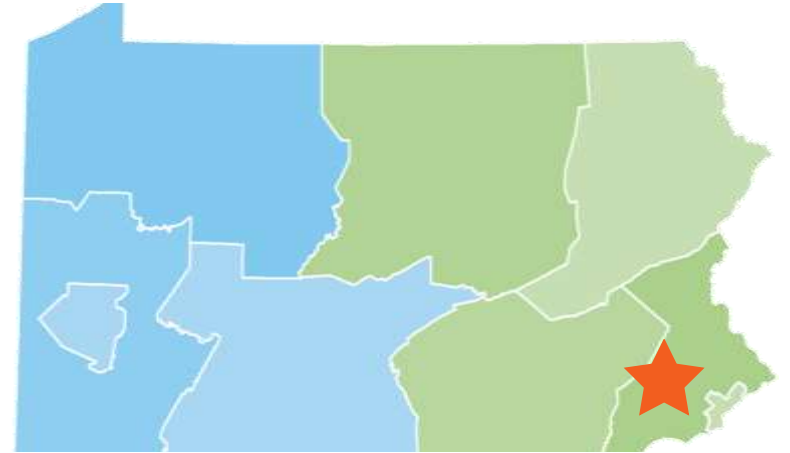


# Financial Aid 101



# Your Presenter

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Higher Education Access Partner

PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

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



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

# Topics

- Basic principles
- What is financial aid
- Funding sources available
- How do I apply
- What happens next
- Federal and State aid
- Loans
- Options to fund the gap

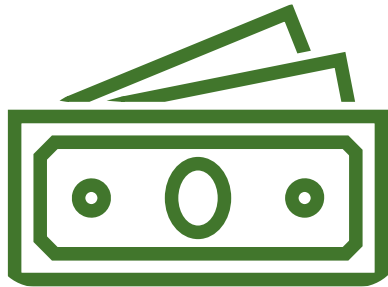


## Basic Principles, Federal Aid

- Paying is the joint responsibility of the student and parent(s), to the extent possible.
- Need-based financial aid is subject to a federal formula to determine financial aid.
- Not all families qualify for need-based aid. There is no guarantee that you will get any free money to pay for higher education.

# What Is Financial Aid?

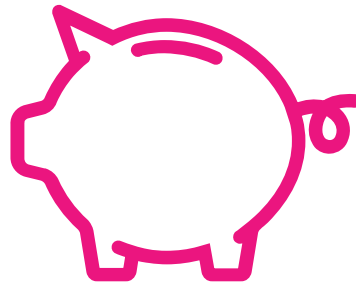
Financial aid consists of funds provided to students and families to **help** pay for postsecondary educational expenses.



## Gift Aid

Grants/Scholarships

**FREE MONEY**



## Self-Help

Work-Study



## Loans

Federal Student Loans,  
PLUS, Private Loans

# Funding Sources



**Federal Government**



**State Government**



**School or College**



**Scholarships**

# Financial Aid Made Simple

## 5 Steps to Financial Aid

Step 1

Look for  
FREE  
money  
first

Step 2

Know  
your  
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





# Financial Aid 101

## Applying



# 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** through PHEAA

- Required first year for all students

Some schools require additional forms:

**CSS Profile** – through the College Board; additional fees

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

KNOW WHAT FORMS EACH SCHOOL **REQUIRES**



# Know Your Deadlines

**Federal Deadlines** - Apply anytime after  
October 1 in the year prior to when you will attend school  
(AY 2023-24: 10/1/22 to 6/30/24)



## PA State Grant Deadlines for FAFSA

**May 1, 2023** - First-time and renewal students attending colleges, universities & college transferrable programs (excluding community colleges)

**August 1, 2023** – 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 websites!



# For Dependent Students, Who Reports Info on the 2023-24 FAFSA?

## YES

- Married parents living together
- Biological parents living together
- Divorced or separated parents:
  - The parent the student lived with the most over the past 12 months
  - If equal, then the parent who provided more than 50% of student's support
- Stepparent – If part of the student's household
- Adoptive parents

## NO

- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
  - By court order
- Anyone else the student is living with

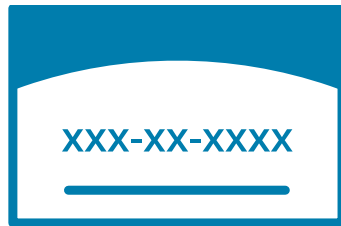


# When is a Student Considered Independent?

- ✓ Born before January 1, 2000
- ✓ Married
- ✓ Veteran (includes active-duty personnel)
- ✓ Working on graduate level degree
- ✓ Emancipated minor in legal guardianship
- ✓ Orphan, in foster care or ward of the court at anytime when student was age 13 or older
- ✓ Have legal dependents other than spouse
- ✓ Student deemed homeless by proper authority  
(PA State Grant status can be different)



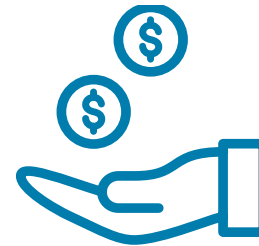
# Information Needed for FAFSA



Social Security  
Numbers



Federal Tax  
Returns and W-  
2's (2021)



2021 Untaxed  
Income



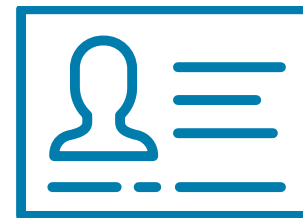
Checking and Savings  
Account Statement  
Balances as of FAFSA  
Filing Date



Investment Records



Email Addresses



Student & Parent  
Federal Student Aid  
Account (FSA ID)



# Create Your FSA ID Accounts

---

- The student applying for aid and one parent providing information on the FAFSA need to create an FSA ID at [studentaid.gov/fsa-id](https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id).
- Create prior to completing the FAFSA.
- Legal signature for student and parent.

Social Security Number

Username

Password

Email Address

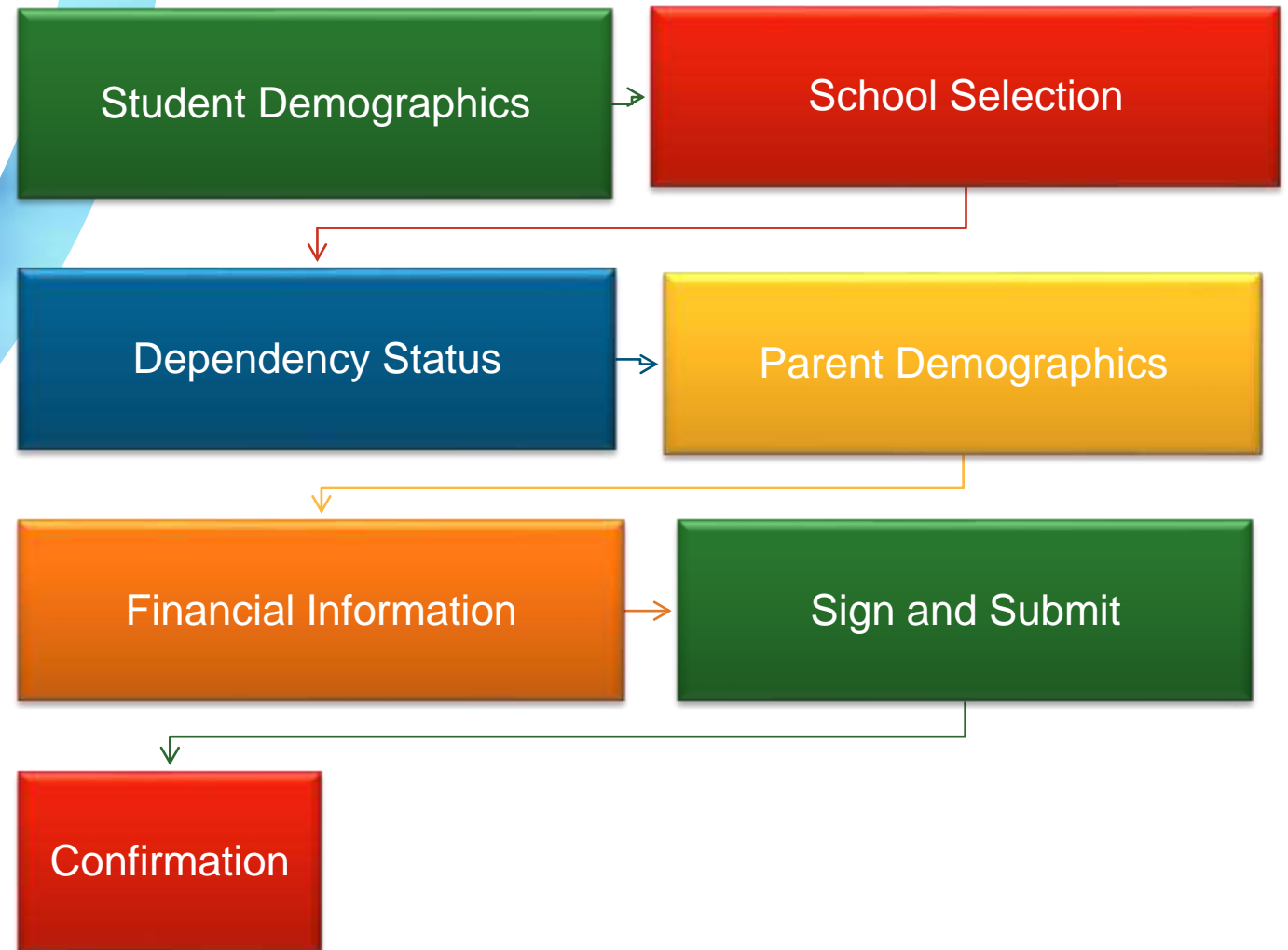
Mobile Phone

Security Questions

Enable Two-Step Verification

# FAFSA Steps

1. Login – student or parent
2. Disclaimer – select accept
3. Application year
4. Save key
5. Introduction





# FAFSA

- The FAFSA is the primary federal form for financial assistance to attend postsecondary school.
- File a FAFSA each year
- File online at [studentaid.gov/fafsa](https://studentaid.gov/fafsa)
- Students do not have to be accepted for admission to list a school on the FAFSA.



# Certified Browsers

Complete the online *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form using the latest release of one of the following browsers:



**Mozilla Firefox**  
(Version 68+)



**Google Chrome**  
(Version 76+)



**Apple Safari**  
(Version 9+)

Visit [studentaid.gov/help/browser-requirements](https://studentaid.gov/help/browser-requirements) for the most up-to-date information on browsers.

# What's NEW in Financial Aid: Coming Soon



## **FAFSA® Simplification**

The FAFSA Simplification Act (FSA) was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that was passed on December 27, 2020. The FSA introduces significant changes to the FAFSA® form, how students and families will complete the FAFSA as well as the formula used to calculate eligibility for federal financial aid.

The FAFSA Simplification Act amendments specified that most of the provisions were scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2023, for award year 2023-24, starting with the 2023-24 FAFSA. The FAFSA Simplification Technical Corrections Act (signed into law March 15, 2022) extended the FAFSA simplification implementation timeline by one year to 2024-25.

The Future Act, which was passed in 2019 expands collaboration between Federal Student Aid and the IRS and eliminates the data retrieval tool and replaces it with a direct data exchange (FADDX). The direct data exchange will easily import all data related to taxable and untaxed income directly from student/family's tax return into the FAFSA.

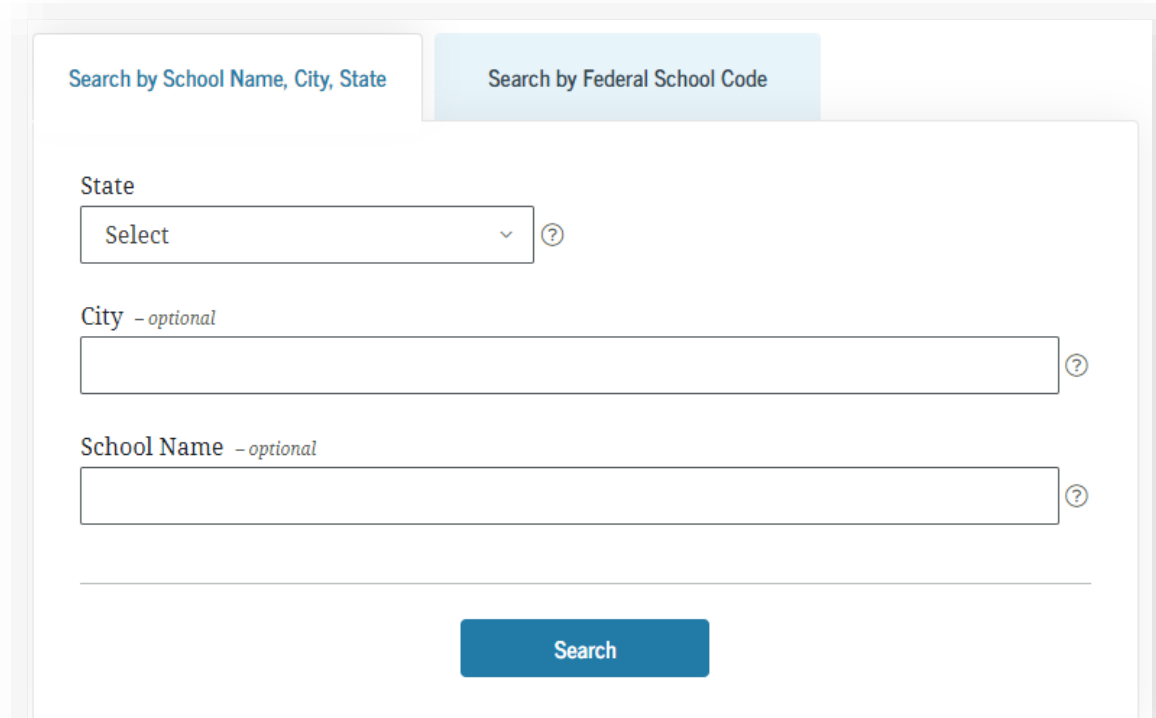


## On the FAFSA, Students: Answer “YES”

- Interested in Work Study?
  - » Gaining an on campus WS job is not guaranteed
  - » WS income is not counted towards the EFC generated from the FAFSA
  - » Understand the process on your campus of being hired

# School Selection

- Only schools that are listed will be able to see your FAFSA information.
- Students can list up to 10 colleges at a time
- Schools can be added or deleted at any time



The screenshot shows a search interface for school selection. It features two tabs: "Search by School Name, City, State" (which is active) and "Search by Federal School Code". Below the tabs are three input fields: a dropdown menu for "State" with a "Select" placeholder and a help icon; a text input field for "City - optional" with a help icon; and another text input field for "School Name - optional" with a help icon. A blue "Search" button is positioned at the bottom center of the form.

# IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)

- Automatically imports tax info from tax return and adds it to the FAFSA (can be used by student, parent(s), or both!)
- There are some exceptions – not everyone can use the IRS DRT.
- **Not everyone is required to file taxes, filing is not required to complete the FAFSA.**





# Get My Federal Income Tax Information

See our [Privacy Notice](#) regarding our request for your personal information.

Enter the following information from your 2021 Federal Income Tax Return. ?

All fields are required unless marked otherwise.

### First Name

Jane

### Last Name

Austin

### Social Security Number

No input required

\*\*\* - \*\* - 8019

### Date of Birth

MM/DD/YYYY

01/01/1950

### Filing Status ?

Married-Filed Joint Return

### Street Address ?

Must match your 2018 Federal Income Tax Return

### P.O. Box ?

Required if entered on your tax return



Enter address information exactly as it appears on the IRS tax return



## 2021 Federal Income Tax Information

Jane Austin

Based on the information you provided, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) located your income tax return. With your permission below, the IRS will securely transfer your tax information to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to populate any applicable FAFSA® questions.

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

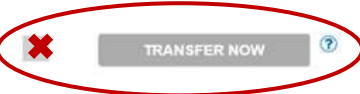
The data retrieved from your tax return is limited to the items listed below as you reported to the IRS:

Tax Year	Type of Return Filed	Untaxed Portion of IRA Distributions & Pensions/Annuities
Name(s)	Adjusted Gross Income	Tax-exempt Interest Income
Social Security Number	Income Earned from Work	IRA Deductions and Payments
Filing Status	Income Tax	Status of Amended Returns Received
IRS Exemptions	Education Credits	

Refer to your tax records if you have a question about the values you reported.

### Transfer My Tax Information into the FAFSA Form ?

The tax information provided to fafsa.gov will populate the answers to the appropriate FAFSA questions. After the FAFSA questions are populated, your IRS session will end, and you will return to your FAFSA form. Check this box if you are choosing to transfer your information.



### Do Not Transfer My Tax Information and Return to the FAFSA Form ?

By clicking the "Do Not Transfer" button, you are choosing not to transfer your tax information electronically. Your IRS session will end, and you will return to your FAFSA form.

Student IRS Info

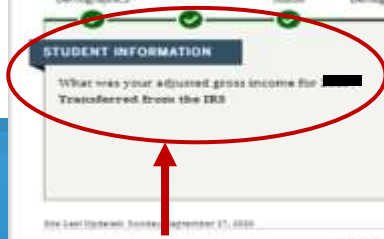
Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics Parent Financials Student Financials Sign & Submit Confirmation

STUDENT INFORMATION

What was your adjusted gross income for Transferred from the IRS

PREVIOUS NEXT

Site Last Updated: 10/26/2021, September 17, 2020 ©2020 fafsa.gov. All rights reserved. Retrieved Julia Baskin



# What is considered an asset?

## Report the current value at time of filing the FAFSA:

- ✓ Cash
  - ✓ Checking
  - ✓ Savings
  - ✓ Investments
  - ✓ Stocks
  - ✓ Bonds
  - ✓ Certificates of deposit (CD)
  - ✓ Bitcoin
  - ✓ Mutual funds
  - ✓ 529 Plans – for all children
  - ✓ Net value of real estate
- Farm Value – unless primary place of residence
  - Business Value – Unless family owned and employs 100 employees or less

## Not reported on FAFSA as an asset:

- » Value of primary home
- » Value of qualified retirement accounts
- » Value of life insurance policies
- » Value of personal property



# Signing with the FSA ID


Signature Status


Student Demographics School Selection Dependency Status Parent Demographics Parent Financials Student Financials Sign & Submit Confirmation


**i** Both you and a parent need to sign your FAFSA.


Only sign for yourself. If you and your parent are not together, one of you can sign, save the application and then exit. Give the "save key" to the other person who can log in with it and sign and submit the FAFSA.


**Be sure not to mix up your and your parent's FSA IDs when signing.**

**Student Signature Needed**   
Signature Status:Unsigned

**PROVIDE STUDENT SIGNATURE** 

**Parent Signature Needed**   
Signature Status:Unsigned

**PROVIDE PARENT SIGNATURE** 

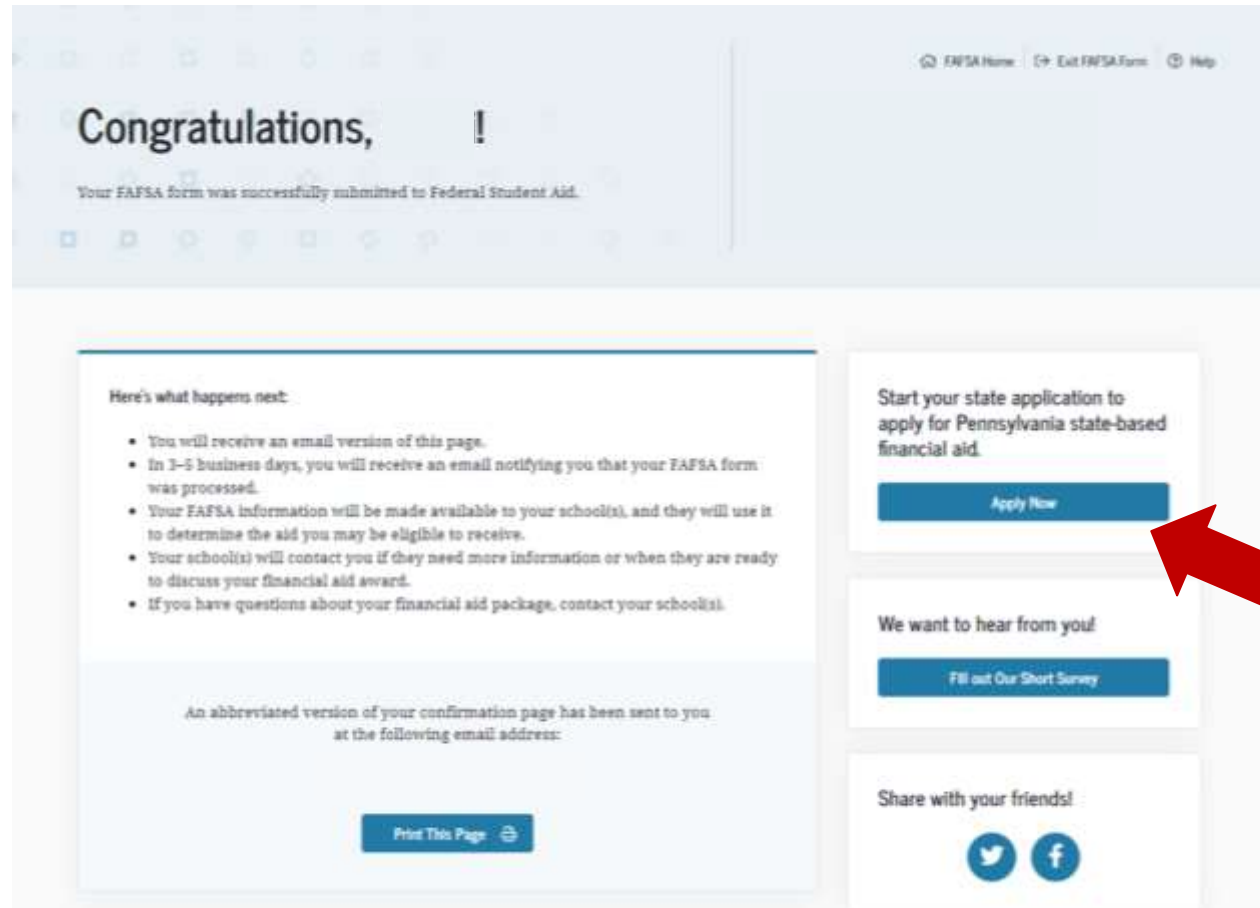
 PREVIOUS

Site Last Updated: Sunday, September 29, 2019 [Download Adobe Reader](#)

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- Student and one parent will sign the FAFSA using their **SEPARATE** FSA ID
- A FAFSA is not complete until it is signed!

# Confirmation Page & Link to the PA State Grant Form



The screenshot shows a confirmation page for a FAFSA form. At the top, it says "Congratulations, !" and "Your FAFSA form was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid." In the top right corner, there are links for "FAFSA Home", "Exit FAFSA Form", and "Help". The main content is divided into three sections:

- Here's what happens next:**
  - You will receive an email version of this page.
  - In 3-5 business days, you will receive an email notifying you that your FAFSA form was processed.
  - Your FAFSA information will be made available to your school(s), and they will use it to determine the aid you may be eligible to receive.
  - Your school(s) will contact you if they need more information or when they are ready to discuss your financial aid award.
  - If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact your school(s).
- Start your state application to apply for Pennsylvania state-based financial aid.** This section contains a blue button labeled "Apply Now", which is highlighted by a red arrow.
- We want to hear from you!** This section contains a blue button labeled "Fill out Our Short Survey".

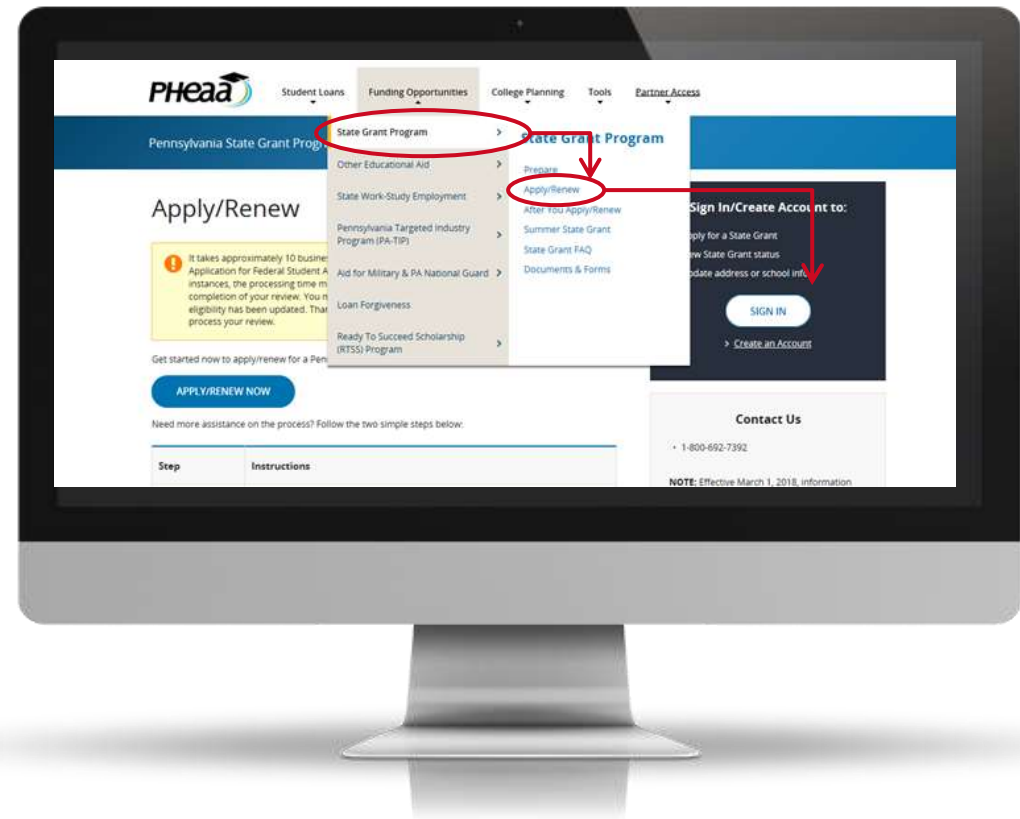
At the bottom of the main content area, there is a note: "An abbreviated version of your confirmation page has been sent to you at the following email address:" followed by a "Print This Page" button with a printer icon.

At the bottom right, there is a section titled "Share with your friends!" with social media icons for Twitter and Facebook.

# PHEAA Account Access

Create an account to:

- Check your PA State Grant eligibility
- Update your school of choice listed on the PA State Grant Form
- Complete State Grant Form, if you missed the link at the end of the FAFSA



# Special Circumstances

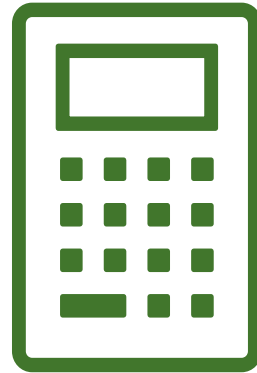
## If things change....

- Divorced or separated parents
  - Recent death or disability
  - Reduced income
  - Unemployment
  - Medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance
  - Non-recurring Income or Expenses
- 
- ✓ Only a school can change a FAFSA related to circumstances
  - ✓ Decisions are final and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education
  - ✓ Contact PHEAA for PA State Grant re-consideration

# FAFSA is Filed... Now What?



Student  
completes the  
FAFSA



Schools &  
PHEAA receive  
FAFSA and  
calculate  
financial aid



Schools send  
Financial Aid  
Notifications  
to student

# Need Analysis is Calculated by Your School

Schools use FAFSA calculations to determine a student's financial need based on –

## Two Components:

- The student's Cost Of Attendance at the chosen institution.
- The student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

EFC figure includes parent(s) & student's contribution.



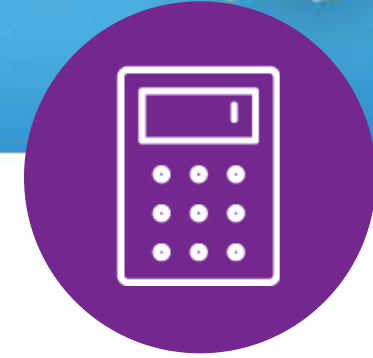
# What School Costs Are Considered?

## School costs include:

- Tuition and fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Miscellaneous living expenses



# Net Price Calculators



- Determines an estimated net price at a particular institution.
- **ESTIMATED** data must be provided by each institution:
  - » Total price of attendance (Tuition, fees, room/board, misc.)
  - » Estimated total merit and need-based grant aid
- **May not include scholarships**




# Net Price Calculator

- What is the Net Price that you will pay?
  - Net Price Calculator




U.S. Department of Education

Net Price Calculator Center



**Search for Schools' Calculator**



#### What does Net Price mean?

Net Price is the amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year AFTER subtracting scholarships and grants the student receives. Scholarships and grants are forms of financial aid that a student does not have to pay back.

#### What is a Net Price Calculator?

Net price calculators are available on a college's or university's website and allow prospective students to enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year, after taking grants and scholarship aid into account.

[collegecost.ed.gov/net-price](https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price)

# How is the EFC Calculated?

- Primarily income-driven
- Major factors for dependent student:
  - » Parental – income and assets
  - » Student - income and assets
  - » Family size
  - » Number of family members in college

A student's EFC remains the same no matter which school the student attends.



# Student Income & Assets



- Income protection allowance of \$7,600 is applied and the remaining amount is assessed at 50%
- Dependent students must report assets in their name
- Student assets are assessed at 20%

# Calculating Financial Need

Financial Aid Office (FAO) “packages” student based on financial need and available funding

- Financial need varies from school to school
- Your financial aid package may not meet all of your calculated financial need.



School cost	\$35,000
EFC	-\$10,000
<hr/>	
Financial Need	\$25,000

# Financial Aid Notification

- Official notification from school about financial aid, terms and conditions
- Lists the type and amount of aid to be received
- Describes what must be done to accept or reject any aid
- Discloses students' rights, responsibilities and academic requirements

# Reviewing the Financial Aid Package



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?



# Financial Aid 101



## Federal & State Aid



# Federal Grant Programs

- Pell Grant - max award \$6,895
  - » Max EFC to be eligible for the Pell Grant is 6206
  - » Eligibility is the same for every postsecondary institution
- Campus-based aid - Eligibility determined by Financial Aid Office at each potential school
  - » Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)...max award \$4,000
  - » Federal Work-Study...FAO determines

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

Awarded to most financially needy students



# Other Federal Programs

(Based on specific situations & criteria)

- Teach Grant
- Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant
- Dependents Education Assistance (DEA) Grant - Veteran Affairs
- Vocational Rehabilitation Program (students with disabilities)
- Americorps - [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)

*StudentAid.gov*

# PA State Grant Program

- In-state – max award \$5,750 (full-time)
- **Reciprocal states:** Delaware, DC, Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, West Virginia
  - Up to \$600 for full-time students (\$800 for veterans)
- Award amount determined in part by the cost of the school

**Must be at least half-time to be eligible**



# Other State Programs

- PA State Work-Study Program
- PA National Guard Educational Assistance Program
- PA National Guard Military Family Education Program
- Chafee Education and Training Grant Program
- PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program
- PA Blind or Deaf Higher Education Beneficiary Grant Program
- PA Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program
- PA Partnerships for Access to Higher Education Program
- PA Targeted Industry Program
- PA Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program

For details, see the PA Student Aid Guide, or visit [PHEAA.org](https://www.pheaa.org)

# Financial Aid 101



## Federal Student Loans



# Federal Direct Loan Program

- Available to **ALL** students **REGARDLESS** of need
- Additional unsubsidized funds available for Independent & Parent PLUS denials
  - 4.99% interest rate (AY 22-23), 1.057% fee
  - Rates set every July 1st for the life of that year's loan; fees are deducted from disbursement
- In student's name, no collateral or credit check, must sign MPN
- Available loan amounts increase in subsequent years
- No payments required while attending school & six-month grace period
- Flexible Repayment options

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

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

StudentAid.gov &  
school's website!

# Federal Direct Stafford Loan Borrowing Limits

Undergraduate Students			Graduate Students
Annual Limits	Dependent Students	Independent or dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS Loan	Graduate or Professional Studies
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	<b>\$5,500</b> Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	<b>\$9,500</b> Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	<b>\$20,500</b> each academic year Graduate / Professional students are no longer eligible for subsidized loans
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>	<b>\$6,500</b> Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	<b>\$10,500</b> Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year and beyond</b>	<b>\$7,500</b> Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	<b>\$12,500</b> Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	
<b>Aggregate Limits</b>	<b>\$31,000</b> Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	<b>\$57,500</b> Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	<b>\$138,500</b> Total No more than \$65,000 may be subsidized

# Federal Direct PLUS Loan

- For parents of dependent undergraduate students
- Must file a FAFSA
- In parent's name for student costs
- Rates set every July 1st for the life of that year's loan; fees are deducted from disbursement
  - » 7.54% variable/fixed interest rate; 4.228% fees
- MUST apply each year
- No Debt-to-Income test, only lenient credit check
- Principal can be deferred while student is in school; Interest will continue to accrue

**If denied - student is eligible for an additional \$4,000 unsubsidized loan**





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

# Private/Alternative Loans

- From private lenders or financial institutions
- In student's name/co-signers usually required
- Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance
- Based on credit scores and debt-to-income
- Principal can be deferred while student is in school; Interest will continue to accrue
- Fees, interest rates, loan amounts, and repayment provisions vary by lender – compare before making choices

**READ THE FINE PRINT**

# PA FORWARD Student Loans

## Undergrad, Graduate, Parent and Refinance

- Undergrad, Graduate
  - Student borrower alone, or with a credit-worthy cosigner (normally needed)
- Parent
  - Parent or Guardian
- PA resident for costs at any Title IV school
  - And bordering state residents attending a PA school
- Borrow up to 100% Cost of Attendance with NO FEES
- Interest rate benefits for graduating and paying through direct debit
- Several repayment options & three term lengths – for affordability
  - Students receive a 6-month grace period
- Very low, Fixed interest rates based on credit risk scoring

Visit [PHEAA.org/PAForward](https://PHEAA.org/PAForward) for more info!

### Pennsylvania's Student Loan Program





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

Low, Fixed Rates

**3.82-7.69%**<sup>1,2</sup>  
APR

Effective as of 6/8/22

Learn more at [PHEAA.org/PAForward](https://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 student borrower who selected an Immediate Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 60 months, monthly payments of \$183.49 and a final payment \$175.40, a fixed periodic interest rate of 4.10%, and a total amount repaid of \$11,001.26. The student 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 student borrower who selected a Fully Deferred Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 180 months, monthly payments of \$131.09, a fixed periodic interest rate of 8.20%, and a total amount repaid of \$23,596.64. The student borrower received an in-school deferment of 46 months and a grace period of 6 months. The student 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.



Scholarships

# Types of Scholarships



Postsecondary  
Scholarships



Local and Regional  
Scholarships



National  
Scholarships



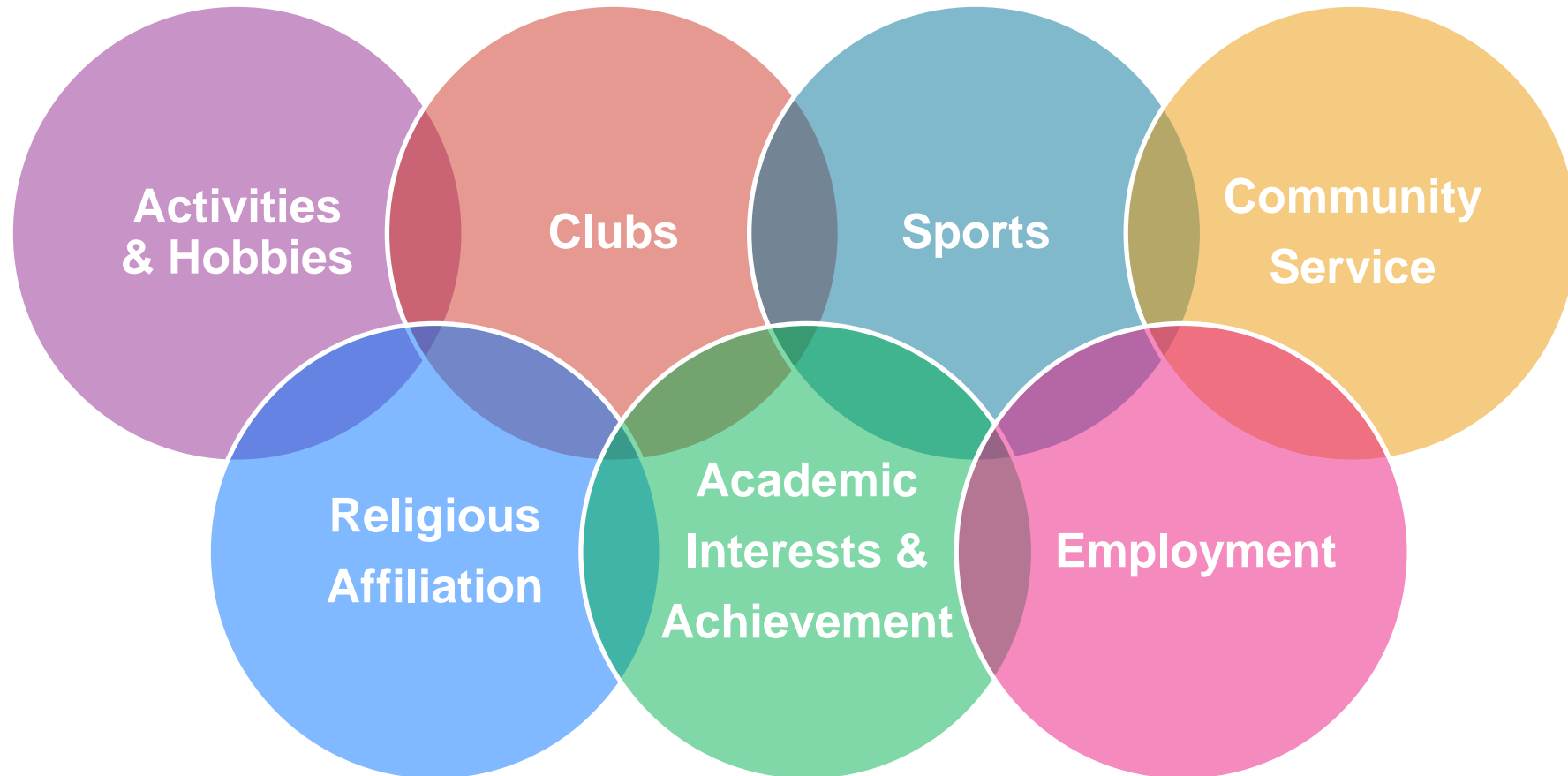
# Scholarship Search Tips

- Start searching early
- Use **FREE** scholarship search sites
- Don't ignore scholarships with smaller award amounts
- Don't miss deadlines
- Search for scholarships every year



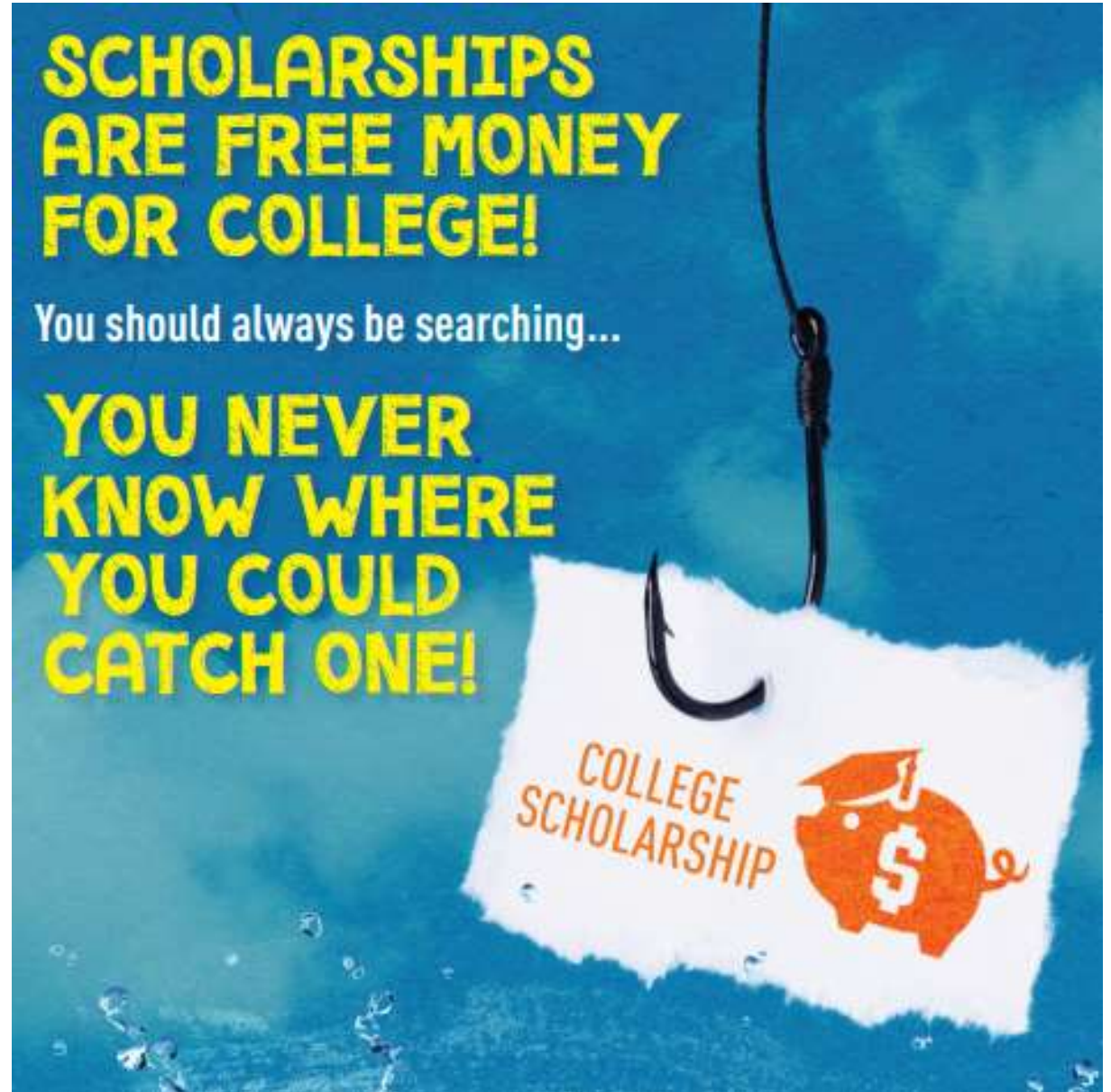


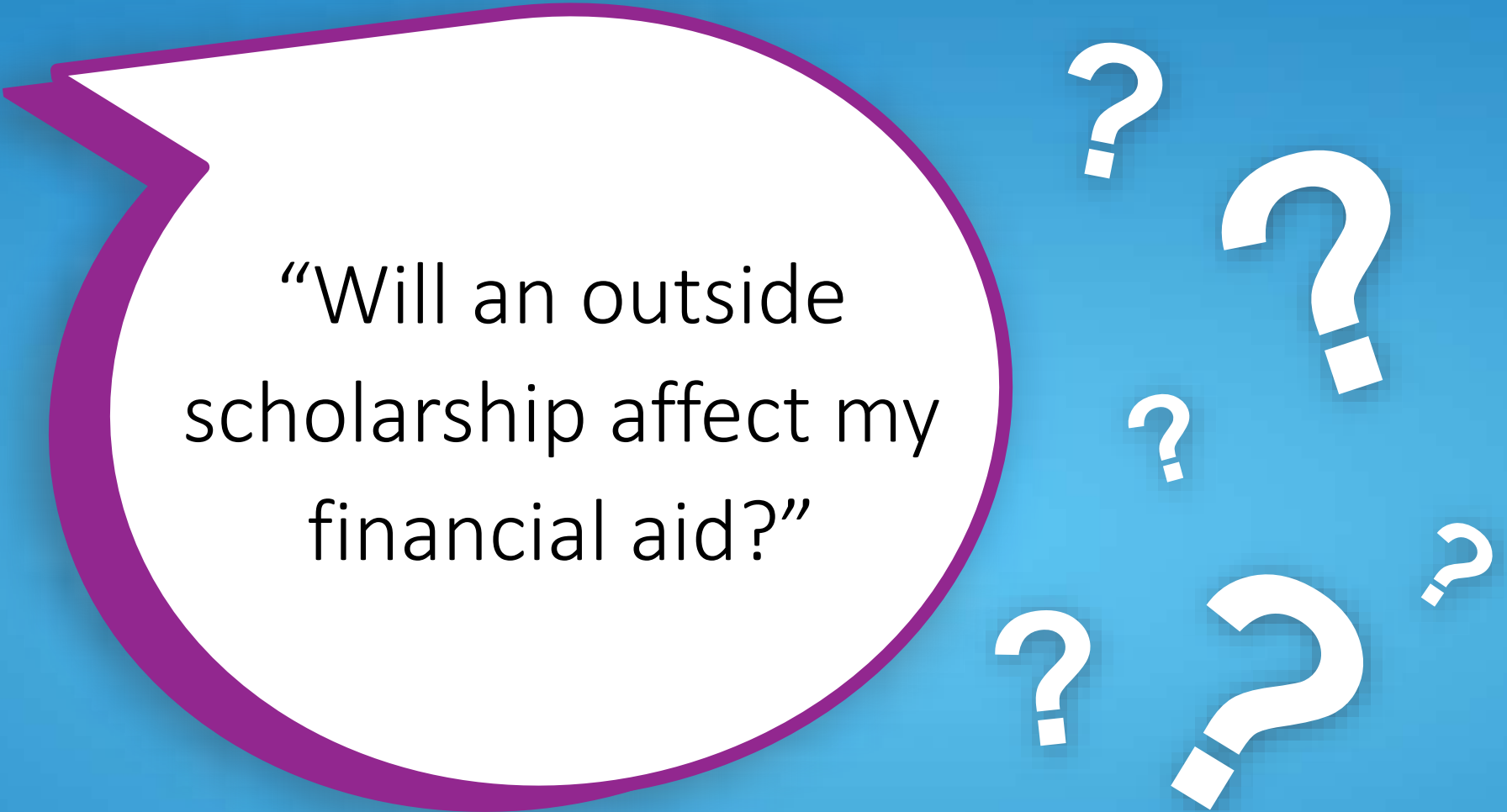
# Your Scholarship Resume



# (Some )Scholarship Search Engines

- ✓ FastWeb.com
- ✓ Scholarshipamerica.org
- ✓ Goingmerry.com
- ✓ FinAid.org
- ✓ Cappex.com/scholarships
- ✓ Unigo.com/scholarships
- ✓ DoSomething.org/Scholarships
- ✓ CollegeScholarships.org
- ✓ Chegg.com
- ✓ Scholarships.com
- ✓ Scholarship-Page.com
- ✓ Colleges.Niche.com
- ✓ StudentScholarships.org
- ✓ BigFuture.Collegeboard.org
- ✓ **MORE....**





“Will an outside scholarship affect my financial aid?”

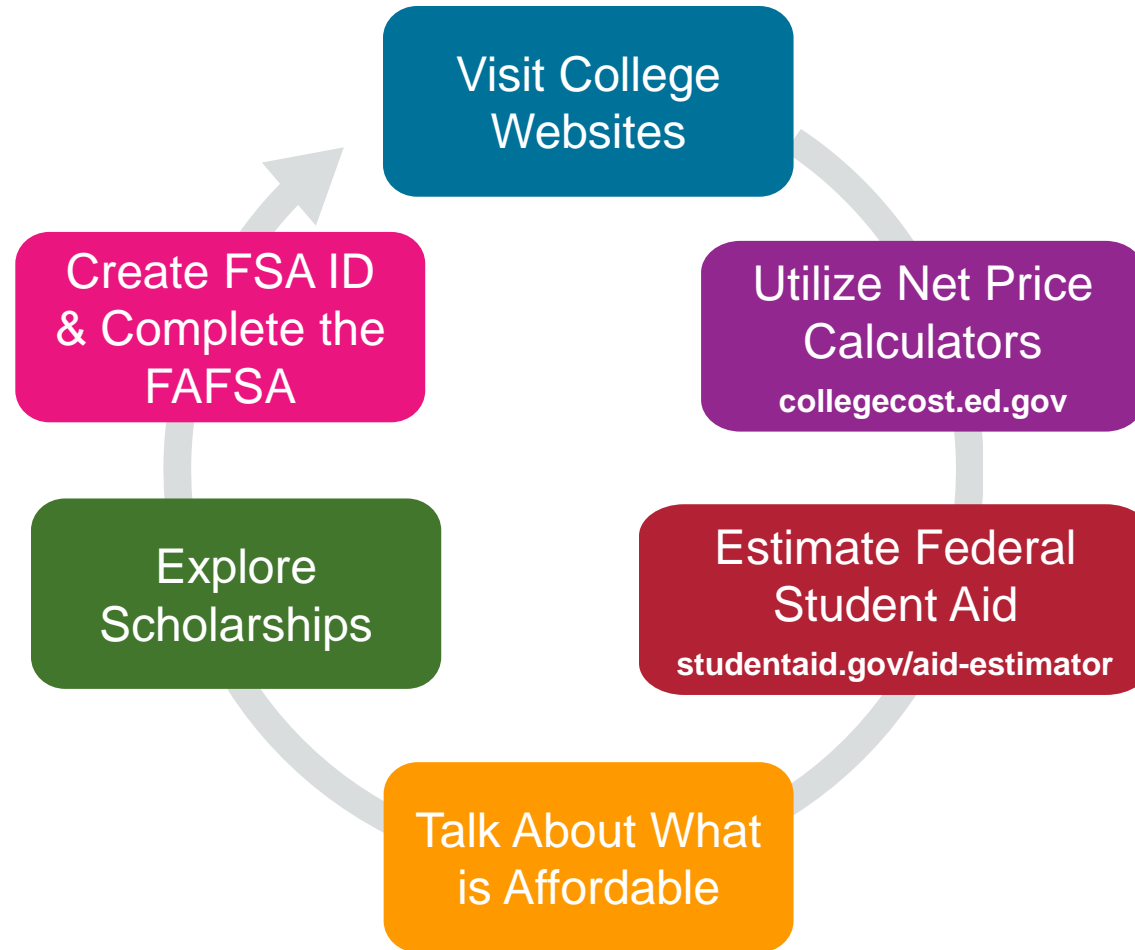
Ask your college representatives!

# Use Your Resources



- [PHEAA.org](https://www.pheaa.org)
- [EducationPlanner.org](https://www.educationplanner.org)
- [MySmartBorrowing.org](https://www.mysmartborrowing.org)
- [YouCanDealWithIt.com](https://www.youcandealwithit.com)
- PHEAA toll free: 800-692-7392
- Federal Student Aid Info Center: 800-433-3243
- [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) – The one-stop shop site for all financial aid information.
- [studentaid.gov/FAFSA](https://studentaid.gov/FAFSA) – Direct link to the FAFSA

# What Can You Do Now?



# Social Media Outreach



**PHEAA**  
**American Education Services**



**@PHEAAaid**  
**@aesSuccessorg**



**PHEAA**



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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QUESTIONS?