aid,
- Out-of-pocket costs remaining after subtracting offered aid from the total cost of attendance
- Student consumer information and disclosures (such as graduation and transfer-out rates)

(Financial aid offers usually only cover one academic year at a time, and amounts offered may change from year to year. Check the school's website or publications, for more information)

Important Websites

<https://studentaid.gov/>

<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

<https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>

<https://www.grantus.pheaa.org>
(formally pheaa.org)

<https://www.arcadia.edu/admissions/financial-aid-scholarships/net-price-calculator>

<https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price>

<http://www.educationplanner.org/>

<https://www.fastweb.com/>

<https://www.collegexpress.com/>

<https://www.collegeboard.org/>

<https://www.scholarships.com/>

<https://www.salliemae.com/scholarships/search/>

<https://sites.google.com/arcadia.edu/aufaoutsidescholarships/home/undergraduate-scholarships>

https://www.youtube.com/@Hey_Sallie

<https://mikeroweworks.org/scholarship/>

Financing Alternatives

Interest-free payment plan: through College/University
Budget any portion of out-of-pocket cost over equal monthly payments or sign up for a one-semester plan.
Annual application fee

Alternative Student Loans:

- Students are primary borrower
- Credit-worthy cosigner typically required
- Variable interest rate (based on PRIME or LIBOR)
- Various repayment options and incentives
- Can borrow up to the annual cost of attendance minus other aid

Visit **<https://www.arcadia.edu/admissions/financial-aid-scholarships/financing-options>**

**THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
GIVETH**

A cartoon illustration of a man with spiky orange hair, wide eyes, and an open mouth in a state of shock or surprise. He is wearing a red jacket and holding a large stack of green US dollar bills in his right hand. The background is a simple light blue wall.

**THE BURSAR OFFICE
TAKETH AWAY**

Thank You!