

Securing financial aid for your education



1

Apply for your FSA ID

Your FSA ID confirms your identity when you apply for and access financial aid information on certain U.S. Department of Education websites, and is used to electronically sign financial aid documents, such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

2

Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA determines your annual eligibility for federal, state, and University financial aid, and can be completed as early as October 1 for the next academic year. Use Penn State's school code (003329) to send your information to the University.

3

Review your Student Aid Report

After your FAFSA has been submitted and processed, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) to review. The SAR will summarize the data you provided and give basic financial aid information.

4

Review your Penn State financial aid award summary in LionPATH

Choose "View Financial Aid" in LionPATH to review your Penn State financial aid award. Admitted students who completed a FAFSA will receive email notice of their aid eligibility from the Penn State Office of Student Aid after awarding begins.

5

Follow up on outstanding financial aid items

Some students are required to provide verification of the family financial information that they supplied on the FAFSA. Check your To-Do List in LionPATH for any follow-up items.

Submitting your FAFSA

You must submit a FAFSA for each academic year in which you plan to take courses, and it's important to submit the correct FAFSA for the corresponding academic year. The following table explains which FAFSA you will need to submit, and which year's tax information will be required, depending on when you plan to take courses.

FAFSA Submission Timing

Academic year in which you plan to take courses	Corresponding FAFSA to submit	FAFSA submission dates	Tax year information to use for FAFSA
Fall 2023 through summer 2024	2023–24 FAFSA	October 1, 2022–June 30, 2024	2021
Fall 2024 through summer 2025	2024–25 FAFSA	January 1, 2024–June 30, 2025	2022