



PennState
Greater Allegheny



INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE

Paying for College Planning Guide for New Students

UNDERSTAND YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD
ESTIMATE YOUR BILL
STRATEGIES FOR PAYING YOUR BILL

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD

View your Financial Aid Award online in your LionPATH student account.

- Go to lionpath.psu.edu
- Enter your Penn State User ID (use lowercase letters), and password.
- In LionPATH, select the "My Finances" box in the upper right corner.
- Select "Financial Aid" on the left-hand menu.
- Select the "2022 aid year" and then click on "View Award Detail."
- Carefully review your budget and financial aid to develop a plan to pay the bill you will receive each term.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

LOAN

A sum of money that is expected to be paid back with interest.

Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan

- Eligible students may borrow up to \$5,500 in Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans in their first year, \$6,500 in the second year, and \$7,500 each year thereafter.
- No credit check or co-signer is required for students to borrow Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan funds. Students who submit a FAFSA are automatically considered for the loan and must accept the loan in order to receive the funds.
- Loan payments for the Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans are deferred while the student is enrolled at least half-time.
- Federal Direct Subsidized Loan: interest accrued on the balance of the loan is subsidized and paid by the U.S. Department of Education while the student is enrolled at least half-time.
- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan: the student assumes responsibility for paying interest accrued on the balance of the loan during all time periods.

Private Alternative Loan

- Private alternative loans are managed through private lenders. The loans are issued in the student's name and require a credit-worthy co-signer. Eligibility, rates, terms, and conditions vary.

Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan

- Parents of dependent students who are eligible for a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan can borrow up to the student's total cost of attendance minus all other financial aid.
- Parents can request a deferment on the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan while the student is enrolled at least half-time as an undergraduate.
- Eligibility requirements, application information, and current interest rates are available at studentaid.gov/plus

GRANTS

A sum of money granted by an organization that does not have to be repaid, typically for a particular purpose.

- Students who submit the FAFSA are automatically considered for federal and University grants.
- Note for Pennsylvania residents: Completion of the FAFSA and the state grant form by May 1 will automatically qualify you for consideration for a Pennsylvania State Grant.

WORK-STUDY

Federally or state-funded on-campus employment.

- Money is earned as the student works. Unlike other aid sources, work-study is not applied directly toward the tuition bill. The student will receive bi-weekly pay for hours worked and can earn pay up to the total of the work-study award amount.
- Average work hours per week: 15-20.
- Most Penn State Greater Allegheny offices/department employ work-study students.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A sum of money awarded on the basis of need and/or merit that does not need to be repaid.

- Penn State does not offer standard merit awards for students who fit particular profiles.
- All students who submit a FAFSA are automatically considered for university and campus scholarships.
- Most University and campus scholarships are renewable for future years. Refer to your original scholarship notification letter for specific renewal criteria including GPA, enrollment level, dollar value, and important dates.
- Explore external scholarship resources at greaterallegheny.psu.edu/external-scholarships

ESTIMATE YOUR BILL

Use this worksheet to calculate your remaining balance once all aid is applied to your total cost of attendance.

	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	TOTAL
BILLABLE EXPENSES			
Tuition* and Fees <i>*Be sure to use the rate that corresponds to your current residency status.</i>			
Housing			
Meal Plan			
Total Billable Expenses <i>(sum of all expenses)</i>			
FINANCIAL AID			
Total Grants Awarded			
Total Scholarships Awarded			
Total Loans Awarded			
Additional Aid Funding <i>(external scholarships, savings, 529 plan, family payments, etc.)</i>			
Total Financial Aid <i>(sum of all financial aid)</i>			
Total Estimated Payment to University			
Total Billable Expenses			
Total Financial Aid			
Total <i>(sum of billable expenses minus total financial aid)</i>			

Estimated Payment Formula

Sum of all billable expenses minus the sum of financial aid awarded equals your remaining balance.

- If this calculation results in a positive (+) number, this indicates the remaining balance that is due to Penn State.
- If this calculation results in a negative (-) number, this indicates the amount of refund a student will receive after all bills are paid.

My Results:

I have a remaining balance that is owed to Penn State after all aid is applied. My remaining balance is: \$_____

I will receive a refund once all bills are paid to Penn State. The amount of my refund each semester is: \$_____

STRATEGIES FOR PAYING YOUR BILL

The Estimated Financial Aid Budget can help you estimate your educational costs. We recommend developing a financial plan for all of the years you will attend Penn State.

For the majority of Penn State students, these costs must be paid by the student, either through direct support or by using a combination of financing strategies such as those listed below.

Apply for Additional Loans

- **Private Alternative Educational Loans** - Private alternative loans are managed through private lenders, issued in the student's name, and require a co-signer. Eligibility, rates, terms, and conditions vary.
- **Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan** - The Direct Parent PLUS loan is a federal loan available to the parents of dependent undergraduate students. The Direct Parent PLUS Loan offers flexible loan limits and a fixed 5.30% interest rate for the 2020-21 school year. Eligibility is determined by the applicant's credit history.

Smart Borrowing Tips

1. Students should exhaust all scholarship, grant, and Stafford loan funding options prior to seeking private alternative loans.
2. Research your college costs and future earning potential to make sure you can afford to repay your loans. You don't have to accept the full loan amount you're offered.
3. Research all terms and conditions before borrowing any type of loan.
4. Keep track of how much you borrow using the Loan Debt Summary in LionPATH. Federal student loans can be tracked using StudentAid.gov.

Apply for External Scholarships

- The largest source of additional funds can be found in external scholarships. Students need to apply for as many scholarships as possible. Developing a comprehensive list of search criteria before they begin their scholarship search will yield the greatest number of opportunities. Search criteria is nothing more than a list of things that describe and define the student and their families. For more information, go to the Greater Allegheny website under [External Scholarships](http://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/external-scholarships). (greaterallegheny.psu.edu/external-scholarships)

Scholarship Application Tips

1. Identify and make a list of your strengths.
2. Focus on scholarships that are a good fit. There are scholarships for academic merit, musical or artistic talent, athletics, and more.
3. Look local. Find a list of verified scholarships on our website.
4. Get organized! Make a list of the scholarships you're planning to apply for. Make sure you leave plenty of time for tasks like asking for letters of recommendation or writing and proofreading your scholarship essay.
5. Meet deadlines. Submit everything on time.
6. Apply, apply, apply! You'll learn a lot from the experience, and as you practice, you'll get better. Don't be discouraged by rejection!

Additional Options

- **Employer Tuition Assistance Programs** - Tuition assistance, or tuition reimbursement as it is also known, is an employer-provided employee benefit. In a tuition-assistance program, an employer pays all or part of an employee's cost to attend college or university classes.
- **Student Parent Child Care Subsidy Program** - The Student Parent Child Care Subsidy program is a federal CCAMPIS (Child Care Access Means Parents in School) and Penn State Student Initiated Fee (SIF) funded program that helps qualifying, low-income student parents sustain their educational efforts by paying a portion of their child care costs and encouraging them to select high-quality child care.
- **Enroll in a Tuition Payment Plan** - Penn State offers an Installment Payment Plan every semester, which allows you to pay your tuition in installments over four months in fall and spring and three months in summer.

Determine your plan for paying your bill

If you have a remaining balance, we encourage you to discuss the options above with your support system to determine your plan of action. What strategies do you plan to utilize? List them below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____