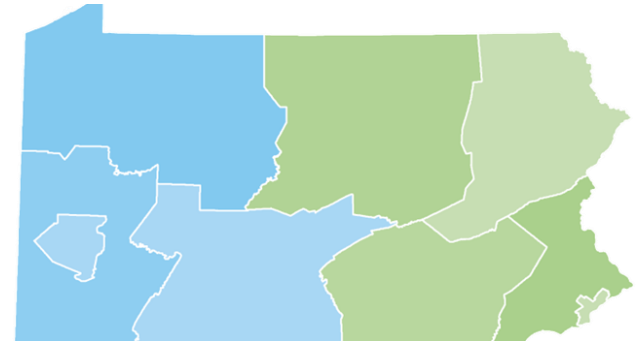


Financial Aid 101

Welcome



Your Presenter



Jonathan Warner

Higher Education Access Partner

PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

717-678-9695

jonathan.warner@pheaa.org

Assisting Fayette, Greene, Washington, &
Westmoreland Counties

Topics



- Determining Affordability
- Applying for Financial Aid
- Scholarships
- Financial Aid Programs
- What happens after I file the FAFSA
- Final Thoughts & Wrap Up

Financial Aid 101

Determining Affordability



Higher Education Choices

There are many different types of higher education opportunities to choose from including:

- Colleges and Universities
- Community Colleges
- Hospital Schools of Nursing
- Trade and Technical Schools





Factors in Choosing a School

- Location
- Size
- Job Placement
- Graduation Rate
- Student Life
- **Financial Fit**
- Major/academic program
- Safety
- Acceptance of transfer credits/AP classes



Cost of Attendance

Direct Costs – What you are billed for:

- **Tuition**
- **Fees**
- **Residence hall**
- **Meal plan**

Other expenses to consider:

- **Books and Supplies**
- Living Expenses**
- Transportation**



The Rule for Student Loan Borrowing

Don't borrow more to get your education than you can reasonably expect to make during your very first year in the workforce.

(Recommendation from the National Endowment for Financial Education, nefe.org)

My Smart Borrowing



A free tool for calculating an affordable future

Are You A SMART Borrower?

Answer a few simple questions and see how your college and career choices could affect your financial future.

► FIND OUT NOW



A free tool for calculating an affordable future



TRASH

1



COPY



Career



College



Family Contribution



Results



Net Price Calculator

Provides an estimate of how much FREE Money in the form of grants and scholarships the student may be eligible for at the school based on similar student information in the previous year.

- All schools are required to have a net price calculator on their website
- Available on collegecost.ed.gov



Ways to Reduce Your Costs

- Graduate on time
- Research the right major
- Commute
- Earn college credits in high school
- Start at a Community College
- Check with your employer



Financial Aid 101



Applying for Financial Aid



What is Financial Aid?

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



Free Money

Grants/ Scholarships



Earned Money

Work-Study, Savings Accounts



Borrowed Money

Loans

Funding Sources



Federal Government



State Government



School or College



Scholarships

Start with the Forms

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- » Required by ALL Schools, PHEAA and some scholarship organizations
- » Required every year attending

STATE GRANT FORM (SGF) through PHEAA

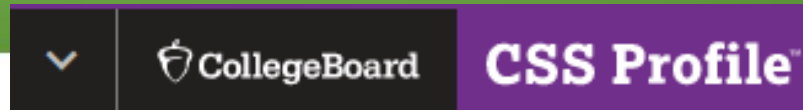
- » Required first year for all students

Some schools require additional forms:

- **Institutional Financial Aid Forms** - through a specific school

KNOW WHAT FORMS EACH SCHOOL REQUIRES

CSS Profile



- College Scholarship Service Profile
- Created/Maintained by the College Board
- Required at some Institutions & Scholarship Organizations – 400 Across the US
- Used in Addition to the FAFSA, not a Replacement
- Used to Award Need Based & Institutional Aid
- CSS Profile Costs \$25.00 + \$16.00 for Additional Schools for domestic undergraduate students whose family income is \$100,001 or more – A Waiver May be Available for Domestic Students

CSS PROFILE = College Scholarship Service

CSS PROFILE Schools in Pennsylvania – Domestic Students

(As of 8/22/2023)

- Bryn Mawr College
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Curtis Institute of Music
- Dickinson College
- Drexel University
- Duquesne University
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Gettysburg College
- Haverford College
- Kutztown University
- Lafayette College
- Lehigh University
- St. Tikhons Orthodox Theological Seminary
- Swarthmore College
- Univ of Penn: Law School
- Univ of Penn: Perelman Sch of Med
- Univ of Pennsylvania
- Univ of Pittsburgh: Sch of Med
- Villanova University

<https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatingInstitutions.aspx>

Know your deadlines



Federal Deadlines

- Apply anytime after October 1 in the year prior to when you will attend school (2024-25: December 31, 2023 to 6/30/25)

School Deadlines (CSS Profile & Institutional Applications)

- vary, check with school or websites

PA State Grant Deadlines for FAFSA

- **May 1, 2024** - First-time and renewal students attending colleges, universities & college transferrable programs (excluding community colleges)
- **August 1, 2024** – 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

Free Application for Federal Student Aid - FAFSA

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- The FAFSA is the primary federal form used to apply for financial aid
- Must file a FAFSA each year a student attends school
- File online – Fast, Secure, SKIP LOGIC and Built-in Edits

Studentaid.gov



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) website homepage. At the top, the navigation bar includes the "FederalStudentAid" logo, links for "FAFSA", "Loans & Grants", "Repayment", and "Loan Forgiveness", along with a search icon and "Log In | Create Account" links. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "Get Money To Help Pay for School" and a subtext explaining the FAFSA form. Below this, there are buttons for "Start New Form" and "Edit Existing Form" for the "2024-25 FAFSA® Form". A section titled "Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in" provides information on state-specific deadlines and includes dropdown menus for "School Year" and "State of Residence". A "Find Deadlines" button and a link to "View All FAFSA Deadlines" are also present. The bottom of the page contains a disclaimer about the impact of missing state deadlines on federal student aid eligibility.

FAFSA – 5 Sections

1. Personal Circumstances
2. Demographics
3. Financials
4. Colleges
5. Signature

The screenshot displays the FAFSA 2024-25 application interface. At the top, the 'Federal Student Aid' logo is visible, along with navigation links for 'FAFSA', 'Loans & Grants', 'Repayment', and 'Loan Forgiveness'. Below this, the 'FAFSA FORM 2024-25' title is shown, accompanied by a 'Student Raya Tran' profile icon. A progress bar at the bottom indicates the current section, with five steps: 1. Personal Circumstances (highlighted), 2. Demographics, 3. Financials, 4. Colleges, and 5. Signature.

FAFSA Completion Tips

Create Your FSA ID Account

WHO NEEDS AN FSA ID?

- Student
- The student's spouse if married filing separate tax return
- A biological or adoptive parent; and
- The spouse of the remarried parent who is on the FAFSA - if separate tax returns were filed
- Unmarried biological parents of the dependent student
- Both parents if married filing separate returns
- Each parent of a dependent student if neither filed a tax return
- Independent student and if married spouse, if neither filed a tax return

Username

Password

Social Security
Number

Email Address

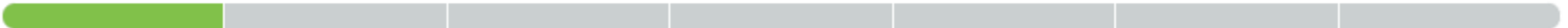
Mobile Number

Security Questions

Create Your FSA ID Account

- Create Your FSA ID Account **AT** **LEAST** 4 days **PRIOR** to starting the FAFSA!!!

Create an Account (FSA ID)



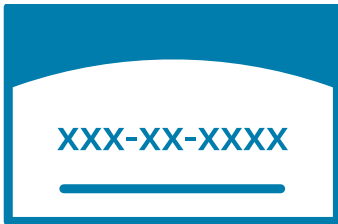
FAFSA Contributors

- The 2024-25 FAFSA will have members who will contribute their information to the FAFSA.
- Additionally, students will need to "invite" their contributors to complete their portion of the FAFSA.
- To invite contributors, students will need contributors First Name, Last Name, Social Security Numbers, Dates of Birth, and E-mail addresses.



2024-2025 FAFSA Prep

Information Needed for FAFSA



**Social Security
Numbers – Student &
Parent**



**Student & Parent
Federal Student Aid
Account (FSA ID)**



Email Addresses



**2022 Federal Income
Tax Returns and ALL
W-2's – Student &
Parent**



**2022 Untaxed Income –
Student & Parent –
EXCEPT untaxed Social
Security Benefits**



Parent Current Assets



Student Current Assets

What is considered an asset?

Current value at time of filing the FAFSA:

Cash	Stocks	Certificates of Deposit
Checking	Bonds	Net Value of Real Estate
Savings	Investments	
Mutual Funds	529 Plans	

Farm Value – If primary residence is on the farm, assess the value of residence and subtract from the value of the property to obtain value of farm.

Business value

Not reported on FAFSA

Value of Primary home



Value of qualified retirement accounts

Value of life insurance policies

Login



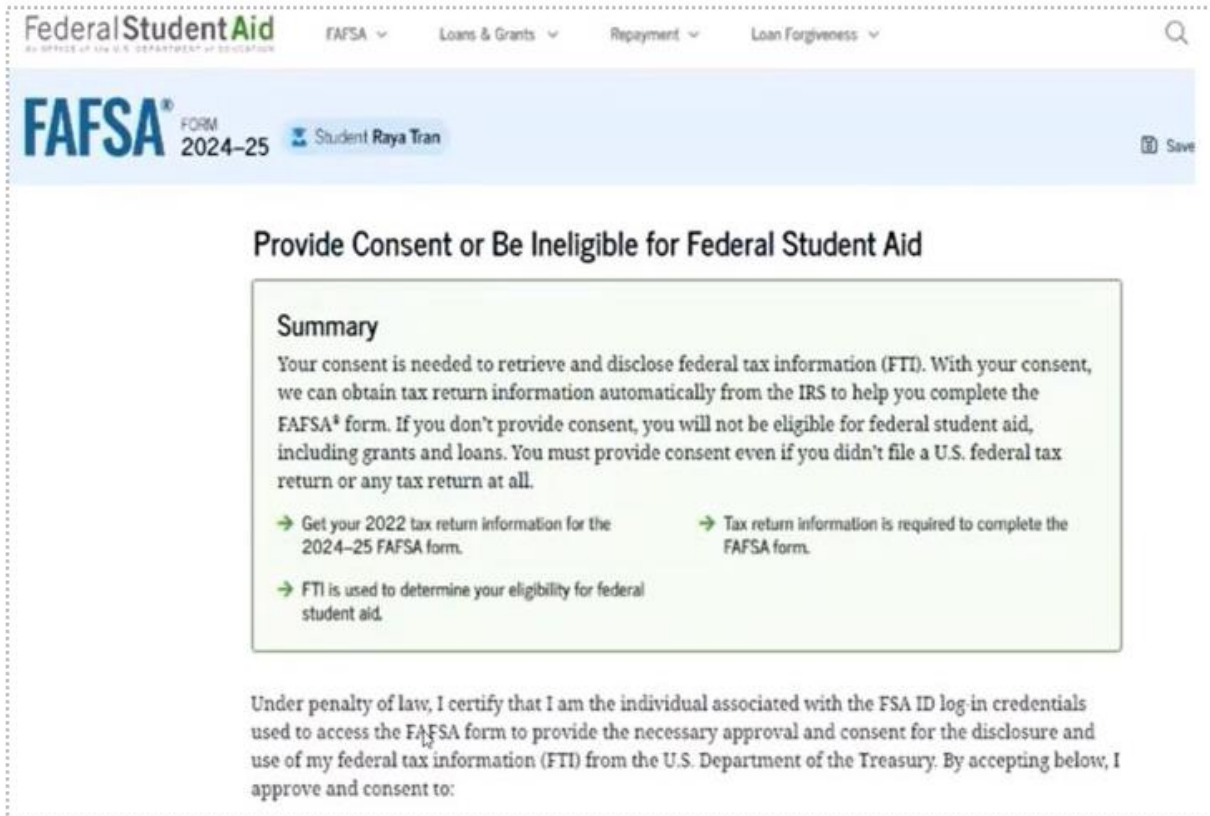
I am starting the FAFSA form as a

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Student 	<input type="radio"/> Parent 
--	--

The FAFSA asks who is logging in—the **STUDENT** or **PARENT**?

Remember: A FSA Account (formerly FSA ID) is required to be created prior to beginning the FAFSA

Providing Consent



FederalStudentAid
By OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

FAFSA ▾ Loans & Grants ▾ Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾

FAFSA[®] FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran Save

Provide Consent or Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

Summary

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

- Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024-25 FAFSA form.
- Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.
- FTI is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

Under penalty of law, I certify that I am the individual associated with the FSA ID log-in credentials used to access the FAFSA form to provide the necessary approval and consent for the disclosure and use of my federal tax information (FTI) from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. By accepting below, I approve and consent to:

A Consent button must be selected by the **student** and **all required contributors**.

IRS Direct Data Exchange

- Students and contributors can transfer IRS tax return income directly into the FAFSA
- The IRS Direct Data Exchange may not work if the student and contributors:
 - » Don't consent to have tax information transferred
 - » Are married and file a separate return from their spouses
 - » Are married and file as Head of Household
 - » FAFSA marital status doesn't match the PPY IRS tax status
 - » Are flagged due to Identity theft
 - » Filed a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return

Personal Circumstances

- A series of student questions to determine if parental contributor data is required
- **DEPENDENT**—include parental data
- PROVISIONAL INDEPENDENT
 - If they cannot provide parent info—May be considered as a Provisionally Independent student and would need to work with the financial aid office to certify. This would only need to be done their first year of attendance (assuming they don't transfer to another school).
- **INDEPENDENT**—just student data
 - Most answers require verification

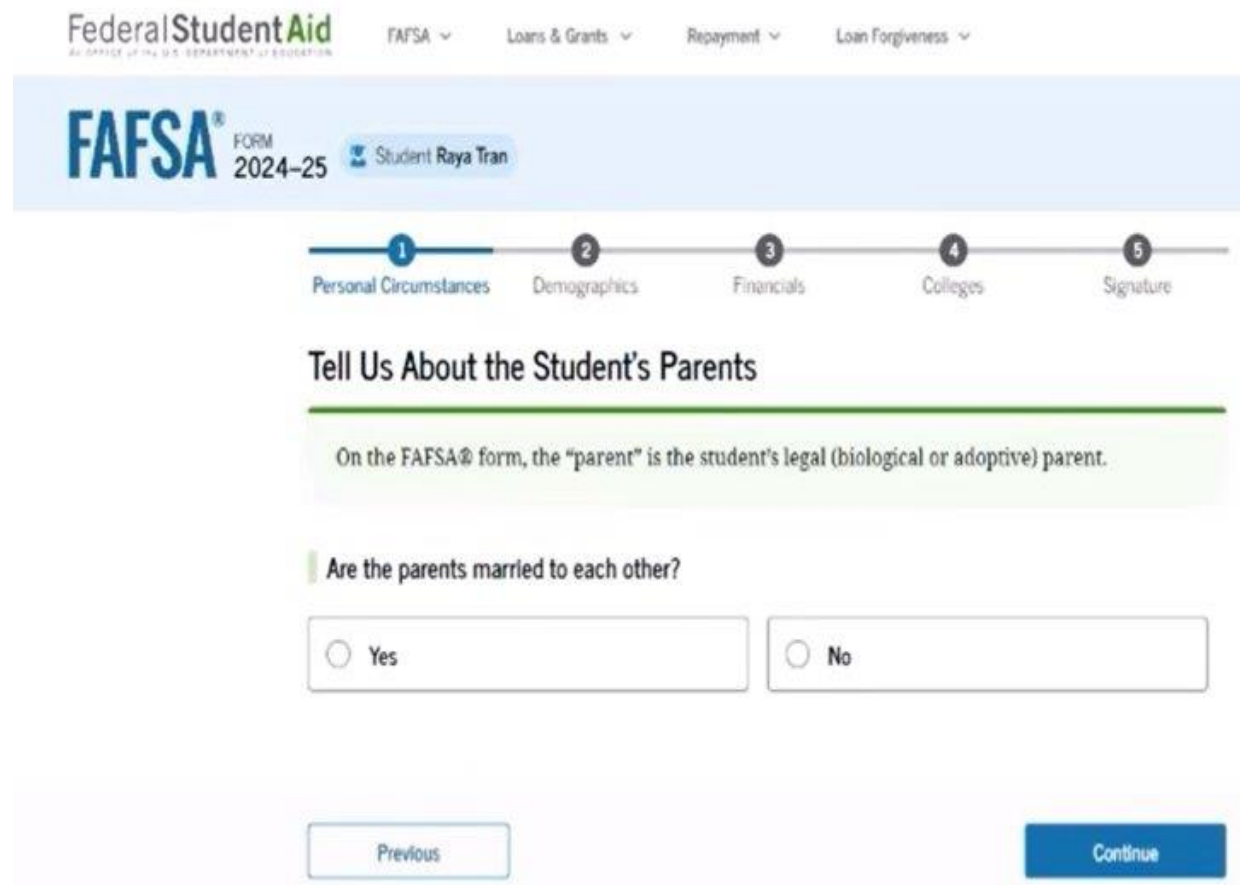


Personal Circumstances

- At any time since you turned 13, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you deemed a dependent or ward of the court?
- As determined by a court in your state of legal residence, are you or were you an emancipated minor?
- Does someone other than your parent or step-parent have legal guardianship of you, as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?

FAFSA Parent Wizard

- Student is asked a number of questions in order to determine which parent's information is to be used on the FAFSA.
- The parent used on the FAFSA **MAY** **NOT** always be the parent the student lives with.
- If divorced or separated, it will be the parent who provides more than 50% of the student's support.
- Use of the Parent Wizard will determine which parent is used on the FAFSA.



The screenshot shows the FAFSA Parent Wizard interface. At the top, the Federal Student Aid logo is visible, along with navigation links for FAFSA, Loans & Grants, Repayment, and Loan Forgiveness. Below this, the FAFSA FORM 2024-25 is displayed, with the student's name, Raya Tran, shown. A progress bar indicates the current step is 1, Personal Circumstances, out of 5 steps: Personal Circumstances, Demographics, Financials, Colleges, and Signature. The main heading is "Tell Us About the Student's Parents". A green box contains the text: "On the FAFSA® form, the "parent" is the student's legal (biological or adoptive) parent." Below this, the question "Are the parents married to each other?" is asked. There are two radio button options: "Yes" and "No". At the bottom, there are "Previous" and "Continue" buttons.

Federal Student Aid
AFSA FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran

1 Personal Circumstances 2 Demographics 3 Financials 4 Colleges 5 Signature

Tell Us About the Student's Parents

On the FAFSA® form, the "parent" is the student's legal (biological or adoptive) parent.

Are the parents married to each other?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Previous Continue

Inviting Parents to Complete their Portion of the FAFSA

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- Depending on which or if both parents are selected through the Wizard, the student will need to invite them to complete their portion of the FAFSA.
- To do so, the student will need to enter the information shown on this slide: First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, E-mail Address.
- FSA will e-mail the parent(s) to log in to complete their portion.

Enter information about the parent(s) identified on the prior page, and we'll send emails on your behalf.

Provide the parent's full legal name as it appears on their Social Security card. The email does not have to be the same as their account username and password (FSA ID).

Parent	Other Parent <i>optional</i>
First Name	First Name
Last Name	Last Name
Date of Birth Month Day Year	Date of Birth Month Day Year
Social Security Number (SSN) Hide ⓘ	Social Security Number (SSN) Hide ⓘ
<input type="checkbox"/> My parent doesn't have an SSN.	<input type="checkbox"/> My parent doesn't have an SSN.
Email Address	Email Address
Confirm Email Address	Confirm Email Address

Student Demographics

- The student will then be prompted to answer the FAFSA's Demographic Information questions. These include the following:
 - Student's gender
 - Student's race and ethnicity
 - Student's citizenship status
 - Parent(s) education status
 - Parent Killed In Line of Duty
 - Student High School Completion Status
 - Student's High School Information

Financials

- The student is then asked questions about their 2022 tax return.
- In consenting to the terms of the FAFSA, if the student filed a 2022 Federal tax return, that information will be imported from the IRS.



Student 2022 Tax Return Information

Refer to the student's 2022 tax return to answer the following questions.

Convert all currency to U.S. dollars.

Amount of College Grants, Scholarships, or AmeriCorps Benefits Reported as Income to the IRS (optional)

The student paid taxes on these grants, scholarships, or benefits. These usually apply to those renewing their FAFSA® form, not to first-time applicants.

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School Selection

- Students may list up to 20 schools on their FAFSA. Postsecondary schools will not see that other schools are listed.



Selected Colleges and Career Schools

These are the colleges and career schools that you've selected to receive the FAFSA® form.

To change the position of a school on your list, use the up and down arrow buttons to the left of the school's name.

School List Guidelines for Connecticut Residents

To be eligible for state grant aid in Connecticut, you must list an eligible in-state college within the first two positions. If you update your school choices later, notify your state agency by sending an email to sfa@ctohe.org.

Parent Contributor(s)

- Student is notified that Parent Contributor(s) still need to enter their information.

FAFSA® FORM 2024-25 Student Raya Tran

You're Almost There!
The student section is complete!

Parent Contributors

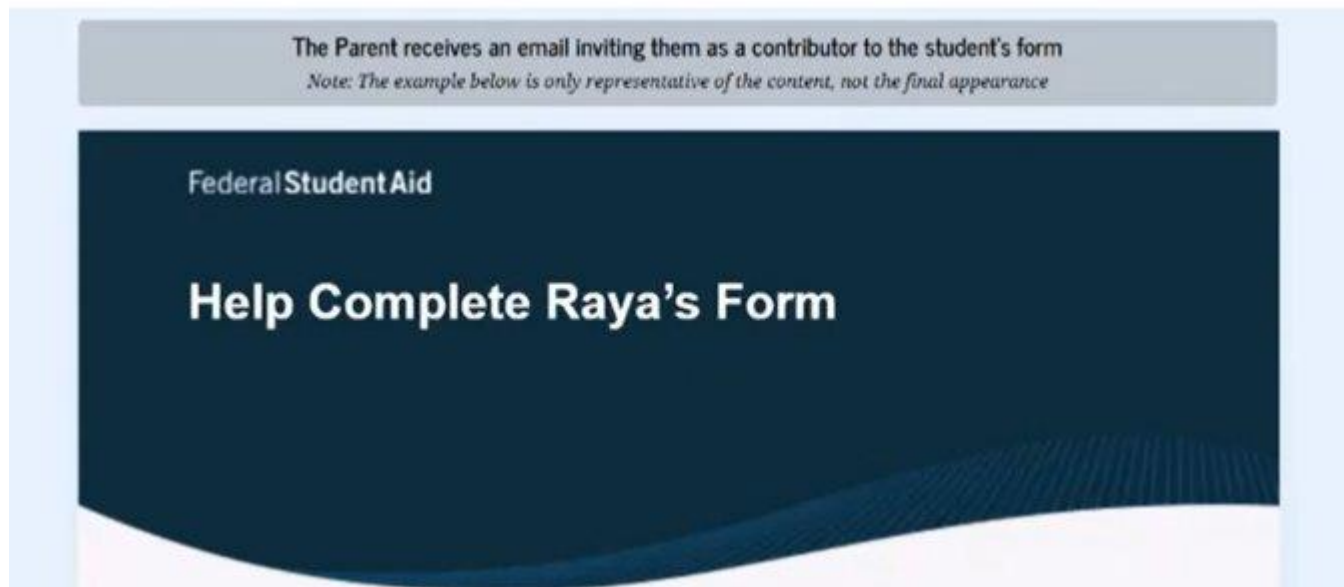
Requirements for Dependent Students
Your FAFSA® form is not complete until your parent(s) fill in the contributor section of the form and sign it. Once completed, your FAFSA form will be submitted for processing.

[Manage Contributor Information](#)

Contributors	Role	Date Added	Status
Alcina Tran	Parent	07/13/2024	Invite Sent
Travis Tran	Other Parent	07/13/2024	Invite Sent

Parent Contributor(s)

- Parent Contributor(s) receive the e-mail FSA has sent inviting them to log into studentaid.gov to act as a contributor.



Contributing to the FAFSA Does Not Obligate Parent(s) to Financial Debt

- The e-mail clearly advises the parent that they are not obligated to borrowing loans by contributing information to the FAFSA.

Providing information as a contributor does not make you financially responsible for Raya's education costs. Completing the FAFSA form is how they qualify for student aid including

- Federal Pell Grants,
- federal student loans,
- state financial aid, and
- school financial aid.

Log in with your FSA ID (account username and password) to complete your section.

Note: Forms are deleted after 45 days of inactivity.

Don't recognize Raya? Read [Help topic title](#).

Log In

Parental Consent

- Once the parent(s) accept the invitation, they are asked to provide consent for their tax information to be retrieved from the IRS.
- Failure to consent will make the student ineligible for Federal Aid.



Provide Consent or the Student Will Be Ineligible for Federal Student Aid

Summary

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

→ Get your 2022 tax return information for the 2024-25 FAFSA form.

→ Tax return information is required to complete the FAFSA form.

→ FTI is used to determine the student's eligibility for federal student aid.

Parent(s) Signature

- Parent(s) are asked to sign and complete their section of the FAFSA.



Sign and Complete Your Section

Summary

This page confirms that you understand the terms and conditions of the FAFSA® form and filled out the form accurately to the best of your ability.

The FAFSA form is a legal document you will electronically sign with your account username and password (FSA ID). Because your FSA ID is associated with your personal information, do not share it with anyone.

By signing the student's application electronically using your account username and password, YOU, THE PARENT, certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide

Confirmation Page

Confirmation page will be emailed and is available if the student logs into



Applicants should allow or enable pop-ups from [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) prior to completing the FAFSA, to ensure able to view all beneficial information.



PA State Grant Form (SGF)

- In addition to the FAFSA, first-time applicants must also complete the **PA State Grant Form (SGF)**.
- How to access SGF:
 - » Due to changes PHEAA is currently making to our website platform, students will not be able to complete the SGF until sometime in February of 2024.
 - » PHEAA will e-mail the student advising they may be eligible for the PA State Grant based on their residence as reported on the FAFSA and instruct them to go the web site, GrantUs, to create their account and to complete the SGF.

Professional Judgement

If your income changes after the FAFSA has been filed - contact the Financial Aid Office

- » Divorced or separated parents
 - » Recent death or disability
 - » Unemployment
 - » Reduced income
 - » High Medical expenses not covered by insurance
-
- ✓ Only a school can change a FAFSA related to special circumstances
 - ✓ Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education
 - PA State Grant unusual circumstance consideration is separate
 - » Contact PHEAA and complete appropriate forms [PHEAA.org/forms](https://pheaa.org/forms)

Financial Aid 101

Scholarships



Increase Your Scholarship Opportunities

Your Name
Address
City, State ZIP
Phone
Email

Objective
I hope to use this scholarship to further my pursuit of a career in literary publishing.

Academic History

- Portland State University
 - Sept 2010 - Present
 - Pursuing a B.A. in English Literature
 - 3.67

Work History

- Writing Tutor, Portland State University 2011
 - Assisted students with essay structure, theses and grammar
 - Requested specifically by more than 15 students to be a private tutor
 - Responsible for organizing office files
- Co-founder and Editor of *Campus Poetry*, 2012
 - Designed and helped create *Campus Poetry*, a literary journal at Portland State.
 - Collaborated with 10 individuals to select, edit and publish 30 poems, photographs and short stories.
 - Arranged promotional events and raised money to continue the journal through 2014.

Volunteer Work

- Literacy Volunteer, St. Thomas Learning Center, 2011
 - Taught low-income and disadvantaged youths basic literacy
 - Formulated and executed awareness campaigns to attract new members

Awards and Achievements

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Dean's List 2010 – Present

Key Skills

- Type 80 words per minute
- Competent with Microsoft Office
- 4+ years Spanish language classes
- Strong academic focus on women's studies and feminist literature

www.InstantResumeTemplates.com

Create a Resume

- ❖ Academics – Honor/AP courses, grades, GPA, class rank, test scores
- ❖ Personal / Performance – sports, music, art, leadership, achievements
- ❖ Extra Curricular Activities – jobs, hobbies
- ❖ Volunteerism, Community Activities, Employment

What makes you stand out?

- ❖ Besides grades, class rank , test scores

Recommendations


- ❖ Teachers, Advisors, Mentors, Coaches, Employers, Community Leaders



Scholarships are NOT awarded just on grades

-
- Athletics / Esports
 - Music – chorus, band
 - Community and Volunteer Service
 - Leadership qualities
 - Ethnicity
 - Special Interests -hobbies, club membership (Elks, Moose), church
 - Employers / Parent Employers
 - Religion
 - Talent / Creativity
 - Military

Begin Searching Early



Fastweb.com
Collegeboard.org
Scholarshipamerica.org
GoingMerry.com
Athleticsholarships.net

Scholarship Opportunities

- Mike Rowe Works Foundation
- Live Mas Scholarship –Taco Bell
- Cameron Impact Scholarship
- Equitable Excellence Scholarship
- Coca Cola Scholars
- QuestBridge
- College Board Opportunity Scholarships
- Doodle4Google
- Stuck at Prom – Duct Tape
- Horatio Alger Association Scholarship



Scholarship Search Tips

- ✓ Begin Searching Early – you don't have to be a senior to search for scholarships
- ✓ Don't ignore scholarships with smaller award amounts
- ✓ Write an essay that makes a strong impression
- ✓ Search for scholarships every year
- ✓ Watch for Scholarship Scams

Don't Miss Deadlines



Advice from Graduating Seniors

- Teacher recommendations mean a lot. Your essay is probably the biggest thing they're going to look at.
- It takes a great deal of dedication, but it is so worth it in the end!
- Start early and look around locally.
- Even if it's a lengthy application, take the time and fill it out. Chances are that other people think it's too long and won't take the time to do it themselves.



Financial Aid 101



Financial Aid Programs



Pennsylvania State Grant

- ✓ Based on Financial Need
- ✓ Must be enrolled in a program that is at least 2 years in length
- ✓ Enrolled at a PHEAA approved school
- ✓ Award amount determined from information on the FAFSA and in part by the cost of the school

2023-24 Award Amounts

Cost Tier	Maximum Award	Minimum Award
\$0 - \$12,000	\$3,059	\$500
\$12,001 - \$19,000	\$4,894	\$500
\$19,001 - \$29,000	\$5,261	\$500
\$29,001 - \$32,000	\$5,750	\$500

2023-24 Out-of-State Awards

Type of State	Minimum Awards	Maximum Awards	Maximum Awards
Reciprocal States	\$500	Non-Veteran	Veteran
		\$600	\$800

Reciprocal States

Delaware

Massachusetts

West Virginia

District of Columbia

Ohio

Vermont

**EXCEPTION: Allegany College of Maryland – PA campus
Eligible for PA State Grant**

Federal Grants

- Federal Pell Grant
 - » Based on financial need
 - » 2023-24 max award - \$7,395
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
 - » Based on financial need
 - » Must be Pell Grant eligible
 - » Max award \$4,000

Federal Work Study



- Based on financial need
- Must work to receive a paycheck
- Work Study award is not deducted from the student's bill
- Answer "Yes" to question on the FAFSA
- Earnings do not count as student income on FAFSA

Financial Aid 101



Federal Loans



Federal Direct Student Loans

- In the student's name
- No credit check
- No co-signer required
- Fixed interest rate of 5.49% and 1.057% origination fee (processing fee)
- Rate for new loans reset every July
- 6 month grace period
- Subsidized or Unsubsidized
- 10 year standard repayment plan but other options available
- Apply at www.studentaid.gov



Subsidized

Unsubsidized

Federal Government pays interest charged to student while enrolled or in grace



- Based on financial need
- There is a 1.057% fee deducted from loan amount at disbursement

Borrower is responsible for paying interest accrued in school and grace

- Any interest not paid during grace will be capitalized at repayment
- There is a 1.057% fee deducted from loan amount at disbursement

Student Loan Borrowing Limits

Dependent Students (excluding students whose parents cannot borrow PLUS)	Base Stafford Loan Amount Subsidized/Unsubsidized	Additional Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Amount
Freshmen	\$3,500	\$2,000
Sophomores	\$4,500	\$2,000
Juniors, Seniors	\$5,500	\$2,000
Graduate or Professional	\$8,500	\$12,000



**What if I need to borrow
more than \$5,500 to cover
my bill?**

Federal Loan

Federal Direct **PARENTAL** Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

- Parent is the borrower and the loan remains in parent's name
- Credit check is required - Can have a co-signer
- **Interest/Fees:** 8.05% interest rate and 4.228% origination fee
- Cost minus financial aid received (maximum amount you can borrow)
- Repayment begins 60 days after disbursement
 - Parent can choose to defer payments while student is enrolled
- Apply at www.studentaid.gov

Financial Aid 101

Private/Alternative Loans





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

Private/Alternative Loans

From private lenders or financial institutions

- » In student's name/co-signers usually required or Parent Private Loan
- » Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance
- » Based on credit scores and debt-to-income
- » Repayment may be deferred until education completed
- » Terms vary by lender – compare before making choices

READ THE FINE PRINT



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

Low, Fixed Rates
4.84-9.20%^{1,2}
APR

Effective as of 11/30/23



Learn more at pheaa.org/PAForward

1) **Annual Percentage Rate (APR) Calculations** – The lowest APR is based on the following assumptions: a loan of \$10,000 made in a single disbursement, a borrower who selected an Immediate Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 60 months, monthly payments of \$188.16 and a final payment \$179.85, a fixed periodic interest rate of 5.13%, and total payments of \$11,281.47. 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 \$102.80, a fixed periodic interest rate of 9.23%, and total payments of \$22,503.56. 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.

Financial Aid 101



FAFSA's filed – what's next

What happens after the FAFSA is Filed?



FAFSA

- Sent to Federal Processor
- Student Aid Report for student



Schools/PHEAA

- Receive FAFSA results and check for eligibility for financial aid



Financial Aid Notifications

- Schools send to students offered admission
- Students compare costs vs aid

Student Aid Index - SAI

The Federal Processor uses a formula to determine the Student Aid Index (SAI)

- Schools use the SAI to determine eligibility for financial aid
- Remains the same no matter which school the student attends
- The SAI can be found on the FAFSA Confirmation Page

Student Aid Index (SAI) is determined based on:

- ❖ Parent income and assets
- ❖ Student income and assets
- ❖ Family size
- ❖ Age of the older parent



Reviewing the Financial Aid Notification

After reviewing your notifications, students should be sure they know and understand the following:

How much of the financial aid is free money?

If receiving outside scholarship(s), will it change your financial aid from the school?

Are there any conditions on the free money? GPA requirement?

Will financial aid increase as tuition increases?

Will eligibility change from year to year?

Will loans be needed?

Sample Award Notification

Financial Aid		\$39,945	
GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS			
	Fall	Spring	Total
Faculty Scholarship	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$31,000
Federal Pell Grant	\$1,323	\$1,322	\$2,645
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)	\$400	\$400	\$800
LOANS			
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000

Estimated Cost of Attendance			\$61,826
DIRECT BILLABLE COSTS			
	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition	\$23,085	\$23,085	\$46,170
Fees	\$180	\$180	\$360
Room/Housing	\$4,010	\$4,010	\$8,020
Meals/Meal Plan	\$2,688	\$2,688	\$5,376
INDIRECT COSTS			
Book/Supplies	\$550	\$550	\$1,100
Transportation	\$225	\$225	\$450
Other Educational Costs	\$175	\$175	\$350

Total Estimated Balance		\$21,881	
ESTIMATED MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS			
\$2,188		\$1,823	
10 payments per year		12 payments per year	
		DEPOSIT NOW	
		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 Work Study	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$2,500

PAYMENT PLAN

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

If you have any questions or concerns related to this award letter, please contact the financial aid office.

Ways to Pay

- ✓ Scholarships
- ✓ Savings
- ✓ 529 Savings plans
- ✓ Tuition Payment Plan through the school
- ✓ Student earnings from work
- ✓ Federal Student Loans
- ✓ Federal Parent Loans
- ✓ Home Equity Loans
- ✓ Private/ Alternative Loans

PHEAA's Financial Aid Comparison Sheet

Tips

After completing the FAFSA* and being accepted by the school, you will receive a financial aid offer that outlines how much the school will cost and what kind of financial aid package you may receive.

Aid notices from schools will be formatted differently from one another, but overall they will contain the same information:

- **Cost of Attendance**, which includes tuition and fees, housing & food, books, course materials, supplies & equipment, travel, and personal expenses. If some of these are not listed on your offer, check the school's website or contact the Financial Aid Office.
- **Gift Aid**, which includes all of the FREE sources of financial aid that the school is offering you and that you're receiving from federal, state and other sources. Be sure to include any private scholarships not listed on the offer.
- **Self-Help Aid**, which includes loans and work-study. Self-Help Aid is different from Gift Aid in that you must repay the funds or work to earn the funds.

Then do the math. "WHAT YOU STILL NEED" is the amount of money you are still responsible for after all aid has been applied. Students typically use family assistance, savings, or private loans to pay for any remaining costs. Compare several schools to understand which schools are most affordable for you.



Sample School

Cost of Attendance		Gift Aid (FREE Money)		NET COST		Self-Help		WHAT YOU STILL NEED	
Tuition & Fees	26,410	State Grant	4,000	This is what you can consider the actual cost for one year of college.	=	=	=	=	=
Housing & Food	10,440	PELL Grant	5,425						
Books, course materials, supplies & equipment	1,200	FSEOG Grant	1,500						
Travel & Personal Expenses	2,200	Other Grants & Scholarships	10,900						
Total	\$40,250	Total	\$21,825						
						* Federal Work-Study funds are not deducted from a student's bill.		<i>Paid directly to the student and earned according to hours worked. Not Guaranteed!</i>	
						Self-Help Direct Loans: 5,500 Other Loans: 0 Federal Work-Study*: 3,000 TOTAL \$8,500		WHAT YOU STILL NEED \$9,925	

College A

Cost of Attendance		Gift Aid (FREE Money)		NET COST		Self-Help		WHAT YOU STILL NEED	
Tuition & Fees		State Grant		=	=	=	=	=	=
Housing & Food		PELL Grant							
Books, course materials, supplies & equipment		FSEOG Grant							
Travel & Personal Expenses		Other Grants & Scholarships							
Total		Total							
						Self-Help Direct Loans Other Loans Federal Work-Study* TOTAL		WHAT YOU STILL NEED	

College B

Cost of Attendance		Gift Aid (FREE Money)		NET COST		Self-Help		WHAT YOU STILL NEED	
Tuition & Fees		State Grant		=	=	=	=	=	=
Housing & Food		PELL Grant							
Books, course materials, supplies & equipment		FSEOG Grant							
Travel & Personal Expenses		Other Grants & Scholarships							
Total		Total							
						Self-Help Direct Loans Other Loans Federal Work-Study* TOTAL		WHAT YOU STILL NEED	

Will probably need each year!

Financial Aid 101



Final Thoughts & Wrap Up



Financial Aid Made Simple

5 Steps to Financial Aid

Step 1

Look for
FREE
money
first

Step 2

Know
your
forms &
specific
deadlines

Step 3

Fill out
the
FAFSA

Step 4

Compare
schools
financial
aid offers
carefully

Step 5

Be sure
you have
the
money
you need

What Can You Do Now?



Use Your Resources

- **PHEAA.org**
- **EducationPlanner.org**
- **MySmartBorrowing.org**
- **Higher Education Access Corner Podcast**
 - » Available on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Anchor, iHeartRadio, and Amazon Music
- **StudentAid.gov** – The one-stop shop site for all financial aid information.
- **StudentAid.gov/FAFSA** – Direct link to the FAFSA
- PHEAA toll free: 800-692-7392
- Federal Student Aid Info Center: 800-433-3243



QUESTIONS?

Jonathan Warner

jonathan.warner@pheaa.org