

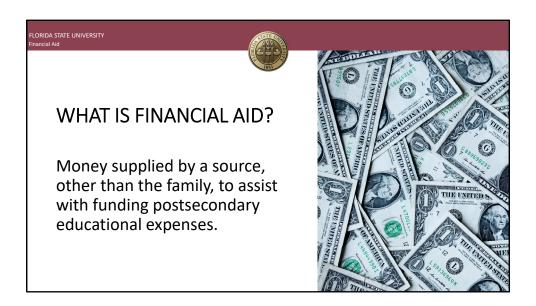


The Office of Financial Aid awards aid to qualifying students and offers guidance regarding the process to help you make your educational dreams a reality. Most importantly, we are HERE FOR YOU!

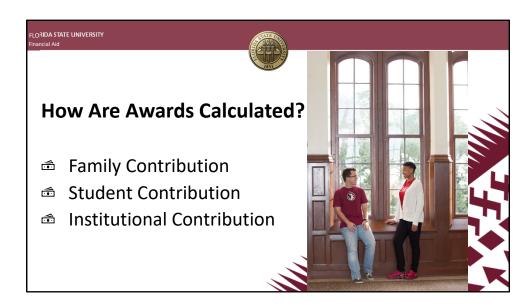


Student Business Services operates as the University cashier by collecting money on behalf of departments, calculating tuition and billing students, processing refunds, and assisting with third party billings like Florida Prepaid.

Student Business Services operates as the University cashier by collecting money on behalf of departments, calculating tuition and billing students, processing refunds, and assisting with third party billings like Florida Prepaid. We're also here for you, but mostly so that you can pay us (just kidding).



There's always some confusion about what constitutes "Financial Aid". Financial Aid is money supplied by a source, other than your family, to assist with funding postsecondary educational expenses. In other words, your Aunt Beyonce who has offered to pay for your housing for the semester would *not* be considered financial aid, but a grant from the federal government or state would!



One of the number one questions we hear is "How are you calculating my awards?". All financial aid offices follow the same basic model— we take a look at your estimated family contribution, as determined by your FAFSA, and then determine what your contribution should be and what the University should contribute. The process is very formulaic, but there is flexibility to handle individual circumstances!



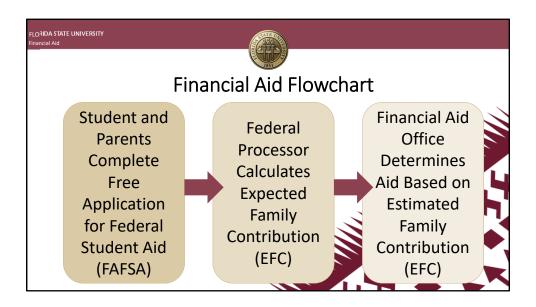
So how much does it cost to attend FSU? This is such a unique question because the choices that you make as a student or as a family will *greatly* impact your bottom line. In general, students should expect to pay tuition, housing, dining, books, and other miscellaneous expenses like computer and transportation costs. You can do some quick math using your estimated financial aid package to deduct your financial aid and prepaid programs to come up with a basic out of pocket cost. You can find more information on our website at studentbusiness.fsu.edu. You may also find the Financial Aid Offices interactive budget worksheet beneficial by visiting financialaid.fsu.edu/cost.



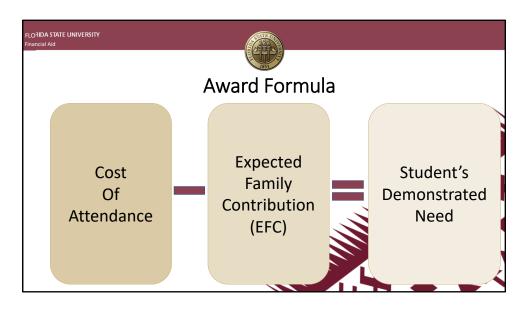
The tuition and fee deadline is set by the Florida Board of Governors as no later than the end of the second week of every semester, unless you've made previous arrangements with the university based on extenuating circumstances. In an effort to conserve materials and provide you with the most up to date account information, we're never going to mail you a paper bill. Instead, all of your account services are available online—whether that's viewing your invoice, making a payment, or accepting or declining financial aid—you'll find all of those features on MyFSU 24/7.



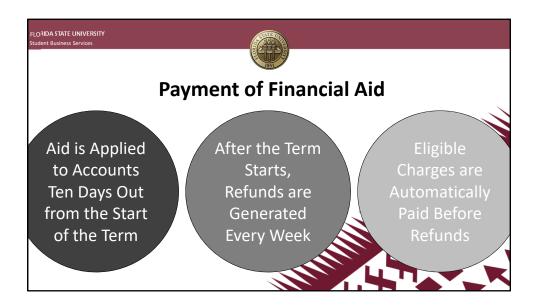
Applying for financial aid to cover those expenses is easy. To apply for federal financial aid, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can apply for financial aid beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding year every year. For example, the FAFSA for Fall 2019 opened in October 2018. Remember, this is a *free* application, so if a website is asking you to pay a processing fee to submit your application, you're in the wrong place! You do not need to complete a FAFSA for Bright Futures— only if you plan to qualify for need-based aid at the state, federal, or institutional level.



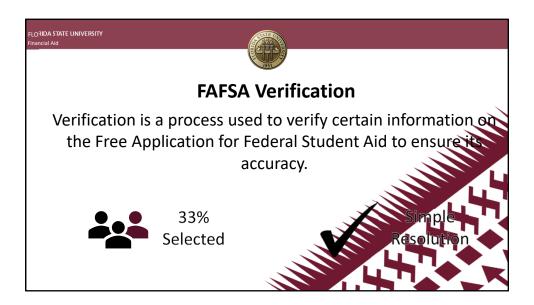
So what happens after you submit your FAFSA? Your application will be sent to the Federal Department of Education for processing, and they'll use the data that you submit to determine your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a basic assumption about your ability to pay for your education based on the financial data that you provided on the FAFSA. FSU will also receive a copy of your EFC and will use that in determination of what type and how much aid you are eligible to receive.



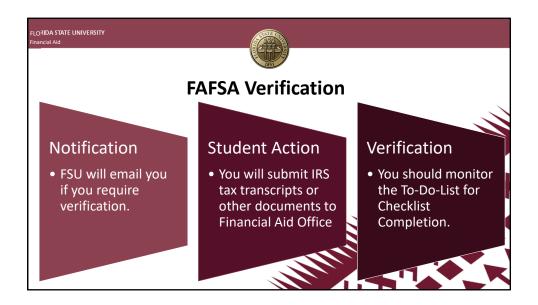
Demonstrated need as determined by this simple formula will be met first with available grants and scholarships with student loans being the absolute last award offered. Need based aid is awarded to students based on eligibility and availability of limited funding resources.



Once aid is awarded, it'll show up on your financial aid package on MyFSU. You'll be able to review awards, accept, or decline awards on MyFSU— and this is also where you'll see that you may have outstanding documents required before your aid can be disbursed. When we are ten days out from the start of the term, FSU will disburse your financial aid if you are eligible (meaning you've turned in all of your documentation and are enrolled in at least six hours). After the semester begins, we'll start to disburse and refund financial aid every Tuesday and Thursday— so payment and refunding of financial aid is a speedy process if you've done everything you need to do. Any eligible charges on your account— like tuition and housing— will be deducted from your financial aid before you receive a refund.



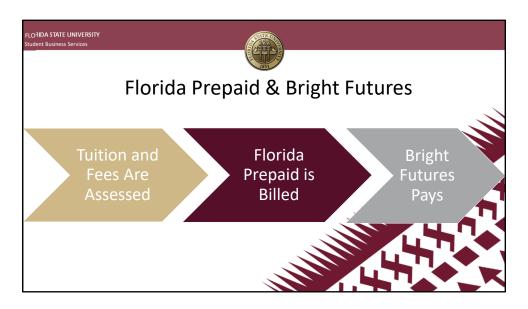
You've heard us mention that you might have "Outstanding Documents" several times now, but what does that mean? The federal government requires us to "verify" the information provided on roughly 33% of the FAFSA's that we receive. This means that, at some point in your career, it's likely that you'll have to verify the information that you submitted on your financial aid application by providing us with tax transcripts or other documentation as requested. This process is simple—just follow the instructions that we post to your MyFSU portal and you'll be fine.



When you're selected for verification, you'll receive an email from FSU and you'll see a notice in your myFSU Portal. Follow the instructions in our email or in the notice on the portal to submit the required documentation. Students are encouraged to submit all required documentation as early as possible for verification. FSU will use what you turn in to verify that your information is accurate. If we find any issues, we'll reach out to you for more information. Continue to monitor your To-Do-List and university email for additional communication!



So how does Florida Prepaid work? There are a few important points we want to make here, and then you can find a ton of information on our website or by visiting us! First, Florida Prepaid is billed automatically, so you don't have to ask us to bill them, or show us a card or letter. You'll only need to reach out to us if you want us *not* to bill for a semester. Second, if you purchased your prepaid plan prior to 2008, you'll qualify for a Differential Waiver because that fee didn't exist at the time that you bought your plan. Finally, no matter what plan you have, or combination of plans you have, none of them will pay absolutely everything you owe at FSU— there will be some out of pocket expense that you should be prepared to tackle.



How do Florida Prepaid and Bright Futures work together? Pretty simply, actually. After your tuition and fees are assessed, we're going to automatically bill Florida Prepaid and set that value aside on your account. Bright Futures and other aid will come in after that to pay the remainder of your balances owed and be refunded to you!



So what do you need to do now? First, apply for financial aid if you haven't already. Next, turn in any outstanding documents if you get selected for verification. Then, make sure you're checking your MyFSU email regularly—it's how both financial aid and student business communicate with you. Next, look for a tuition and fees invoice about a month out from the start of the term (don't worry, we'll email you when it's ready). Next, make sure that you assign a delegate to speak to us on your behalf—we aren't allowed to speak to anyone about your account or financial aid without your permission, so be sure that you assign a delegate through myFSU. Finally, don't hesitate to contact us with any questions—we are here to help!

LORIDA STATE UNIVERSIT



## Contact Us!

## **Financial Aid**

850.644.0539 ofacs@fsu.edu

University Center A

## **Student Business Services**

850.644.9452 studentbusiness@fsu.edu

University Center A

