



FLORIDA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## FINANCIAL AID: QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK US MOST

### 1. *How do I apply for aid?*

To apply for federal, state, or institutional aid, you need to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** every year. It becomes available Jan 1st each year online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

### 2. *What FSU's school code on the FAFSA?*

FSU's school code is 001489

### 3. *I did my FAFSA - When will I be awarded financial aid?*

We start awarding admitted and continuing students in Spring every year (March/April). If it is after that time and you are just completing your FAFSA, allow 7-10 days for your award to be posted to your online Financial Aid page. If you don't see an award offer, you may need to review your FAFSA to make sure it was not rejected by the federal processor (missing signatures or invalid information may prevent the FAFSA process from completing. **Log back in to your FAFSA application at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)** and check the FAFSA comments for instructions on how to finalize your FAFSA)

### 4. *I can't log in to my financial aid award page online -- why not?*

You need to activate your FSUID to be able to log in to see your financial aid status and award. **Go to [FSU's activation information page](#) here to activate your ID.**

You'll need your EMPLID -- **[which you can request here.](#)**

### 5. *Why didn't I get Federal Pell Grant?*

First, if you are not a first degree seeking undergraduate student, you will not be eligible for Federal Pell Grant. If you are working on your first bachelor's degree, then your application is next based on your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated from your FAFSA application information. The EFC calculation is a federal formula that uses income, family size, state of residency, and other data to calculate a number between 00000 and 99999. Each year the federal Department of Education establishes a Pell payment chart that establishes the EFC range that is eligible for Pell grant (for 2013-2014 that range is 00000-5082).



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*6. I should have a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship but I don't see it on my award - why is that?*

There can be a couple of reasons why a Bright Futures scholarship may not show. If you are just graduating from high school this year, you'll need to make sure that you've completed your **Bright Futures/State of Florida Application** and that your scholarship has been posted with **FSU's code 371** so that we can receive information from the state on your eligibility. We may not be able to process your Bright Futures scholarship until you take this step.

Also, if you are a new student to FSU, make sure that the Admissions/Records office has your Residency information to document your Florida residency status, as that is required for Florida Bright Futures awarding.

*7. How much does my Florida Bright Futures Scholarship pay?*

The Florida Legislature sets Bright Futures rules and rates each year. The best reference for Bright Futures payment amounts is the Florida Department of Education's website ([floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://floridastudentfinancialaid.org)).

*8. I have Florida Pre-Paid but I don't see it on my award - do I need to report it as a resource?*

No, you don't need to report Florida Pre-Paid as a resource on your FSU award. Please read the FAFSA instructions carefully though, as you may need to report it as investment income if your parent's purchased the contract.

*9. I've seen my award - what do I need to do now?*

If Federal Work Study and/or Federal Perkins loan or Federal Stafford Loan are part of your award, then you'll need to decide if you want to accept or decline these awards. Work study can only be **Accepted** as awarded (full amount) or **Declined**. Loans can be **Accepted** as awarded, **Reduced** (accept a partial amount based on your estimation of what you will need to pay your expenses), or **Declined**.

For more information on Federal Work Study, Federal Perkins Loan, or Federal Stafford Loans, please visit [financialaid.fsu.edu](http://financialaid.fsu.edu).

*10. What is the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loan?*

An unsubsidized loan accrues interest during in-school grace period, while a subsidized loan does not. The Federal government pays the interest on the subsidized loan while you are in school at least 1/2 time (6 credit hours or more).



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*11. When will my financial aid be available?*

Distribution of financial aid generally starts 5-7 days after the end of Drop/Add each term. Check **Student Business Services website** one month prior to each term to see when financial aid will be available.

*12. What if my aid is not available?*

If you are eligible for financial aid but your aid is not available during distribution you may be eligible for a tuition deferment. Check your student financial services account online at **Account Statement** on the **Student Central webpage** during the posted distribution period to see if your aid has been applied to your account or if a deferment has been posted.

*13. What if I don't see a deferment and tuition is almost due?*

Come by or call The Office of Financial Aid (850-644-0539) **before the tuition deadline** to speak with one of our financial aid officers for assistance.

*14. Can you tell me how much my tuition is?*

Tuition and other university charges will be available to you on your online Account Statement on [my.fsu.edu](http://my.fsu.edu)

For general tuition rates, visit Student Business Services website: <http://controller.vpfa.fsu.edu/student-business/tuition>. If you have questions in regards to your tuition or want to make a payment, you must go to Student Financial Aid Services located on the 1st floor of University Center, Building A.

*15. What else can I do to receive more money?*

Be sure to complete your FAFSA as early as possible every year (January 1). Research Scholarships locally and nationally. Know the renewal criteria for any grants or scholarships that you may be eligible for, so that you can make sure that you meet all renewal criteria.