

Financial Aid and FAFSA Presentation

December 3, 2024

Pine View College Advising

Tonight's Agenda



- Introductions and Q&A
- Application Updates
- 2025-26 FAFSA - What and How?
- Financial Aid Award Letters
- Bright Futures & FFAA
- Florida Pre-Paid
- Scholarship Resources

Current In-State Application Update

Class of 2025 Applications to Date (Class size 160)

811 completed Applications, Approximately 400 awaiting submission

FSU October 15th Early Action - Decision 12/12/24

123 complete (1 Incomplete-4 Regular)

Last year 106 applications (93/106) **32**

UF November 1st Early Action- Decision 1/24/25

129 complete (5 incomplete or late!) – *Operation GatorFlood*

Last year 107 applications (58/107) **22**

Current In-State Application Update

USF Early Priority Deadline 11/15 - Release on 12/10. Rolling Decisions 12/16
73 complete (9 incomplete missing SSAR or Testing)
Last year 78 applications (77/78) **16**

UCF November 1st Early Action-Materials deadline 11/8
51 complete (39 Acceptances/12 Pending)SPARK & Testing)
Last year 43 applications (42/43) **7**

All other Rolling campuses 31 complete (9 incomplete)
Last year 47 (46/47) **5**



2025–26 FAFSA® Form Now Available!

The 2025–26 FAFSA® form is now available for all students and contributors. Complete the form to apply for financial aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

Start a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form

[Log In To Start](#)

Edit a 2025–26 FAFSA® Form or Accept an Invitation

[Log In To Edit](#)

Need the 2024–25 FAFSA form?

[Log In To Start a New Form](#)

[Log In To Edit Existing Forms](#)



Why complete the FAFSA?

- Federal and Institutional Aid Eligibility
 - FAFSA completion is *required* for financial aid eligibility, including need-based grants, work study, and federal loans
 - Merit-based scholarships in many cases also require FAFSA completion
- First to the trough!
 - Families who submit FAFSA early avail themselves of grant and scholarship funding *first*
 - Early FAFSA filers receive Financial Aid Awards earlier; these can be reviewed, compared, and discussed/appealed with universities prior to admissions acceptance deadline
 - Those who wait to file FAFSA, receive Award Letters later, making comparisons and decisions/appeals more difficult and complicating admissions decisions
- Outside Scholarship eligibility
 - Many private and corporate scholarships require evidence of FAFSA completion

What You Can and Must Do

- If you have not submitted your FAFSA, please do so *as soon as possible*
- If you are having difficulty or need help completing FAFSA, please attend the FAFSA Workshop at Pine View on *January 21, 2025 (5:30-7:00PM)*
- If you encounter problems completing/submitting FAFSA, or if you have not received your Student Aid Index, reach out to FAFSA by phone and email
- Try to resolve issues ASAP; be persistent and do not wait
- Pay close attention to your university portals and all email correspondence from colleges to which you have been accepted (deadlines are hard)

Financial Aid Basics

- Formula for Need-Based Financial Aid Determination
 - Total Cost of Attendance (“TCA”) *minus* Student Aid Index (“SAI”) = Need
 - Need is addressed in financial aid package (grants, scholarships, loans, work-study)
- Total Cost of Attendance
 - Direct or “Hard” Costs: Tuition, Fees, Housing, and Food, PLUS
 - Indirect or “Soft” Costs: Books, Supplies, Transportation, and Misc. Expenses
- Student Aid Index (Replaces old “EFC”)
 - Index number used to determine need-based financial aid eligibility
 - Stays same each academic year (regardless of school), but may change yr. to yr.
 - Calculated annually based on income and asset information provided on **FAFSA**

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- Filed online via **studentaid.gov** (simplified form reduces errors and time)
- Avoid FAFSA.com (“Don’t pay a fee for a process that is FREE”)
- Must be completed annually for next academic year (know deadlines)
- 2025-26 FAFSA online form is live now!
- Requires both a student FSA ID and parent FSA ID
- Now provides Federal Direct Data Exchange (requires consent)
- ALL students should file, regardless of income level
- After filing, will receive FAFSA Submission Summary with SAI and federal grant and loan eligibility

Before Beginning FAFSA

- Gather needed documents regarding income and assets
 - Parents' and student's filed Federal Income Tax Returns
 - Parents' and student's W-2 Forms
 - Asset info (checking, savings, and investment accounts; rental property; 529 plans)
- Current Seniors: Use 2023 Tax Returns (“Prior Prior Year”)
- If didn't file, ESTIMATE based on immediately prior year's Tax Return
 - Will need to correct FAFSA later
- Apply for FSA ID
 - FSA ID needed to access, sign, and correct FAFSA
 - Parent FSA ID may be used for multiple children; each student has own FSA ID
 - May take 1-3 business days (information verification with Social Security Admin.)



Create an Account

Whether you're a student, parent, or borrower, you'll need to create your own account to apply for, receive, and manage your federal student aid.

Get Started

Already have an account? [Log In](#)

What You Can Do With Your Account

You must have an account to do the following:

- Fill out the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)* form online
- Complete other online forms (such as the *Master Promissory Note*) required to receive aid
- Review the federal student aid you've received



What is the Financial Aid Direct Data Exchange?

- Automatically imports federal income and tax info from IRS into FAFSA
- Enables simplified, short FAFSA and reduces filing and processing time
- Reduces errors and permits immediate verification of imported tax info
- *FAFSA filers required, as a condition of federal financial aid eligibility, to consent to federal direct data exchange (no longer optional)*
- Consent required even if didn't file federal tax return
- Not available in limited situations (e.g., foreign earned income)

Are there instances where a student is independent?

- Student can be independent (so only student info on FAFSA) IF student:
 - Is 24 years of age
 - Is married (not divorced nor separated)
 - Is pursuing a graduate degree
 - Is in the Armed Forces (excluding training) or is a veteran
 - Has a child AND provides more than 50% support
 - Is orphaned or is/has been a foster child
 - Has been emancipated by a state court
 - Has a court-appointed legal guardian
 - Is unaccompanied and homeless or at risk of being homeless

Who is a Parent?

- FAFSA Instructions:

Dependent students will be required to include on the FAFSA income, assets, and other information from the dependent student's legal parents (biological or adoptive) regardless of the parents' marital status or gender, if those parents live together

- Parent's unwillingness to pay for their child's education is NOT a factor in determining who is a parent/contributor for purposes of FAFSA
- Grandparents, aunts/uncles, older siblings, and legal guardians are not considered parents *unless* they've legally adopted the student

What if parents are divorced or legally separated, and do not live together?

- Parent who provides MORE financial support:
 - Is deemed a “Contributor” for FAFSA
 - Files the FAFSA (including their income and asset information), regardless of where the student lives
 - If remarried, then step-parent income, if any, is also included on FAFSA
- Parent who provides LESS financial support:
 - Is *not* deemed a “Contributor” for FAFSA
 - Their income and assets are not included on FAFSA
 - However, their income and assets are included on CSS PROFILE (for schools providing institutional aid)

Is My Parent a CONTRIBUTOR When I Fill Out My FAFSA® Form?

A **parent** means your legal (biological or adoptive) parent or a person that the state has determined to be your legal parent. A **stepparent** is considered a parent if they have adopted you. Stepparents that have not adopted you will be identified as a parent spouse.

Are your biological or adoptive parents married to each other?

Do your biological or adoptive parents live together?

Did one parent provide more financial support than the other over the past 12 months?



Your parents' marital status is married (not separated), and both of your parents' information must be included on the FAFSA® form. If your parents did not file taxes jointly, then both of your parents are contributors. Their individual information, consent and approval, and signatures will be required on the FAFSA form. If your parents filed taxes jointly, only one parent is required as a contributor and will report information for both parents.



Your parents' marital status is unmarried (both legal parents living together), and both of your parents are contributors, even if they were never married, are divorced, or are separated. Their individual information, consent and approval, and signatures will be required on the FAFSA® form.



The individual information, consent and approval, and signature of the parent who provided more financial support over the past 12 months will be required on the FAFSA® form, and this parent will be identified as a contributor.



The individual information, consent and approval, and signature of the parent who has the greater income and assets will be required on the FAFSA® form, and this parent will be identified as a contributor.



Has this parent married/remarried?



Your parent's marital status is married/remarried. Your stepparent will also be identified as a contributor on the FAFSA® form if they didn't file their taxes jointly with your parent.



Your parent's marital status is single (never married), separated, divorced, or widowed. An additional parent will not be identified as contributor.

Note: Dependent students are required to report parent information on the FAFSA® form, and in most cases, a parent will be identified as a contributor for these students. All contributors are required to provide their information, signature, and consent and approval to have their federal tax information transferred directly from the IRS into the FAFSA form. Being a contributor on the FAFSA form does not mean an obligation to pay for the student's education.

Common FAFSA Errors

- No student and/or parent signature (FSA ID)
- Divorced/remarried parent information missing
- Income earned by parents/step-parents not included
- Untaxed income not reported
- Federal income taxes paid reported as taxes withheld
- Family size incorrectly calculated
- Under-estimating net worth of real estate and investments
- Mis-identifying ownership of 529 Plans (Education Savings Plans, Prepaid Tuition Plans)

Understanding Your Financial Aid Award

- Compare Financial Aid Awards
 - Focus on “Net Price” = Total Cost of Attendance (“TCA”) *minus* “Free Money” (gift aid)
 - Also consider Unmet Need, Loans vs. Grants and Scholarships, Work-Study
- Use tools and resources on **PVSCollegeCounseling.com** (see list on next slide)
- Communicate with school’s financial aid office; “Ask and ask again”
- Understand terms and conditions of all aid awarded, especially loans
- Consider outside scholarships to fill gaps in award (i.e., Unmet Need)
 - Know scholarship deadlines, eligibility rules, and renewal requirements
 - Understand scholarship’s value over time, impact on need-based aid, and use limits
- Respond to offers of aid and notify chosen school of outside scholarships

SAMPLE UNIVERSITY RESOURCES DEPENDENT STUDENT AID OFFER EXAMPLE

Student Name
Student Address
Student City, State, Zip
Student ID

Estimated Annual Cost of Attendance (COA) 2023-2024 Award Year

Costs Payable to the University		Other Estimated Costs	
Tuition	\$15,915	Books & Supplies	\$820
Activity & Tech Fee	\$1,615	Transportation	\$1,735
Housing	\$6,510	Miscellaneous Expenses	\$921
Meals	\$4,000		
Total Costs	\$28,040	Total Costs	\$3,476
Total Estimated Cost of Attendance		\$31,516	

Scholarships and Grants (refer to renewal eligibility on your student portal)

Aid Type	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Annual
Federal Pell Grant	\$3,248	\$3,247	\$6,495
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant	\$300	\$300	\$600
State Grant	\$450	\$450	\$900
Merit Based Scholarship	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$11,000
Institutional Scholarship	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
Total Scholarships & Grants	\$10,998	\$10,997	\$21,995

Your estimated net cost (cost of attendance less scholarships and grants):
This is based on your zero (0) Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and
anticipated full-time (12+ credits, preferably 15 credits) enrollment.

\$9,521

Loans & Work-Study (Self-Help Aid)

Aid Type	Fall 2023	Spring 2023	Annual
Federal Work-Study*	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan**	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan**	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Total Aid Offered	\$4,250	\$4,250	\$8,500

*Federal work-study funds are contingent upon finding employment. Earnings are paid out bi-weekly.

**Federal loans are funds that can be applied toward your cost of attendance and must be repaid. You must accept or decline your loan eligibility by logging into your student portal.

Estimated outstanding costs not covered by scholarships,
grants, loans and work-study:

\$1,021

Other Financing Options

Outside Scholarships
Scholarships are available from many sources including high schools, places of worship, civic groups, and parents' employers. We recommend that you check with your high school guidance counselor, the reference section of your library, and organizations in your hometown. Receipt of outside scholarships could affect your eligibility for certain aid types.

Payment Plan
Sample University offers a 3-Pay tuition payment plan for those students who need to spread their tuition and fees across the semester.

Private Student Loan
Contingent upon application approval from a bank, credit union, non-profit or state-based education finance organizations or online lender.

Federal Parent PLUS Loan
Contingent upon parent application approval. Parent must not have adverse credit history. Must be repaid by parent.

For more information on these additional funding options please visit:
www.financialaid.edu

Next Steps

- Accept or Decline all aid offered in the finances section of your student portal.
- Provide required documents for verification if applicable.
- Check important financial aid deadlines listed on your student portal.

Sample University is committed to helping you navigate the financial aid process. Please contact our helpful, experienced staff in the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships for help understanding your Financial Aid Offer.

We look forward to serving you at Sample University and wish you the best in your academic endeavors. Please visit www.sample.edu/admitted for other important next steps.

Financial Aid Award Letter Resources

Financial Aid Award Letters

- *FSA Comparing and Accepting Financial Aid Offers*
- *How to Read Your Award Letter*
- *Edvisors - How to Read Your Financial Aid Award Letter*
- *Understanding and Comparing Financial Aid Offers*

Tips and Strategies for Financial Aid Award Appeals

- *How to Appeal a College Financial Aid Award & Write a Financial Aid Appeal Letter*
- *How to Write a Financial Award Appeal*
- *How to Negotiate a Financial Aid Package*
- *Seven Strategies for Appealing An Award Letter*

Tools/Resources

- *NASFAA Aid Offer Comparison*
- *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Award Letter Comparison Tool*
- **Educate to Career** *College Tuition Negotiator*
- **SwiftStudent** Financial aid appeals letter templates
- **TuitionFit** Compare an award letter against what other students received from similar schools

Student Loans

- *EdVisors Student Loan Resource Base*
- *Federal Student Aid Loan Information and Repayment Calculator*

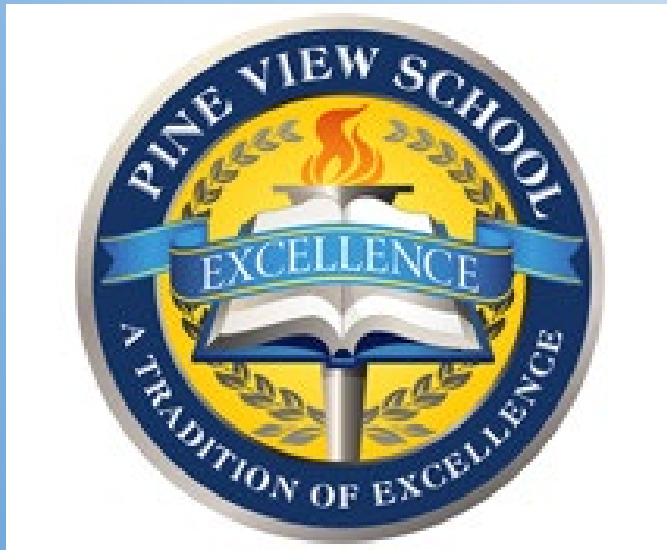
<https://pvscollegecounseling.com>

Financial Aid Take-Aways

- FAFSA is a MUST
- Complete 2025-26 FAFSA now (don't wait) and act with integrity
- “Hope is not a plan”
- Understand Basic Need-Based Aid Formula
 - Total Cost of Attendance (“TCA”) *minus* Student Aid Index (“SAI”) = Need
- Aid eligibility is based on parent’s ability to pay, not willingness to pay
- Focus on “Net Price” when comparing financial aid packages
 - Net Price is the Price to You (not the sticker price)
 - Net Price = Total Cost of Attendance (“TCA”) *minus* “Free Money” (grants/scholarships)



Bright Futures
Scholarship
Program



Florida
PrePaid
College Plans

Scholarship
Resources

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements by providing funding to attend postsecondary institutions in Florida

- There are three award levels
 - *Florida Academic Scholar (FAS) - 100% Tuition*
 - *Florida Medallion Scholar (FMS) - 75% Tuition*
 - *Gold Seal Vocational Scholar (GSV)*
- Grade Point Average, Test Score and Community Service/Work requirements for each level



Bright Futures Eligibility Requirements (2024-25)

Type	16 High School Course Credits ¹	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	College Entrance Exams by High School Graduation Year (ACT [®] /CLT [®] /SAT [®])	Volunteer Service Only	Paid Work Hours Only	Combination of Volunteer/Paid Hours
FAS	4 - English <i>(three must include substantial writing)</i> 4 - Mathematics <i>(at or above the Algebra I level)</i> 3 - Natural Science <i>(two must have substantial laboratory)</i>	3.50	2024-25 Graduates: 29/96/1340 2025-26 Graduates: 29/95/1330	100 hours	100 hours	100 hours
FMS	3 - Social Science 2 - Foreign/World Language <i>(sequential, in same language)</i>	3.00	2024-25 Graduates: 25/84/1210 2025-26 Graduates: 24/82/1190	75 hours	100 hours	100 hours

¹ The required coursework aligns with the State University System admission requirements found in Florida Board of Governor's Regulation 6.002. Additional information regarding high school coursework can be found within the [Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook](#).

Bright Futures Award Amounts (2024-25)

- Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) will receive 100% of tuition (range \$6300-6500/year)*
- Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) will receive 75% of tuition and applicable fees (appx \$4400-4600 year*)
- Bright Futures is only available at Florida colleges
- Students attending private, *in-state* institutions receive a sum equivalent to the public university reimbursement (per credit hour appx \$212/\$160)



* Total cost of attendance at Florida public universities is estimated between \$22000-24,000/year)

How/When Do I Apply for Bright Futures?

- NOW! The Bright Future Application opened October 1, 2024
- We ask **ALL** seniors to make an initial application *regardless* of whether they intend to apply in-state.
- Students do not need to be currently eligible to apply (GPA/Testing/Hours)
- Instructions for completing the initial instructions were sent home in early November and can be found [here](#) as well as on the PVS college counseling website.
Please apply now!
- Seniors were provided time to complete the initial application during a recent Advisory Period

State Scholarship and Grant Opportunities



Office of Student Financial Assistance

Florida Student Scholarship & Grant Programs

Login ▾

State Scholarship and Grant Programs

[Benacquisto Scholarship Program \(FAQ\)](#)

[Bright Futures Scholarship*](#)

[Effective Access to Student Education](#)

[First Generation Matching Grant](#)

[Florida Farmworker Student Scholarship*](#)



First-Time Applicants

Students must submit a completed Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) to OSFA for programs denoted by an asterisk (*). In order to apply for State Scholarship & Grant Programs, a student must first [Create a Student Account](#). After logging into your account, you may proceed to complete the FFAA.

<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHOME/SAPHOME>

Bright Futures Eligibility Evaluations

- Early 7th semester evaluations will post in late January. To be eligible for Summer 2025 reimbursement students must be signed up and meet initial eligibility requirements by then (GPA, Scores, and Hours). Final 8th semester evaluations will post in July
- Students should monitor award status online. *After submitting the FFAA, the student is responsible for tracking application and award status online*
- *Students must update their college selection in the Spring*



Florida PrePaid College Plans

- The *Tuition Plan* covers the basic cost of classes
- *+Local Fee Plan* covers the state required fees
- *Dormitory Plan* covers the cost of a standard, double-occupancy room at a Florida university
- Specific questions regarding your plan should be directed to the Florida PrePaid program



<http://www.myfloridaprepaid.com/>

Florida Pre-Paid & Florida Bright Futures FAQs

- The *Pre-Paid Tuition Plan* does *not* cover all costs. With the Tuition Plan, funds are applied to tuition charges only
- Typically Pre-Pay is applied first. Bright Futures funds are applied to remaining charges *after* classes begin (there is some variation in this)
- Prepaid plan holders can request to defer the use of their Prepaid Plan and use Bright Futures first if they so choose
- Excess funds remaining after tuition is paid will be applied to other charges owed to the school, including on-campus housing costs, etc.
- Each college is slightly different. Be sure to check with the college(s) you are considering attending



Admission-Based Institutional Scholarships

- All public university in Florida offer application-based *merit* scholarships. Early eligibility deadlines
- Eligibility criteria vary year to year based on the profile of the admitted class and available funding. Scholarships are typically based on academic thresholds
- **FSU** offers the Vires and Mores Scholarship Awards, Honors College (Medical, Legal and Business) and a full-ride Presidential Scholarship
- At **UCF** the Pegasus and Provost awards offer up to \$10,000/year. Burnett Honors Scholarships. There are full-ride opportunities as well
- Awards ranging from \$4000-20,000 over four years are given to qualified applicants at **USF**. Genshaft Honors College Scholarship opportunities exist as well



Additional Scholarship Resources

- *PVS College Counseling website -->Class of 2025*

[Scholarship List 2025-26](#)

- Complete *Schoolinks* Financial Aid Unit for access to scholarships!
- If you are required to provide the FAFSA Student Aid Index (SAI) and have not received your SAI you must contact the scholarship entity and alert them. Ask if they will allow you to submit alternative financial verification documents (e.g. the *Federal Student Aid Estimator*)

Final Tips and Takeaways!

Complete and submit the FAFSA

Sign up and submit hours for Bright Futures

Apply for local scholarships

FAFSA Workshop Assistance/support in completing the FAFSA. In advance of the workshop please create your FSA ID (3-5 Days prior)

When: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 5:30PM

Where: Pine View College and Career Center

Thank you!

Jane Robbins

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