

FINANCIAL AID FOR ADULT STUDENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

- You must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or other eligible non-citizen (as defined by the FAFSA).
- You must be in a degree or provisional status. Non-degree students are not eligible for federal or state financial aid.
- You can receive aid as a part-time student. In most cases you must be registered for at least 6 credits per semester.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

All students must complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) to be considered for state and federal financial aid programs. Adult students (24+ years of age) are usually classified as “independent” for financial aid purposes and do not have to include parental information. Although you can apply for financial aid throughout the academic year, we encourage *new* students to apply by February 15th *prior* to their Fall or Spring enrollment. Applying by this date will insure maximum aid consideration. Current students should complete the FAFSA by April 1st each year using completed (not estimated) tax information.

You should complete the FAFSA on-line at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Penn State’s Title IV code (003329) must be listed for us to receive your information. Once Penn State has received your FAFSA information and you have been offered admission, a financial aid award notification will be sent to you. The FAFSA must be completed each year.

CHANGES IN INCOME

Many adult students leave their current jobs voluntarily to attend school full-time. Others may surprisingly find themselves unemployed and consider returning to school to upgrade their skills or change careers. If you have experienced a sudden loss of income, it is important to talk with a financial aid counselor about your situation. Your financial aid eligibility can be reviewed based on your current situation and not the prior year’s income.

TYPES OF AID

GRANTS

Grants are need-based sources of financial aid that do *not* have to be paid back. The information you supply on your FAFSA determines your eligibility for grant funding. Examples of different grant programs include the Federal Pell Grant, the PHEAA State Grant, the

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), and the Penn State Tuition Assistance and Opportunity Grants.

WORK STUDY

Federal work study is the opportunity to get a part-time position on campus where the federal government pays most of your wages. It is different from other sources of aid because it *cannot* be deducted from your bill. Funds are earned as you work. Penn State requires your paycheck to be directly deposited into a checking or savings account. Students are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week through the Federal Work Study Program. Earnings are taxable but do not count as income on the FAFSA. We encourage students to obtain jobs related to their major or career goal. You can view a list of available positions on eLion. Penn State also participates in the PHEAA/State Work Study Program and hires students through wage payroll. See <http://www.behrend.psu.edu/admissions/finaid/studentempl.htm> for details.

LOANS

You must complete the FAFSA even if you are just planning on utilizing loan assistance. There are several types of loans, including the Federal Perkins Loan and the Federal Direct Stafford Loan. Alternative loan programs can be used as a last resort. You must be taking at least 6 credits per semester to be considered for Perkins or Stafford loan funds.

The first step to accessing loan funds is to complete the FAFSA. Once Penn State receives your FAFSA data, we determine the amount and type of loan funds you will be eligible for. If you want to accept these loan funds, you will need to electronically sign a Master Promissory Note. *Do not go to a bank to pick up a loan application.*

The Federal Perkins Loan interest rate is capped at 5%; and the Federal Direct Stafford Loan interest rate is fixed at 6.8%. Repayment of Perkins and Stafford loan funds begin 9 and 6 months, respectively, after you leave college.

SCHOLARSHIPS

All new students are considered for academic scholarships once they are admitted to Penn State Behrend. Consideration is given to full and part-time students. All students are considered for University Wide Scholarships.

It is never too early to begin an outside scholarship search. Many organizations award scholarships specifically to adult students. We recommend checking with your (or your spouse's) employer, local civic groups, or your church for scholarship opportunities. We also refer students to the following Internet sites for more extensive searches:
<http://www.fastweb.com>

<http://www.behrend.psu.edu/admissions/finaid/Master%20List.pdf>

If you are awarded an outside scholarship, you must provide the Financial Aid Office with the award letter so we may deduct the scholarship amount from your bill. ***NEVER PAY AN ORGANIZATION TO DO A SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH FOR YOU.***

EMPLOYER TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Students receiving employer reimbursement may be able to defer tuition payment. You must complete a tuition deferment form with our Bursar's Office (814-898-6224) *each semester* to defer tuition.

CHILDCARE COSTS

If childcare costs are a concern, talk to the Financial Aid Office to see if your aid package will allow for a refund that can be used for personal expenses such as childcare. For information regarding the Penn State Child Care Subsidy Program, go to www.ohr.psu.edu/worklife/subsidies.htm

2009-2010 UNDERGRADUATE COSTS

Full-Time/Per Semester

	<u>PA Resident</u>	<u>Non-PA</u>
Tuition	\$ 5,971	\$ 9,135
Fees	\$ 404	\$ 404

Part-Time (Per Credit)

	<u>PA Resident</u>	<u>Non-PA</u>
Tuition	\$ 498	\$ 761
Fees	(adjusted from above on a per credit basis)	

Penn State's tuition rates vary by campus location, student level, academic program, and residency status. Visit www.tuition.psu.edu for more specific tuition rates.

Other Anticipated Costs

Students can expect to pay approximately \$500 per semester for books. This amount will vary depending on the number of classes taken. A parking permit must be purchased to park a car on campus. The 2009-2010 permit price for full-time commuter students is \$150 per semester or \$270/year.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Penn State students receive an electronic bill that you can view on eLion. You must confirm your registration with the Bursar's Office each semester. If you do not confirm your registration you are not officially enrolled.

Your tuition bill will include your University charges and will deduct any financial aid that is currently in place. Upon receipt of your bill you can:

- Pay the entire balance of your bill in full by the due date on the bill **OR**
- Use the Deferred Payment Plan to pay the amount owed in 3 payments. This plan costs an additional \$45 that is included in your first payment **OR**
- If your employer is assisting you with your tuition, complete a tuition deferment form at the Bursar's Office **OR**
- Complete your registration on eLion if your financial aid covers all of your charges **OR**
- Pay your bill by credit card (Discover/Mastercard/American Express) on eLion. A 2% convenience fee will be charged using this option.

VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

Individuals who are serving on active duty, reservists, veterans and their eligible dependents may be able to receive veterans' educational benefits. Once an individual accepts their offer of admission, he/she should call or visit our Veteran Affairs Office. The Office is located within the Financial Aid Office on the 2nd floor of the Glenhill Farmhouse. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The staff can be reached at (814) 898-6335 or via e-mail at: bdvets@psu.edu.

The campus VA office will provide an Application for VA Education Benefits.

This form will be processed by the regional VA office to determine eligibility for all VA educational programs. Students will need to provide supporting documentation such as the DD214 (member 4 copy), the NOBE (Notice of Basic Eligibility), and/or the DD295.

Current payment rates for Montgomery GI Bill recipients can be accessed from the Education web site of www.va.gov.

Veterans who are Pennsylvania residents are given priority for state grant consideration. These funds are accessed by completing the FAFSA. The FAFSA must be processed by May 1st for the upcoming academic year. PA state grants are only available to students who are taking at least 6 credits.

Penn State allows first year veterans to defer their tuition for the first semester. These requests can be made either over the phone or in person.

If you are interested, federal work study and veteran work study options can be discussed when you visit the campus VA Office.

When completing the FAFSA form, your veteran's benefits may be regarded as a resource toward meeting your cost of attendance.

HOPE & LIFETIME LEARNING TAX CREDITS

Consult your accountant/tax preparer on the guidelines for these programs. Penn State issues students a 1098T each year to include with tax documents.

FINANCIAL AID FOR WORLD CAMPUS COURSES

It is possible to receive financial aid for courses taken through Penn State's World Campus. The application process is the same as for "resident instruction"

courses.

HELPFUL WEB SITES, EMAIL ADDRESSES, AND PHONE NUMBERS

Penn State Office of Student Aid
<http://www.psu.edu/studentaid/>
(814) 865-6301

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
<http://www.behrend.psu.edu>
(814) 898-6162
Behrendfinaid@psu.edu

PHEAA
<http://www.pheaa.org>
1-800-692-7392

FAFSA on the Web
<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

Financial Aid Information Page
<http://www.finaid.org/>