

PA { STATE GRANT PROGRAM



THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANT PROGRAM provides grants to eligible Pennsylvania residents in need of financial assistance to help them afford the costs of higher education. A grant is a financial aid award that you do not have to repay, provided you meet the eligibility requirements.

PHEAA administers the Pennsylvania State Grant Program at no cost to taxpayers, ensuring that every dollar appropriated to the program goes directly to students.

To date, PHEAA has awarded **MORE THAN \$10 BILLION** to help students meet the cost of higher education.

TO APPLY:

1 FILE THE FAFSA® BY THE APPROPRIATE DATE. (FAFSA.gov)

The State Grant deadlines are different for first-time applicants, renewal applicants and summer-term applicants.

FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS

MAY 1 — If you plan to enroll in a degree program or a college transferable program at a junior college or other college or university (excludes community colleges), you must submit the FAFSA. You must also complete a PA State Grant Form.

AUGUST 1 — If you plan to enroll in a community college, a business, trade, or technical school, a hospital school of nursing, a Pennsylvania™ open admissions™ institution (visit PHEAA.org for a list of these schools), or a non-transferable 2-year program, you must submit the FAFSA. You must also complete a PA State Grant Form.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

MAY 1 — You must submit a renewal FAFSA and any appropriate State Grant documents indicating any changes that may affect your State Grant award, such as a change in your marital status or a change in your income.

SUMMER-TERM APPLICANTS

AUGUST 15 — You must submit the online Summer State Grant application. You must also have submitted the FAFSA and, if required, the State Grant Form.

NOTE: If you miss the State Grant deadline for the academic year, apply anyway. Late applications (for terms other than summer) may qualify if funding permits.

2 COMPLETE THE STATE GRANT FORM (SGF).

To apply for a State Grant when you complete the FAFSA: (**RECOMMENDED**) Complete the SGF online directly from your FAFSA confirmation page.

The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website interface. At the top, it says 'Federal Student Aid' and 'Free Application for Federal Student Aid'. Below that, there are navigation tabs for 'Student Demographics', 'School Selection', 'Dependency Status', 'Parent Demographics', 'Financial Information', 'Sign & Submit', and 'Confirmation'. The main content area is titled '2016-2017 Confirmation Page' and contains a message: 'Your confirmation page has been sent to you at the e-mail address: stanleystudent@gmail.com'. There is a 'PRINT THIS PAGE' button and a 'Start your state application' link circled in red. The page also displays the confirmation number and data release number.

To apply for a State Grant after you've completed the FAFSA:

If you've already submitted your FAFSA online and missed the direct link, you may need to wait 24–48 hours before you can complete the SGF online. You will receive an email directing you to the American Education Services (AES) website to complete the SGF.

NOTE: Most renewal students are not required to complete the SGF.

3 PRINT, SIGN AND MAIL THE LAST PAGE OF YOUR SGF TO PHEAA.

For your SGF to be complete, we must receive the signature page verifying that you have read the Rights and Responsibilities Certification Document.

AFTER YOU APPLY:

After you apply, check your status. Visit PHEAA.org to sign into Account Access, PHEAA's online student information tool that provides information in a single, secure site, to check the status of your application, make changes and manage your account information at any time.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

A Pennsylvania State Grant is based on financial need; however, you must also meet all other requirements to qualify for a State Grant award.

- Be a high school graduate as stipulated in the Pennsylvania State Grant law
- Attend a postsecondary school approved by PHEAA for Pennsylvania State Grant purposes
- Be enrolled at least half-time (defined as at least six semester credits but less than 12 semester credits per semester, or the equivalent)
- Be enrolled in an approved program of study of at least 2 academic years in length
- Be enrolled in a program of study where at least 50% of the total credit or clock hours needed for completion of the program are earned through classroom instruction:
 - » The program itself must be structured to allow you to complete at least 50% of your credits or clock hours in the classroom.
 - » Your enrollment pattern per term must also consist of at least 50% classroom instruction (unless you have a documented medical disability).
- Make satisfactory academic progress (as defined by PHEAA)
- Not have already earned a bachelor's degree or its equivalent
- Be a Pennsylvania resident, as stipulated in the Pennsylvania State Grant law
- Be of satisfactory character (for example, not be incarcerated)
- Not have received the maximum number of Pennsylvania State Grants permitted
- Not be in default or pending default on an educational loan (This also applies to any program where the award has been converted to a loan due to failure to meet all eligibility or service requirements and the loan is in a default status.)
- File and complete the application process by the appropriate deadlines

For more detail, a Rights and Responsibilities Certification Document is available at PHEAA.org.

PERCENTAGE OF APPLICANTS RECEIVING STATE GRANT AWARDS 2015-16*

2016-17**	PARENTS' ANNUAL INCOME			
	AVERAGE TUITION & FEES	UNDER \$25,000	\$25,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999
4-Year Private Colleges - \$38,482	99% \$3,761-\$4,164	98% \$3,730-\$4,182	95% \$3,480-\$4,156	65% \$2,287-\$3,601
PA State System Schools - \$10,221	99% \$3,351-\$3,681	98% \$3,271-\$3,650	91% \$2,484-\$3,243	37% \$1,616-\$2,493
PA State-Related Schools - \$17,294	99% \$3,414-\$3,752	98% \$3,423-\$3,763	89% \$3,173-\$3,715	39% \$2,614-\$3,436
2-Year Colleges - \$17,245	99% \$3,492-\$3,924	98% \$3,335-\$3,962	86% \$3,155-\$3,869	38% \$3,224-\$3,970
PA Community Colleges - \$4,679	99% \$1,709-\$2,308	89% \$1,684-\$2,308	54% \$1,451-\$2,164	11% \$1,341-\$2,050
Nursing Schools - \$15,072	99% \$3,406-\$3,769	99% \$3,479-\$3,962	77% \$3,005-\$3,815	37% \$2,814-\$3,854
Business, Trade or Technical Schools - \$14,975	98% \$3,589-\$3,970	84% \$3,578-\$3,957	52% \$3,128-\$3,925	17% \$2,120-\$3,240

*Data from 2015-16 State Grant Statistics, created March 25, 2016.

**Projected average enrollment-weighted tuition and fees for 2016-17.

NOTE: For the most up-to-date information on the PA State Grant, visit PHEAA.org.

FAQS:

How Much Can I Expect to Receive?

The amount of money you can expect to receive is based on available funding, your financial situation, as well as the type of school you choose to attend in Pennsylvania. Award amounts are subject to an annual review and adjustment based on the level of funding available.

I Missed the State Grant Deadline. Now What?

Submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible.

We may still consider applications received after the deadline for applicants who have a loss in expected family income due to a recent (after January 1) death, disability, retirement, unemployment, divorce, or separation of a parent or spouse.

We may consider applications received after the deadline for applicants who are recently discharged veterans.

We may also consider a late application if extenuating circumstances delayed its filing. If there are no special circumstances, we will process a late State Grant application only if there are additional funds to continue processing.

Why must I submit both the FAFSA and the Pennsylvania State Grant Form?

We use the State Grant Form to collect a few more details about you and your family that aren't on the FAFSA. This basic information helps us determine your eligibility and financial need for the Pennsylvania State Grant Program.

For answers to more
FAQs, visit PHEAA.org.

Can I Use a Pennsylvania State Grant at an out-of-state school?

Pennsylvania State Grants can be used at selected schools located in states that permit their state grant funds to come to Pennsylvania. Currently, public and non-profit schools located in Delaware, Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, Washington DC, and West Virginia may receive PA State Grants for eligible students.

If you plan on attending a school located outside of Pennsylvania, the maximum allowable award, subject to adjustment, is \$600 for a reciprocal state, and \$800 if you meet the program's definition of a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.

How Will I receive My State Grant funds?

PHEAA sends State Grant funds directly to your school two or three times during the school year, depending on how many terms (semesters, quarters) your school has. The school will then credit your account after first certifying your eligibility.

Why am I sent to aesSuccess.org when I try to log into Account Access on PHEAA's website?

American Education Services (aesSuccess.org) is a division of PHEAA. It's where we maintain Account Access, our online account management tool. You must create an account and sign in to complete the Pennsylvania State Grant Form online.

You may also view your State Grant status in Account Access.

IMPORTANT: When you create an account in Account Access, please use your name, Social Security Number and email address (not your mom's or dad's). For security purposes, Account Access matches your Social Security Number with your FAFSA data to verify your identity. If you create an account using a parent's Social Security Number, it won't match your FAFSA data, and you won't be able to access the Pennsylvania State Grant Form online.



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PA Secretary of Education

Created in 1963 by the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has evolved into one of the nation's leading student aid organizations. Today, PHEAA is a national provider of student financial aid services, serving millions of students and thousands of schools through its loan guaranty, loan servicing, grant administration, outreach, and other student aid programs.

PHEAA's earnings are used to support its public service mission and to pay its operating costs, including the administration of the Pennsylvania State Grant and other state-funded student aid programs. PHEAA continues to devote its energy, resources and imagination to developing innovative ways to ease the financial burden of higher education for students, families, schools, and taxpayers.

PHEAA conducts its student loan servicing activities nationally as FedLoan Servicing and American Education Services (AES). For more information, visit PHEAA.org.



Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

These materials have been developed and paid for by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) for informational purposes. Although the information contained in this document is believed to be accurate at the time of printing, PHEAA does not guarantee its accuracy. You should independently verify that this information is correct.

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