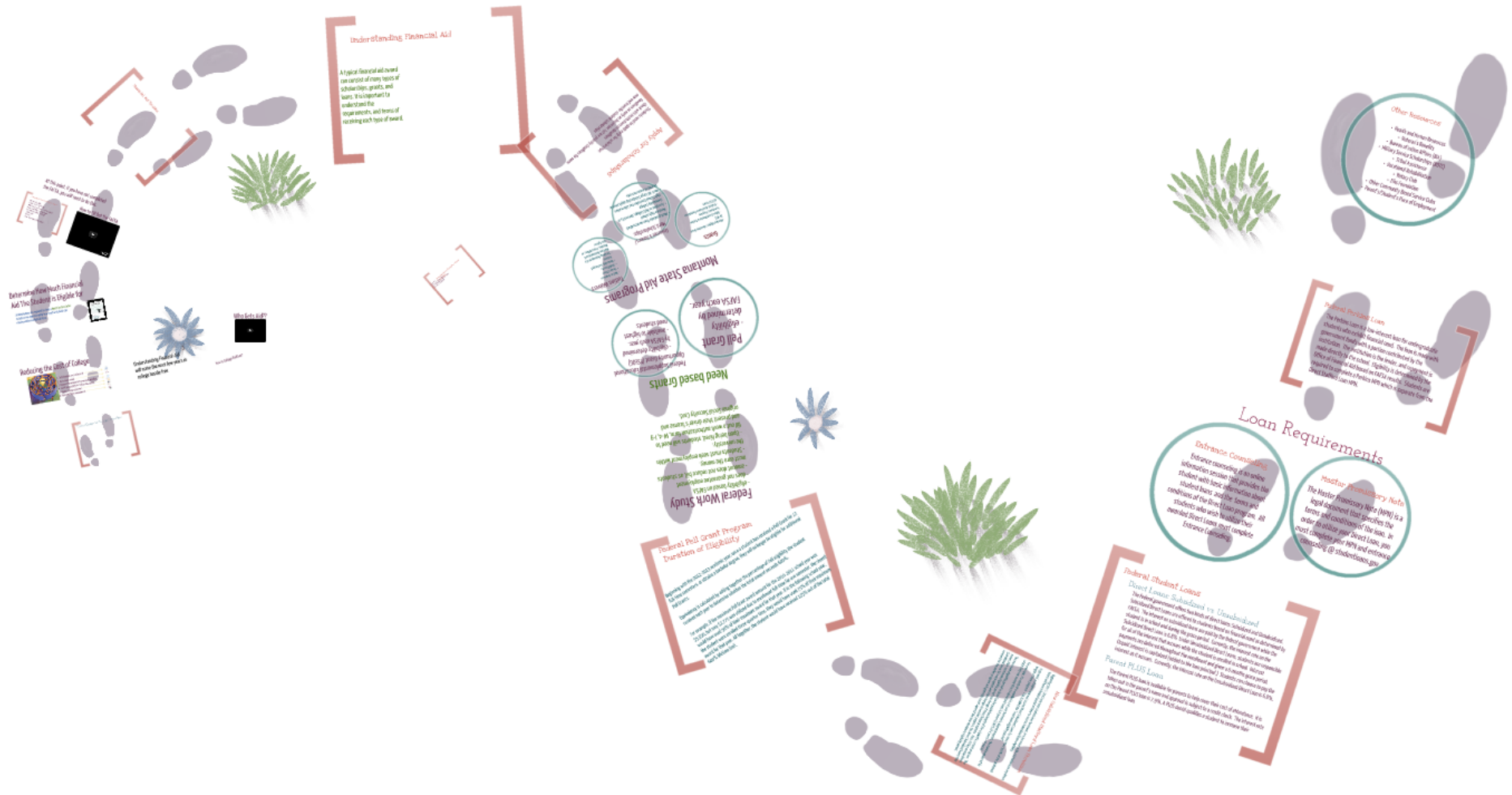


A Student's Journey to Pay for College



Financial Aid questions can always be answered with 'It Depends', and the regulations are forever changing; so do not hesitate to ask your local Financial Aid Office for assistance. The members of the Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators are here to help you in any way we can!



"Count Down to College" Timeline

January - February

Get the FAFSA filed, submit all admissions requests

March - April

Admissions response, financial aid verification and award letters

May

Deposits due, accept admission and financial aid awards

June, July, August

Billing Statements, Payment Plan, Student Loans

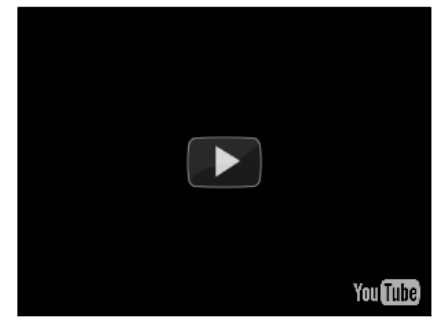
January next year

Back to the Future, new FAFSA is due

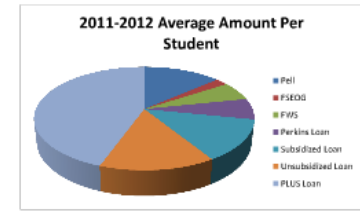


Understanding Financial Aid
will make the next few years in
college hassle free

Who Gets Aid??

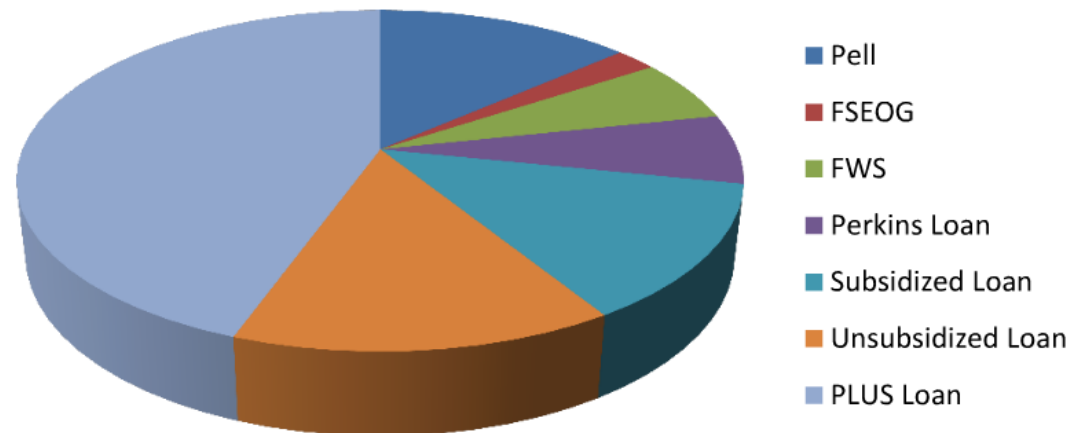


How is College Paid For?



How is College Paid For?

2011-2012 Average Amount Per Student

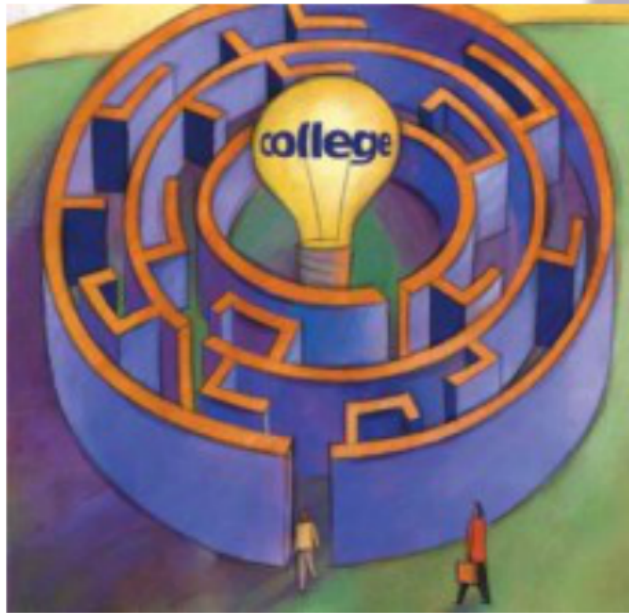


Who Gets Aid??



YouTube

Reducing the Cost of College



1. Set a budget and stick to it!
2. Get school credit
3. Reduce the amount of semesters enrolled.
4. See if you qualify for tuition discounts.
5. Reduce living expenses.
6. Find part time employment



Budgeting

Having a budget will help compare anticipated expenses against potential available income and financial aid. There are several different resources to assist with this. Check out this budget calculator ->

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/prepare-for-college/choosing-schools/consider/budget-calculator>

Testing Out

Students may be able to get school credit based on knowledge gained from previous classes, such as math, computer and language courses. Check with the departments to find out about testing out.

Graduate early

Each institution normally has a flat spot where tuition freezes for more credits taken in a semester. (i.e. \$1,179 for 12 or more credits up to 21 per semester) If academically possible, take the maximum number of credits allowed. This strategy reduces the amount of time needed to graduate.

Institutions possibly offer discounts if:

- the student is a child or sibling of an alumnus or alumna, or
- the student, or a member of the family works at the school, or
- the student is a veteran, native american, senior citizen, etc.



- If the college is near home, consider living with parents or other family.
- If living off campus, consider sharing a house, or apartment with multiple housemates to cut down the cost of rent, and carpool to save on gas and parking.
- The institution may offer a Resident Advisor program that provides a monthly stipend if you work as an RA.
- If living on campus is the only option, compare the prices of the different halls and check the possibility of living in the less expensive dorm or apartment.

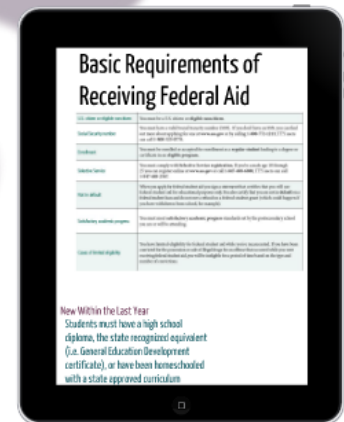
Most institutions participate in the Federal Work Study Program and possibly a State Work Study Program. This provides eligible students an opportunity to earn money while going to school.

In addition, career services can help students find employment on and off campus.



Determine How Much Financial Aid The Student is Eligible for

All institutions are required to have a **Net Price Calculator** to determine approximately how much a student can receive while enrolled full time.



e 101

Basic Requirements of Receiving Federal Aid

U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen	You must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
Social Security number	You must have a valid Social Security number (SSN). If you don't have an SSN, you can find out more about applying for one at www.ssa.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213; TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.
Enrollment	You must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student leading to a degree or certificate in an eligible program.
Selective Service	You must comply with Selective Service registration. If you're a male age 18 through 25 you can register online at www.sss.gov or call 1-847-688-6888; TTY users can call 1-847-688-2567.
Not in default	When you apply for federal student aid you sign a statement that certifies that you will use federal student aid for educational purposes only; You also certify that you are not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe a refund on a federal student grant (which could happen if you have withdrawn from school, for example).
Satisfactory academic progress	You must meet satisfactory academic progress standards set by the postsecondary school you are or will be attending.
Cases of limited eligibility	You have limited eligibility for federal student aid while you're incarcerated. If you have been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid, you will be ineligible for a period of time based on the type and number of convictions.

New Within the Last Year
Students must have a high school

Enrollment	You must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student leading to a degree or certificate in an eligible program .
Selective Service	You must comply with Selective Service registration . If you're a male age 18 through 25 you can register online at www.sss.gov or call 1-847-688-6888 ; TTY users can call 1-847-688-2567 .
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Satisfactory academic progress	You must meet satisfactory academic progress standards set by the postsecondary school you are or will be attending.
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Cases of limited eligibility

You have limited eligibility for federal student aid if you have been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs. If you are receiving federal student aid, you will be ineligible for a certain number of convictions.

New Within the Last Year

Students must have a high school diploma, the state recognized equivalent (i.e. General Education Development certificate), or have been homeschooled with a state approved curriculum

At this point, if you have not completed the FAFSA, you will need to do this.

Applying for Different Types of Aid

USE THE FAFSA FOR :

Grants – Free or “gift” aid

Work Study – Self- help – must be earned

Loans – Self-help – must be repaid

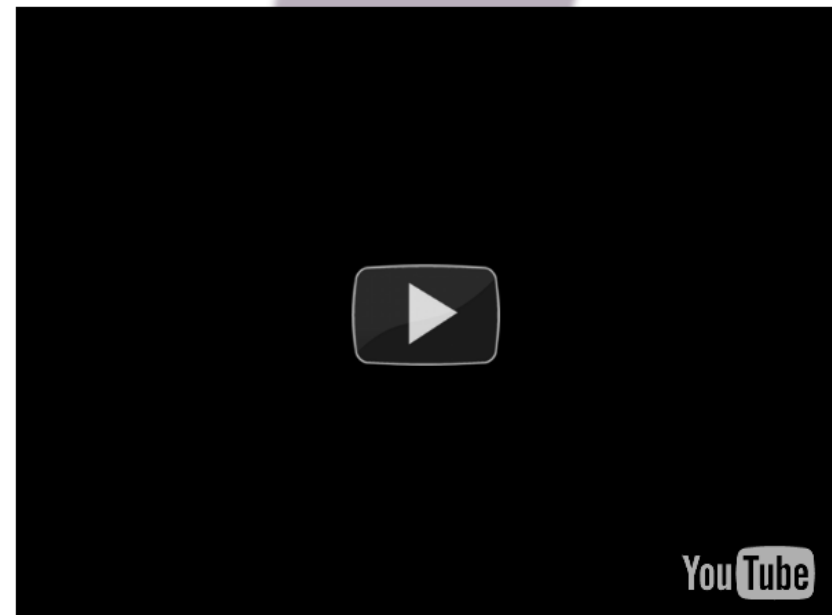
USE SEPARATE APPLICATION FOR:

Scholarships

Waivers

Follow the process at your school

How to Fill Out the FAFSA



Applying for Different Types of Aid

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Follow the process at your school

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YouTube

Financial Aid Timeline

to a university
lege by the
deadline.

2 Search for
scholarships.
Keep track of
the details
and deadlines.

3 Complete the
FAFSA at **fafsa.gov**,
after Jan. 1. Check
the school's priority
filing date.

4 Receive award
notification from
the school (may be
paper or electronic).

5 Respond to the award
notification by accepting
rejecting or accepting
a reduced amount
of financial aid.

6 Complete entrance
counseling if
accepting a loan.

STEPS TO FINANCIAL AID

at any time you have questions, please contact the school's financial aid office.

receiving a
edit refund, set
o a budget for
e school term.

9 Make payment
arrangements for any
outstanding balances
due to the school.

8 Follow the school's procedures
to confirm attendance so that
financial aid can be applied to
charges.

7 If accepting student
loans, complete
and sign a master
promissory note
(MPN).



financial aid office.

the school's procedures
attendance so that
aid can be applied to



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Understanding Financial Aid

A typical financial aid award can consist of many types of scholarships, grants, and loans. It is important to understand the requirements, and terms of receiving each type of award.



Apply for Scholarships

Students need to apply early for scholarships
Check with institutions on deadlines
Deadlines as early as December 1st are priority deadlines for some
New and transfer student scholarships



Montana State Aid Programs

Grants

- Montana Higher Education Grant (MHEG)
- Baker Grant/Montana Tuition Assistance Program
- Student Assistance Foundation ACCE\$\$ Grant

Governor's Honors/ Merit Scholarships

- Must graduate from an accredited Montana High school
- Accepted to MUS College, University or Community College
- High School Counselor has information
- Merit-At-Large Scholarship application is located at www.mus.edu

Tuition Waivers

- Native American
- Senior Citizen
- Staff/Faculty
- Honorably Discharged Veteran
- Surviving Dependent of a Montana National Guard Member, Police Officer, or Fire Fighter

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Need based Grants

Pell Grant

- eligibility determined by FAFSA each year.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- eligibility determined by FAFSA each year.
- available to highest need students

Pell Grant
- eligibility
determined by
FAFSA each year.

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Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- eligibility determined by FAFSA each year.
- available to highest need students

Federal Work Study

- eligibility based on FAFSA
- does not guarantee employment
- amount does not reduce bill, as students must earn the money.
- Students must seek employment within the university.
- Upon being hired, students will need to fill out a work authorization form, W-4, I-9 and present their driver's license and original Social Security Card.

Federal Pell Grant Program

Duration of Eligibility

Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year, once a student has received a Pell Grant for 12 full-time semesters, or obtains a bachelor degree, they will no longer be eligible for additional Pell Grants.

Equivalency is calculated by adding together the percentage of Pell eligibility the student received each year to determine whether the total amount exceeds 600%.

For example, if the maximum Pell Grant award amount for the 2010-2011 school year was \$5,550, but only \$2,775 was utilized due to enrollment full-time for one semester, the student would have used 50% of their maximum award for that year. If in the following school year, the student were enrolled three-quarter time, they would have used 75% of their maximum award for that year. All together, the student would have received 125% out of the total 600% lifetime limit.

Federal Student Loans

Direct Loans: Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized

The Federal government offers two kinds of direct loans: Subsidized and Unsubsidized. Subsidized Direct Loans are offered to students based on financial need as determined by FAFSA. The interest on subsidized loans are paid by the federal government while the student is in school and during the grace period. Currently, the interest rate on the Subsidized Direct Loan is 6.8% Under Unsubsidized Direct Loans, students are responsible for all of the interest that accrues while the student is enrolled in school. Interest payments are deferred throughout the enrollment and given a 6 months grace period. Unpaid interest is capitalized (added to the loan principal.) Students can choose to pay the interest as it accrues. Currently, the interest rate on the Unsubsidized Direct Loan is 6.8%.

Parent PLUS Loan

The Parent PLUS loan is available for parents to help cover their cost of attendance. It is taken out in the parent's name and approval is subject to a credit check. The interest rate on the Parent PLUS loan is 7.9%. A PLUS denial qualifies a student to increase their unsubsidized loan.

New Subsidized Stafford Loan Provision

Beginning July 1, 2013 any new student loan borrower, or a borrower with a \$0 balance on any Direct Loans will have a limited period of time to receive Subsidized Loan eligibility.

In general, a student may not receive Direct Subsidized Loans for more than 150% of the published length of their program. This is called the “maximum eligibility period”.

For example, if a student is enrolled in a 4-year bachelor’s degree program, the maximum period for which they can receive Direct Subsidized Loans is 6 years (150% of 4 years = 6 years).

The maximum eligibility period is based on the published length of the student's current program. This means their maximum eligibility period can change if they change programs. Also, if they receive Direct Subsidized Loans for one program and then change to another program, the Direct Subsidized Loans they received for the earlier program will generally count against the new maximum eligibility period.

Loan Requirements



Entrance Counseling

Entrance counseling is an online information session that provides the student with basic information about student loans and the terms and conditions of the Direct Loan program. All students who wish to utilize their awarded Direct Loans must complete Entrance Counseling.



Master Promissory Note

The Master Promissory Note (MPN) is a legal document that specifies the terms and conditions of the loan. In order to utilize your Direct Loan, you must complete your MPN and entrance counseling @ studentloans.gov



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Federal Perkins Loan

The Perkins Loan is a low-interest loan for undergraduate students who exhibit financial need. The loan is made with government funds with a portion contributed by the institution. The institution is the lender, and repayment is made directly to the school. Eligibility is determined by the Office of Financial Aid based on FAFSA results. Students are required to complete a Perkins MPN which is separate from the Direct Stafford Loan MPN.

Other Resources

- Health and Human Resources
 - Veteran's Benefits
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Military Service Scholarships (ROTC)
 - Tribal Assistance
 - Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Rotary Club
 - Elks Foundation
- Other Community Based Service Clubs
- Parent's/Student's Place of Employment



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