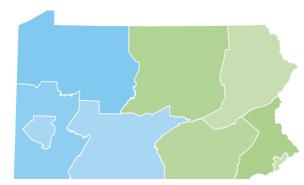




### **Your Presenter**





#### **Jonathan Warner**

Higher Education Access Partner
PA Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)
717-678-9695
jonathan.warner@pheaa.org

## **Topics**

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



**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



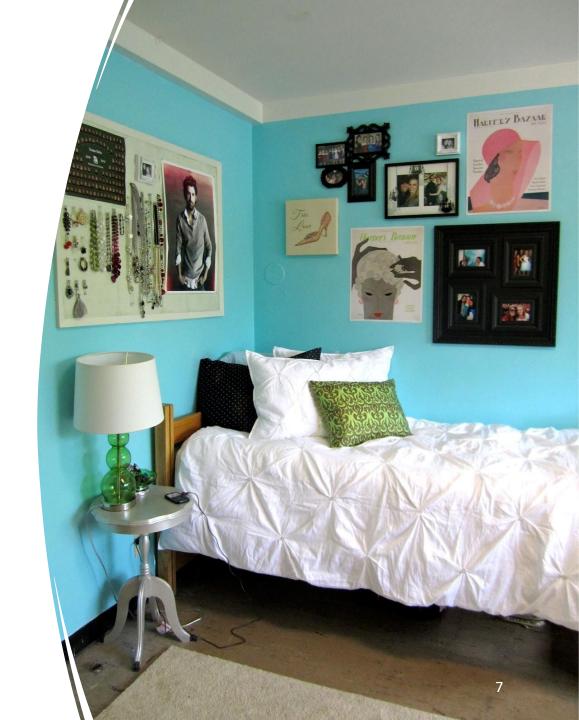
## Cost of Attendance

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)



#### **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
  - Google "Companies that will pay for your Education"





## 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
- Also Complete the FAFSA for Federal Aid options
- 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 7/7/22)

- Bryn Mawr College
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Dickinson College
- Drexel University
- Franklin & Marshall College
- Gettysburg College
- Haverford College
- Kutztown University

- Lafayette College
- Lehigh University
- 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



#### **Federal Deadlines**

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

#### School Deadlines (CSS Profile & Institutional Applications)

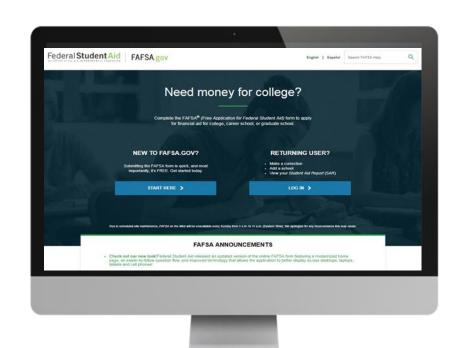
vary, check with school or websites

#### 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

## Free Application for Federal Student Aid - FAFSA

- 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

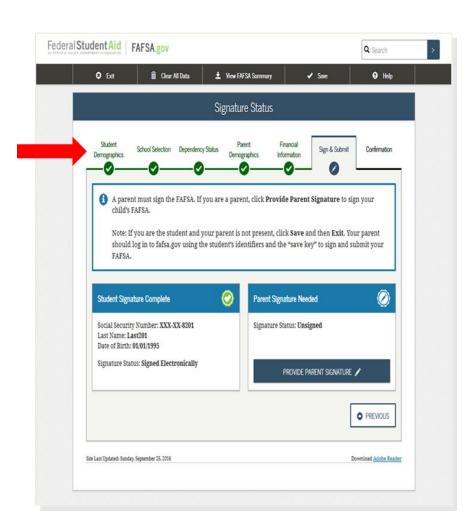
## Completing the FAFSA

- Available October 1st of Student's Senior Year –
   October 1, 2022
- List up to 10 schools
- Don't have to be admitted to list the school on the FAFSA
- Can go back and add schools
- 2023-24 FAFSA will use 2021 income and tax information
- Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)



### FAFSA – 7 Sections

- 1. Student Demographics
- 2. School Selection
- 3. Dependency Status
- 4. Parent Demographics
- 5. Financial Information
- 6. Sign and Submit
- 7. Confirmation



## **IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)**

- Students and parents can transfer IRS tax return income directly into the FAFSA
- The IRS DRT may not work if the student or parent:
  - Is married and file a separate tax return from their spouses
  - Married and filed as Head of Household
  - FAFSA marital status doesn't match PPY IRS tax status
  - Filed a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return
  - Was victim of identity theft, involving their federal tax return
  - Use an address that does not match their federal tax return

Tax filers flagged due to identity theft can't use the IRS DRT.

## **FAFSA Completion Tips**

## **Create Your FSA ID Account**

- The student and one parent providing information on the FAFSA need to create an FSA ID account at StudentAid.gov/fsa-id
- When you create the FSA ID you are creating a username and password that serves as the legal signature
- Provides access to FAFSA, IRS Data Retrieval Tool and Federal Student Aid online systems

Username

**Password** 

Social Security
Number

**Email Address** 

**Mobile Number** 

**Security Questions** 

## **FSA ID Tips**

- If you are a dependent student your parent will need an FSA ID to sign your FAFSA electronically
- If the parent created an FSA ID for another child they can use the same FSA ID
- You and your parent must have different FSA IDs – you cannot share email address or mobile phone number.



## Whose Information Goes on the FAFSA?

#### YES

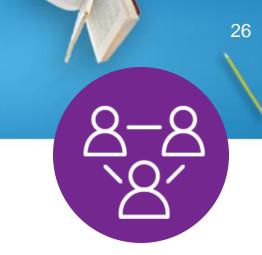
- Married parents living together
- Divorced or separated parents living in the same household
- Biological parents (not married) living together
- Divorced or separated parents
  - The parent the student lived with the most over the past 12 months. If equal, then the parent who provided more than 50% of student's financial support
- Stepparents If part of student's household
- Adoptive parents

#### NO

- Foster Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Grandparents
- Anyone else the student lives with

## When Is A Student Considered "Independent"?

- Was the student born prior to
  - » 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



## 2023-2024 FAFSA Prep

#### **Information Needed for FAFSA**



Social Security
Numbers – Student &
Parent



Student & Parent Federal Student Aid Account (FSA ID)



**Email Addresses** 



2021 Federal Income Tax Returns and ALL W-2's – Student & Parent



2021 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 – for all children

Farm Value – unless primary place of residence

Business value – Unless family owned and employs 100 employees or less

#### **Not** reported on FAFSA

Value of Primary home

Value of qualified retirement accounts

Value of life insurance policies

## Confirmation Page & Link to the PA State Grant Form (SGF)

#### Congratulations, Nikki!

Your FAFSA form was successfully submitted to Federal Student Aid.

08/25/2022 08:17:14

Confirmation Number: F 19200007906

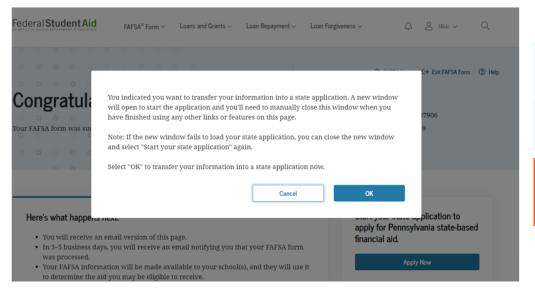
Data Release Number (DRN): 7339

#### 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

Start your state application to apply for Pennsylvania state-based financial aid.

Apply Now



Parents with multiple children who need to file the FAFSA, can click on a link to transfer their information to a different child's FAFSA from the original child's confirmation page.

(Look for the link)

## **Don't Stop** at the FAFSA® confirmation page.

Click "Apply Now" to start your PA State grant application.

Students residing in other states should check with their state agency to apply for aid in that state.

## **Special Circumstances**

## 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



Scholarships





Searching for Scholarships

- Postsecondary Schools
- Local and Regional
- National

#### Increase Your Scholarship Opportunities

#### Your Name

Address City, State ZIP Phone

#### Objective

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

#### **Academic History**

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

#### Work History

- Writing Tutor, Portland State University 2011
  - o Assisted students with essay structure, theses and grammar
  - o Requested specifically by more than 15 students to be a private tutor o Responsible for organizing office files
- · Cofounder and Editor of Campus Poetry, 2012
  - o Designed and helped create Campus Poetry, a literary journal at
  - o Collaborated with 10 individuals to select, edit and publish 30 poems,
  - photographs and short stories.

    o Arranged promotional events and raised money to continue the journal

#### Volunteer Work

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

#### **Awards and Achievements**

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

through 2014.

#### 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 <u>NOT</u> 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

## 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



# 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 Programs

### Pennsylvania State Grant



✓ 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

### 2022-23 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

### 2022-23 Out-of-State Awards



#### **Reciprocal States**

**Delaware** Massachusetts

**West Virginia** District of Columbia

Ohio Vermont

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

### Other State Programs

- State Work-Study
- Blind or Deaf Beneficiary Grant
- Educational Assistance Grant (EAP) National Guard
- Chafee Education and Training Grant co-administered with the PA Department of Human Services
- Fostering Independence Tuition Education Waiver
- Pennsylvania National Guard Military Family Education Program (MFEP)
- Postsecondary Educational Gratuity Program (PEGP)
- Ready to Succeed Scholarship (RTSS)
- Partnerships for Access to Higher Education (PATH)
- Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA –TIP)

For details, visit www.pheaa.org

### PA Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP)

- Targeted industries at approved schools:
  - » Health
  - » Energy
  - » Advanced Materials and Diversified Manufacturing
  - » Agriculture and Food Production
- Maximum award is the lesser of:
  - » Maximum annual PA-TIP award of \$5,000 or
  - » Student's approved program costs minus gift and employer aid
- Many requirements of PA State Grant, except:
  - » Program must be at least 10 weeks but less than 2 years
- Must file FAFSA every year
- Must file PA—TIP application (1st-time applicants only)

### **Federal Grants**

- Federal Pell Grant
  - » Based on financial need
  - » 2022-23 max award \$6,895
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
  - » Based on financial need
  - » Must be Pell Grant eligible
  - » Max award \$4,000

### **Other Federal Programs**

#### Teacher Education Assistance for College & Higher Education Grant (TEACH)

- » Students who plan to teach in a high-need field at the secondary level
- » Minimum service commitment
- » More information at StudentAid.gov

#### Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

- » Students whose parent passed away performing military service in Afghanistan or Iraq war
- » More information at StudentAid.gov

#### AmeriCorps

- » Perform community service in exchange for education award
- » Award can cover range of educational expenses
- » More information at Nationalservice.gov

## **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



# Federal Loans

### **Federal Direct Student Loans**

- In the student's name
- No credit check
- No co-signer required
- Fixed interest rate of 4.99% 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 <u>www.studentaid.gov</u>



### 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 St <mark>udents</mark> (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













### **Federal Loan**

### Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan

- Parent is the borrower and the loan remains in parent's name
- Credit check is required Can have a co-signer
- Interest/Fees: 7.54% 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 <u>www.studentaid.gov</u>



Private/Alternative Loans





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

### **Private/Alternative Loans**



- » 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 3.82-7.69% APR

Effective as of 6/8/22



rate of 4.10%, and a total amount financed of \$11,001.26. 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 a Fully Deferred Repayment term of 180 months, monthly payments of \$131.09, a fixed periodic interest rate of 8.20%, and a total amount financed of \$23,596.64. 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) Subject to aggregate loan limits.

3) Loans taken for a less than half-time academic period may borrow up to \$5,000. Applicants are subject to credit qualifications, completion of an application and credit agreement, and verification of application information. PHEAA uses applicant(s) FICO score(s) to determine eligibility and interest rates. Higher credit scores may mean an applicant is offered a lower interest rate.

PHEAA reserves the right to discontinue all programs or benefits without prior notice.



FAFSA's filed – what's next



### What happens after the FAFSA is Filed?





- 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

## **Expected Family Contribution - EFC**

The Federal Processor uses a federal formula to determine the Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

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

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is determined based on:

- Parent income and assets
- Student income and assets
- Family size
- Number in college
- Age of the older parent



### **Calculating Financial Need**

Schools/colleges receive financial aid information from the FAFSA and calculate financial need

- Financial Aid Office (FAO)
   "awards" the student based on
   financial need and available
   funding (varies from school to
   school)
- Financial aid offer is sent to student once accepted at the the school



### **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 \$39,9		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

DIRECT BILLABLE COSTS	Fall	Spring	Tota
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 Estimate	d Balance	\$21,881
ESTIMATED MONTHLY PAY	MENT OPTIONS	
\$2,188	\$1,823	DEPOSIT NOW
10 payments per year	12 payments per year	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

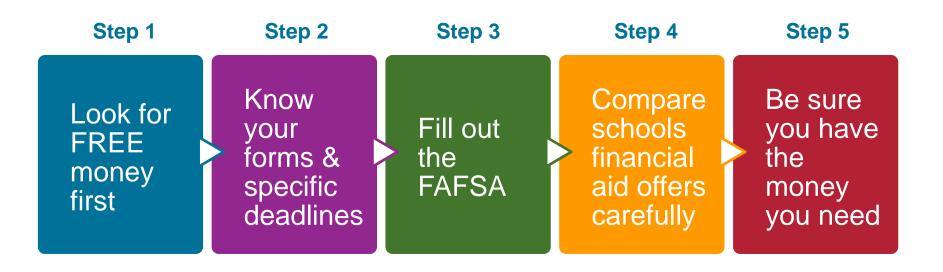
- √ Scholarships
- ✓ Savings
- ✓ 529 Savings plans
- ✓ Tuition Payment Plan through the school
- ✓ Student earnings from work
- ✓ Federal Student Loans
- ✓ Federal Parent Loans
- ✓ Home Equity Loans
- ✓ Private/ Alternative Loans



# Final Thoughts & Wrap Up

### Financial Aid Made Simple

### **5 Steps to Financial Aid**



### What Can You Do Now?



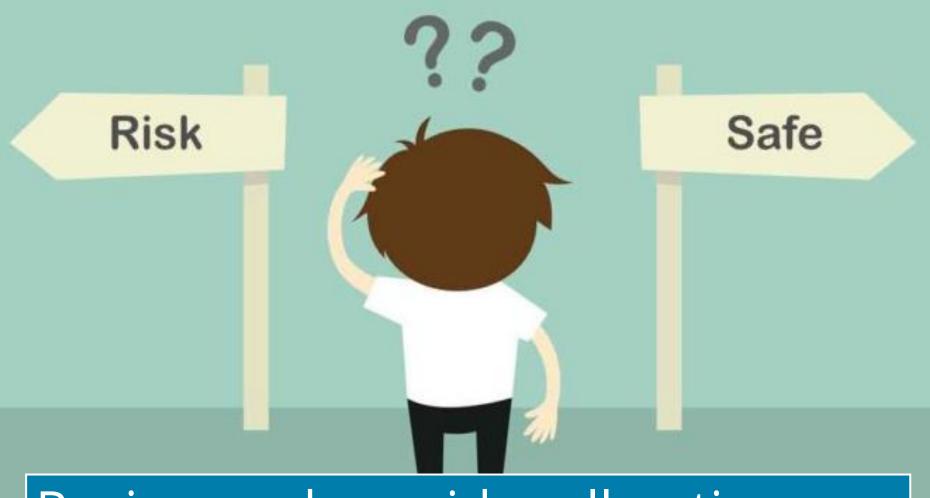
Apply for FSA ID Account

Explore Scholarships

Visit College Websites

**Use Net Price Calculators** 

Talk about what is affordable



Review and consider all options. Sometimes the best fit is not the first school choice.

### **Use Your Resources**

- PHEAA.org
- EducationPlanner.org
- MySmartBorrowing.org
- 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