FILING THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

- File the FAFSA at studentaid.gov > Apply for aid > Complete FAFSA form.
- Ohio State’s school code is 003090.
- Priority filing date is Feb. 1, and you must re-file every year beginning Oct. 1.
- Student and one parent will need their own FSA ID (username and password) to log on to and/or sign the FAFSA electronically. Create or retrieve your FSA ID information at fsaid.ed.gov.

FINANCIAL AID STATUS

- View your financial aid status at buckeyelink.osu.edu > My Buckeye Link > View Financial Aid > Aid Year (2021) > To Do List, Student Financial Aid (SFA) Status or Aid Summary.

To Do List

- View any items requested for verification and their status.
- Determine if Entrance Counseling or Master Promissory Note is needed for student loans.

SFA Status

- Verify if FAFSA is on file.
- View Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) status at the end of every spring semester.

Aid Summary

- View financial aid being offered for the year and by semester.
- Accept or decline aid offer.

VERIFICATION

- Process used to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA is accurate. Students may be required to submit further documentation to verify their financial aid eligibility.
- If selected for verification, all required items will be viewable on the Financial Aid To Do List with the corresponding deadlines. Be sure to submit all items by the deadlines to maximize financial aid eligibility. Processing of verification can take up to eight weeks.
- View the To Do List at buckeyelink.osu.edu > My Buckeye Link > View Financial Aid > Aid Year (2021).
- Forms can be uploaded to the Secure Document Uploader: sfa.osu.edu, faxed to 614.292.9264 or 740.364.9533, or mailed to Buckeye Link, P.O. Box 183029 Columbus, OH 43218-3029.
- Financial aid will not be applied toward tuition and fees (even if awarded) until verification is completed.

STUDENT LOANS

- Federal Stafford loans are guaranteed student loans that do not require a co-signer or credit check.
- Student loans can be either Subsidized (based on need and do not accrue interest until repayment begins) or Unsubsidized (not based on need and interest begins accruing when loan is disbursed).
- Most students will automatically be offered student loans. Compare financial aid against tuition and on-campus housing costs (if applicable) to determine if you need student loans.
- Maximum freshman loan eligibility is $5,500 per year. Second year limit is $6,500 and third year and beyond is $7,500.
- Students will begin paying loans back six months after the student graduates or stops attending for six consecutive months.
- To remain eligible for loans, students must be enrolled a minimum of six credit hours and must be meeting SAP.
- If you plan to use your student loans, you will need to complete the following steps at least three weeks prior to fees being due to allow for processing time:

Accepting Loans

- Accept or decline loans on the Aid Summary page of Buckeye Link by clicking the “Accept or Decline Aid” button and following all prompts. (buckeyelink.osu.edu > My Buckeye Link > View Financial Aid > Aid Year (2021) > Aid Summary)

Entrance Counseling

- Required to ensure student understands their rights and responsibilities as a loan borrower.
- Go to studentaid.gov > Complete Aid Process > Complete Entrance Counseling. Log in with your FSA ID and follow all prompts.
- Entrance counseling will be required even if it was completed at another school prior to coming to Ohio State.

Master Promissory Note (MPN)

- The MPN is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees. To sign the MPN, go to studentaid.gov > Complete Aid Process > Complete Master Promissory Note > MPN for Subsidized/Unsubsidized loans. Log in with your FSA ID and follow all prompts.
- A signed MPN will be required even if it was completed at another school prior to coming to Ohio State.
PARENT LOAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (PLUS)

• PLUS loan is a federal Stafford loan that a parent or step-parent (if step-parent information was included in student’s FAFSA) can apply for and if approved, is set up in the parent or step-parent’s name. It is recommended to submit the application for the entire academic year by July 15.

• To apply for the PLUS loan, go to studentaid.gov > Apply for Aid > Apply for a PLUS loan > Direct PLUS Loan Application for Parents. Parent will log in with their FSA ID and follow all prompts.

• If approved, the parent will also need to sign a PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN) at studentaid.gov > Complete Aid Process > Parent PLUS MPN. Log in with parent FSA ID and follow all prompts.

FEDERAL WORK STUDY

• Federal Work Study (FWS) is need based federal aid managed through the Student Employment Program and is earned by working in a student employment position on campus. Student will receive a paycheck. It is not applied directly toward a student’s tuition and fees balance.

• In order to utilize FWS funding, accept the award on the Aid Summary page on Buckeye Link and complete the Student Employment Hiring Process. View current job openings, the hiring process and more at newark.osu.edu/students/Financial-Aid/student-employment.

• Not all students are awarded FWS.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

• Student employment consists of both FWS and wage positions on campus. It is administered through the Office of Financial Aid. For available positions, the hiring process and more, visit newark.osu.edu/students/Financial-Aid/student-employment.

• Students do not have to be awarded FWS in order to apply for student jobs. They do however, need to have FWS awarded in order to apply for any jobs that are FWS Only.

OHIO STATE EMAIL

• Email is the official method for all university correspondence. Access your Ohio State email by clicking on the Webmail link at newark.osu.edu. Students should check it regularly for financial aid and other notifications.

• All notifications will go directly to students, not parents.

• Contact Webmail Services at 614.688.4357 or 8help@osu.edu if you have technical difficulties.

VETERAN’S BENEFITS

• Students may use Veteran’s Benefits alone or in conjunction with federal aid to pay for tuition and fees. Apply for federal aid by submitting a FAFSA at studentaid.gov > Apply for Aid > Complete the FAFSA form.

• Contact the Office of Military and Veterans Services for all veteran and military-related questions. 614-247VETS (8387) or milvets@osu.edu.

CONTACT US

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