



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

FINANCIAL AID

H A N D B O O K



FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Make Sure you have completed all the following steps below so that your financial aid package will be processed.

STATUS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/>	Download or request the MSU Financial Aid Handbook		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request a PIN from the Department of Education at www.pin.ed.gov		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov and submit electronically		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) which is sent to you via email or postal mail five days after you file the FAFSA		
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Mississippi State residents complete the online state scholarship application at http://www.mississippi.edu/riseupms/financialaid-state.php		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check your MyState financial aid account online at https://my.msstate.edu/web/home-community/banner for updates about your financial aid		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check your MSU email frequently for updates from the Financial Aid Office concerning your aid package		
<input type="checkbox"/>	If selected for verification from Department of Education, turn in all necessary paperwork to the Financial Aid Office. You can review what forms/paperwork you need to submit by reviewing your status online at https://my.msstate.edu/web/home-community/banner		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Once all necessary paperwork has been submitted and processed, electronically accept/adjust/decline your aid package online at https://my.msstate.edu/web/home-community/banner		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the Master Promissory Note (MPN) online at www.studentloans.gov (only complete this item if you are receiving a student loan)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the entrance loan counseling at www.studentloans.gov (only complete this item if you are receiving a student loan)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	If awarded a Federal Work-Study (FWS) award review open positions at www.career.msstate.edu .		
<input type="checkbox"/>	At the end of the term review your academic progress online at https://my.msstate.edu/web/home-community/banner to verify you are meeting the minimum standards to remain aid eligible		





CONTACT US

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002423

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STEPS TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

1. SUBMIT APPLICATIONS

Entering students must complete the MSU admission application process before eligibility for student financial aid awards can be determined.

2. COMPLETE THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Our school code to put on the FAFSA is 002423. See page 5 in this guide for more details on completing the FAFSA.

3. COMPLETE VERIFICATION IF SELECTED

If your FAFSA has been selected for verification by the Department of Education, you need to log into your myState account and review the outstanding documents under Eligibility Requirements. See page 6 in this guide for more details on completing the verification process.

4. FINALIZE AWARD NOTIFICATION

Once Financial Aid receives your FAFSA and it is processed we will award federal student aid funds. The Department of Student Financial Aid will notify the applicant of the awards as follows:

- Currently enrolled students will receive an electronic notification that will direct them to the myState web portal where they can then accept or decline awards and complete the Supplemental Information Form online. *See page 7 in this guide for more details on how to view your award on your myState account.*
- Entering students will receive a paper "Informational" Award Notification through the U. S. Postal Service. This award notification will display the initial awards that have been processed and will direct the award recipient to MSU's myState web portal where they can then accept or decline awards and complete the Supplemental Information Form online. *See page 7 in this guide for more details on how to view your award on your myState account.*

5. DISBURSING OF FUNDS

Once your awards are finalized online at myState, the funds will begin to disburse three days prior to the beginning of the term. Any excess aid (financial aid awarded – tuition and other charges) will then be disbursed directly to the student. *See page 7 in this guide for more information on disbursing financial aid funds.*



The process of receiving financial aid is a unified effort between the students and the Department of Financial Aid. Mississippi State is concerned for its students' financial circumstances while pursuing an education. We will make the best effort to assist our students towards the most prudent plan. While our staff will do everything they can to assist you in meeting your school costs, it is important for you to:

- File all applications as early as possible
- Make sure you meet eligibility requirements
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress towards your degree
- Respond quickly to all requests for information (MSU Financial Aid uses e-mail to communicate with students)

The information in this handbook is subject to change based on MSU school policy and/or state and federal regulations.

FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

To receive aid from our programs, you must:

- Demonstrate financial need (except for certain loans).
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen.
- Have a valid Social Security Number.
- Register with the Selective Service if required. You can use the paper or electronic FAFSASM to register, you can register at www.sss.gov, or you can call 1-847-688-6888. (TTY users can call 1-847-688-2567.)
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress once in school.
- Certify that you are not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe money on a federal student grant.
- Certify that you will use federal student aid only for educational purposes.

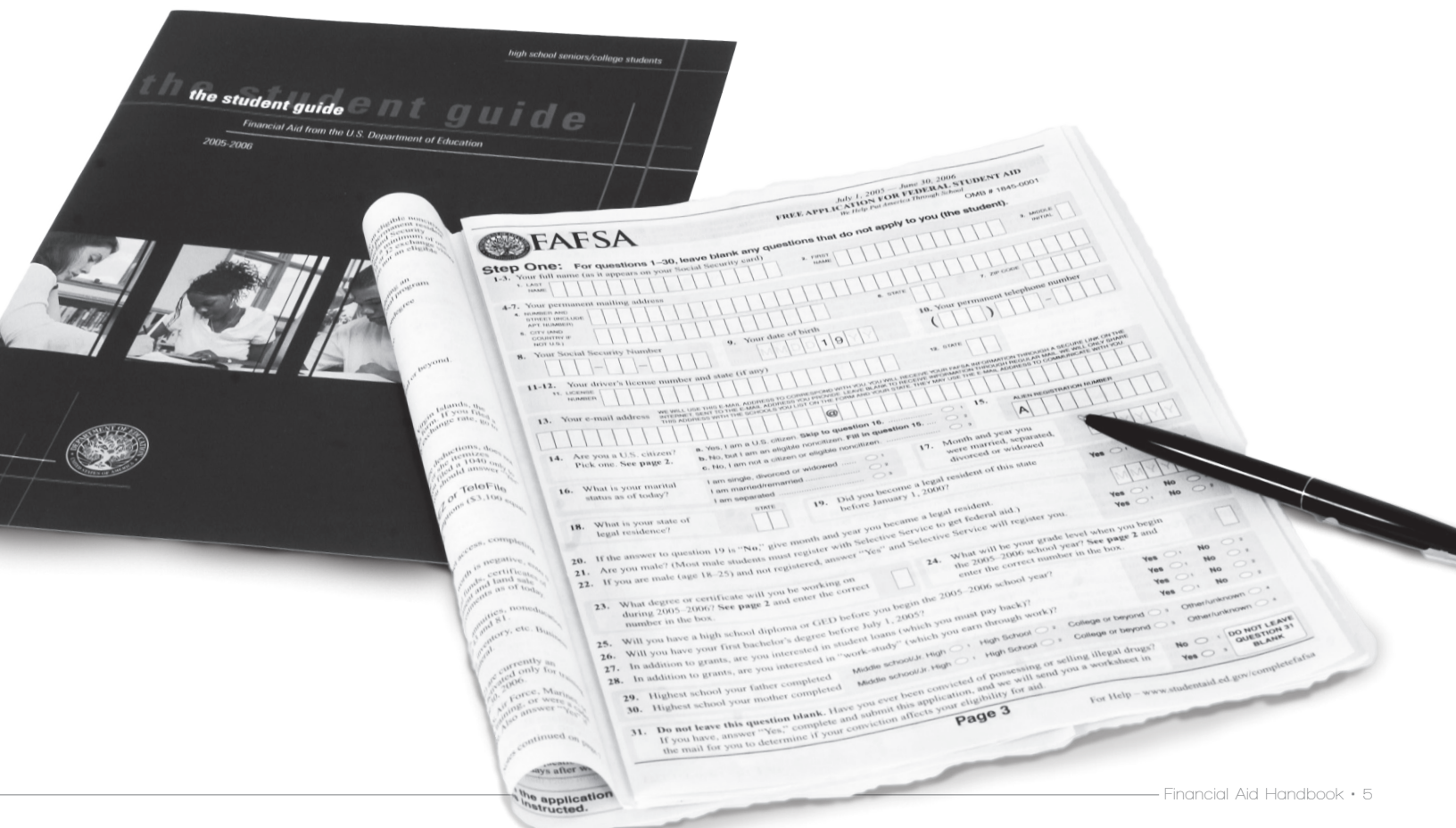
THE FAFSA

- Create your FSA ID account at <https://fsaid.ed.gov>. This ID will be used to electronically sign the FAFSA. Dependent Students must make sure they apply for a student FSA ID and a parent FSA ID.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Our school code to put on the FAFSA is 002423.
- While completing the FAFSA you will be given an opportunity to use a new process called IRS Data Retrieval*. This process will take your tax information directly from the IRS and put it onto your FAFSA. It's a quick and easy process!
- Complete all the other sections of the FAFSA and using the FSA ID or FSA IDs (student and parent if applicable) as your electronic signature.
- You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) from the Department of Education within a few days of finishing your FAFSA. Please read this summary carefully to verify that your information is correct.
- Some FAFSAs are selected for a process called "verification". We will notify you if your FAFSA is selected for verification. You can then review the documents you will need to provide the Department of Student Financial Aid by logging into your myState account at www.my.msstate.edu
- Once we have all the documents needed for verification (if selected) we will make any necessary changes to your FAFSA and resubmit to the Department of Education.

Make sure you apply for the correct aid year.

- The financial aid school year begins with the Fall semester and ends with Summer.
- *When completing the FAFSA, the student and parents (if applicable) will need to complete the tax information on the FAFSA using prior prior year tax information. Below are two options for completing this part of the FAFSA:
 - The first option available is a new process called IRS Data Retrieval. When prompted in the FAFSA, select the IRS Data Retrieval match. This process will take your tax information the IRS collected from your tax return and put it directly into your FAFSA. It's a quick and easy process! If you are a dependent student, both you and your parents will need to use the IRS data match.
 - If you are unable to do the data match (see reasons below) the student and parent (if applicable) can use a copy of their federal tax returns and put that information directly on the FAFSA when completing it online.

If you/your parents are married and filed as Married Filing Separately, Head of Household, or if you or your parent amended your tax return you will not be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on your FAFSA application and therefore must use option two listed above.





VERIFICATION

Students will receive an email message from the Department of Education letting you know that your FAFSA has been processed and sent to your school. Go online and review the information on the FAFSA for accuracy and to be sure Mississippi State University is listed as a school to receive your results. MSU will notify you through email if your FAFSA is selected for verification.

If your FAFSA has been selected for verification by the Department of Education you may need to turn in some additional documents. To find out what specific forms you need to turn in please log into your MyState account and review the outstanding documents. Some of the documents you may need to complete are:

- Federal Tax information – You have two options for providing us with this information.
 1. The first option available is a new process called IRS Data Retrieval*. Please log back into your FAFSA and select the IRS Data Retrieval match. This process will take your tax information the IRS collected on your tax return and put it directly into your FAFSA. It's a quick and easy process! Once you complete the IRS Data Retrieval match, you must re-submit your FAFSA. If you are a dependent student, both you and your parents will need to use the IRS data match.
 2. The second option is to request a tax return transcript from the IRS. To request a free IRS tax return transcript, you may call 1-800-908-9946 or order a tax return transcript online at www.irs.gov. If you are a dependent student, both you and your parents will need to request a tax return transcript. Signed copies of tax returns will no longer meet the federal requirement for this process; only official tax return transcripts from the IRS will be accepted for verification.

If you/your parents are married and filed as Married Filing Separately, Head of Household, or if you or your parent amended your tax return you will not be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on your FAFSA application and therefore must use option two listed above.

- Household information - Is verified by the completion of the Household Verification Form. Please read the instructions carefully to include the members of the household.
- Other Documents - There could be other documents needed based on your response to certain questions on the FAFSA.

RECEIVING STUDENT AID FUNDS

Federal grant, Federal loan and MSU scholarship funds that have been finalized will be disbursed into your MSU Student Account during the final registration process.

Federal Work-Study funds will not be available at the beginning of the semester for payment of fees. Students will be paid twice per month for the hours actually worked during the previous work period. All students awarded FWS must come to the Student Employment Office in Garner Hall to receive an interview form at the beginning of each semester. This form must be presented by the student to potential employers. If hired, the form must be filled out completely by the student and employer and returned to the Student Employment Office before actual work begins.

State aid funds may or may not be available at registration, depending on your application and award status at the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid in Jackson, MS.

No student aid funds can be disbursed into the MSU Student Account until the student has registered for the required number of classes/credit hours.

All student aid funds (except Federal Work-Study) that are disbursed into the student's MSU Student Account will first be applied to the amount owed to MSU by the student. If the disbursed student aid funds exceed the amount owed to MSU, then a refund/disbursement check will be issued to the student upon request at the Account Services Office in Garner Hall no sooner than the first day of final registration (approximately two days before classes begin each semester). Students who participate in the Bull-e-Bucks process may receive electronic transfer of refunds into their bank accounts sooner.

MYSTATE NAVIGATION GUIDE

MyState will allow you to check your financial aid status anytime online. You can review what documents you need to turn in, awarded funds, paid funds, and your current academic standing.

Steps to Log on to MyState

- Log on to the myState portal at <http://my.msstate.edu> by using your NetID and NetPassword.
- Click on the Banner tab at the top of the form.
- Use the Financial Aid Menu to select the option you request

Documents Required: Click on Eligibility Requirements

Awards: Click on the Award Notification Letter under the Financial Aid menu. Select the aid year and terms. Complete all pages of the award notification letter, and make sure you click the 'Finish the Award Process' button on the last page.

HOW AID IS CALCULATED

The Department of Student Financial Aid will receive a FAFSA and then begin the process of determining the aid for which the student has eligibility. It begins by determining the federally calculated need (FCN). This is figured by subtracting your expected family contribution (EFC) from the cost of attendance (COA). The EFC is the number that is determined when a student submits a FAFSA. The COA is determined by the school for the possible charges a student may incur while attending. Pell Grants are considered to be the first source of aid to the student, and packaging federal funds begins with Pell eligibility. The Department of Education issues Pell payment schedules that base that award solely on the student's cost of attendance, EFC and enrollment status. Once Pell eligibility has been determined, then SEOG is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

In contrast to Pell, other aid must be taken into account when awarding campus-based aid, Stafford or PLUS loans. The other aid that must be considered is called "estimated financial assistance" (EFA). In general, the term estimated financial assistance, as defined for the campus-based programs, as well as grants, scholarships, loans and need-based employment that you can reasonably anticipate at the time aid is awarded, whether the assistance is awarded by the school or by an individual or organization outside the school.

Estimated Financial Assistance includes any educational benefits paid because of enrollment in postsecondary education, such as:

- The student's Pell Grant eligibility;
- Unsubsidized and subsidized Stafford and PLUS loans;
- Long-term loans made by the school (short-term emergency loans are not considered to be EFA);
- Grants, including SEOG,
- Scholarships, including athletic scholarships and scholarships that require future employment but are given in the current year;
- Waivers of tuition and fees, for example WIA (Workforce Investment Act);
- Fellowships or assistantships; and
- Net Income from need-based employment.

Example:

Cost of attendance	\$21,570
Expected Family Contribution	-\$850

Need	\$20,720
Pell	-\$5,345
SEOG	-\$1,500
Rotary Club Scholarship	-\$4,500

Remaining need	\$9,375
Stafford Subsidized Loan	-\$3,500
Stafford Unsubsidized Loan	-\$2,000

Remaining need	\$3,875
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FINANCIAL AID AWARDS OVERVIEW

FEDERAL PELL GRANT	Grant does not have to be repaid	Available to undergraduates	Based on the Federal Pell range for the academic year
FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)	Grant does not have to be repaid	For undergraduates with exceptional financial need; Federal Pell Grant recipients take priority, funds depend on availability at school	0 - \$1,050
TEACHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FOR COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION (TEACH) GRANT	Grant does not have to be repaid unless student fails to carry out service obligation, in which case student must repay TEACH Grant as Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accrued (accumulated) from date grant was disbursed (paid out to student)	For undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students who are or will be taking course work necessary to become elementary or secondary teacher, recipient must sign Agreement to Serve saying he or she will teach full-time in designated teacher shortage area for four complete years (within eight years of completing academic program) at elementary or secondary school serving children from low-income families	Up to \$4,000 a year; total amount may not exceed \$16,000 Graduate student; Total amount may not exceed \$8,000
FEDERAL WORK-STUDY	Money earned while attending school; does not have to be repaid	For undergraduate and graduate students; jobs can be on campus or off campus; students are paid at least federal minimum wage	No annual minimum or maximum amounts
DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOAN	Loan; must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate students; U.S. Department of Education pays interest while borrower is in school and during deferment periods; student must be attending at least half-time and have financial need	\$3,500-\$5,500
DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN	Loan; must be repaid with interest	For undergraduate and graduate students; borrower is responsible for all interest; student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required	\$5,500-\$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status
DIRECT PLUS LOAN	Loan, must be repaid with interest	For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate and professional students; student must be enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required; Borrower is responsible for all interest	Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid student receives; no minimum amount



LOANS

Federally Guaranteed Direct Student Loans

MSU is a William D. Ford Direct Lending Institution. This means you will be offered federally guaranteed student loans through the Department of Student Financial Aid. Federal Direct Loans are funded by the U.S. Treasury. Direct Loan Programs include the Direct Subsidized Student Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan, Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Student (PLUS), and Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate Students. All first-time Direct Loan student borrowers must:

- Complete Entrance Counseling at www.studentloans.gov.
- Sign an electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) before funds can be disbursed to the student's account. The Master Promissory Note is valid for multiple disbursements over a ten-year period. In most cases, you will be required to sign only one note during your college career. Complete the e-MPN at www.studentloans.gov.

Federal Direct Subsidized Student Loan

The subsidized loan is awarded up to the lesser of your calculated financial need or annual loan limit.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan

You may be offered an unsubsidized loan up to the lesser of your maximum loan eligibility or cost of attendance. These loans charge interest while you are in school. You should receive a notice from your loan servicer informing you of the interest that has accrued. You may pay the interest each quarter; however, you may let it accrue until you enter repayment, at which time the outstanding interest will be capitalized back into the original principal amount of the loan.

Repayment

Repayment on Direct Student Loans will begin six (6) months after you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time enrollment. Due to recent legislative changes your Federal Student/ Parent loans may be assigned to one of several new contracted loan servicers. If your loan(s) is/are assigned to a contracted servicer, they will contact you directly with more information.



Interest Rate

The interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford (Subsidized and Unsubsidized) changes annually. The federal government pays the interest on Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans while the student is in school at least half-time and during periods of deferment.

Federal Direct Parent Loan For Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

The PLUS loan is an unsubsidized loan for parents of dependent students. The PLUS loan can be used to meet the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Parents may borrow any amount up to the Cost of Attendance, minus other financial aid. The parent borrower will apply for the Parent PLUS loan online at www.studentloans.gov by signing into the website with their FAFSA PIN. Once they have signed in, they will select Request a PLUS Loan from the menu and then select Parent PLUS as the type of loan. During this application process the parent borrower will be able to request in-school deferment of payments and will immediately know the results of the credit check. If denied, they have several options available, including appealing the credit decision, applying with an endorser (co-signer), having the school offer the student the additional unsubsidized student loan, or not taking any action.

The same parent must also complete the Parent PLUS

Master Promissory Note. The Parent PLUS MPN is for one parent and one student and is good for up to 10 years.

The PLUS loan is offered with a fixed interest rate and origination fee. The PLUS loan is available to either biological parent or a step-parent whose financial information is included on the FAFSA.

Repayment

Repayment on a PLUS loan begins sixty days (60) after the final disbursement of the academic year.

For PLUS loans disbursed after July 1, 2008, the parent has the option to request a repayment deferment until 6 months after the student graduates or leaves school. The deferment may be requested at the time of the application online.

Graduate PLUS loans are available for Graduate Students upon request (not a Parent Loan).

The Graduate PLUS loan is an unsubsidized loan for graduate students at PLUS loan interest rates. Graduates may borrow any amount up to the cost of attendance, minus other financial aid. A credit check and PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note are required.

WORK STUDY/ STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is part of your financial aid package awarded by the Department of Student Financial Aid. It is a federally funded program which gives students with financial need an opportunity to work part-time. This employment will allow you to earn money to help pay for your educational expenses

Eligibility Requirements

To become eligible for FWS, you must first demonstrate financial need by filling out the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). If you are eligible to earn FWS, the amount of eligibility will be listed on your Award Notification letter. You must reapply for FWS each year. FWS is a limited fund; therefore, we encourage you to apply before the priority deadline of March 1st.

Enrollment Requirements

You must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours each semester to be eligible to participate in the work-study program.

Benefits of participating in the FWS program

- Greater job opportunities. Due to budgetary constraints, some employers only accept FWS applicants.
- Job Experience. Allows students to meet other students, network with faculty and staff, and gain valuable work and career experience.
- Financial Assistance. Students can earn money to help pay for books, food, rent, and personal expenses.
- Reduced loan debt. Having a FWS award reduces your need for excessive student loans.
- Flexible work schedule. Employers often work around the students' class schedules.

- **Aid Benefit.** Money earned from a FWS job will not be counted as income when you complete the next year's FAFSA.

Finding a FWS job

After you have received confirmation of a FWS award, you can begin your job search. Federal Work-Study jobs are located on campus with the exception of community service employment. Having a FWS award does not guarantee you employment. You must apply and interview as you would for any job. Our office will be instrumental in helping you find a job; however, we will not assign you to a job. If you are seeking employment, you should check the job board at the Department of Student Financial Aid or visit the Career Center (career.msstate.edu). Follow the application instructions under the FWS postings. You should also contact other departments on campus about possible job opportunities that are not listed.

Working On-Campus

You may select from a variety of jobs to meet your interests, skills, and career plans. General job opportunities include office assistants, data entry, lab assistants, library aids, resident hall assistants, research assistants, peer counselors, call centers, etc.

Working Off-Campus - Community Service

Community service is a great way to make a difference in the lives of others and for you to earn your work-study award at the same time. If you have been awarded Federal Work-Study, you can participate in this rewarding experience by tutoring students in the areas of reading and math. Community service jobs are located off campus at the following locations: Starkville Elementary Schools, Emerson Family Center and the Oktibbeha County Boys & Girls Club.

Federal Work-Study Interview Form

You should refer to your Financial Aid Award Notification letter to see if you have been awarded work-study. If you have been awarded FWS, you will be issued a FWS Interview Form during final registration. A separate Interview form will be issued for each semester that you have been awarded FWS. The FWS Interview Form will provide important information, such as your employment period, your FWS award amount and the maximum number of hours you can work per week. This form serves as confirmation of your FWS eligibility.

You must present this form to potential employers during interviews. If hired, the form must be filled out completely by you and your employer and returned to the Department of Student Financial Aid before actual work begins.

Maximum earnings in the FWS program

The maximum you may earn under the FWS program is the amount of your FWS award. General work-study awards range from \$2466 to \$4930 per year.

Maximum hours you can work per week

Your FWS Interview Form will indicate the maximum number of hours you can work per week. You may be permitted to work 10 to 20 hours per week. When determining hours per week, your employer will consider your FWS award, class schedule and the needs of the office.

Maximum FWS award

You are responsible for ensuring that you do not earn over your work-study award. Once the full FWS award is earned, you have to stop working. You may not work beyond your FWS award.

How will I get Paid / Pay Rate

Federal Work-Study funds will not be available at the beginning of the semester towards payment of your tuition and fees. You have to secure employment before you can be paid. You will be paid twice per month for the work you perform. Your pay will be based on the federal minimum wage rate of \$7.25/hr. You may elect to be paid via direct deposit or a pay card.

Award Adjustments

Occasionally, your Work-Study award may be adjusted. This usually occurs when you receive additional aid (scholarships, increased student loans, etc.), which affects your eligibility. When this occurs, you and your employer will be notified by the Department of Student Financial Aid. You may have to reduce the number of hours you work per week or you may have to terminate your employment.

FWS – Steps to Employment

1. Complete the MSU Admission Application. Required before aid eligibility can be determined.
2. Submit FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) by Priority Date of April 1st. Select Federal Work-Study as aid type.
3. Finalize Awards. Students awarded FWS will be able to view and accept offered amount (my.msstate.edu).
4. Search for FWS job. Begin job search and schedule interviews with prospective employers.
5. Accept Job Offer. Return completed Interview Form to Department of Student Financial Aid.
6. Pick up FWS Interview Form. Available at the beginning of each semester at the Financial Aid Office.
7. Begin working.



FEDERAL GRANTS

Almost all federal grants are awarded to students with financial need. The amount of the grant depends on cost of attendance, EFC, enrollment status (full or part-time) and enrollment period.

Federal Pell Grant

Pell Grants are the foundation of federal student financial aid, to which aid from other federal and nonfederal sources might be added. The Pell Grant is available to first time undergraduate students.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant

FSEOGs are awarded to undergraduate students with exceptional financial need and on a first-come/first-serve basis. These awards are up to \$1050 annually.

Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant

TEACH Grant Awards are given up to \$4,000 annually, in two separate disbursements, to undergraduate and graduate students majoring in an academic program that will allow them to teach in high-need subject areas, as highly qualified teachers, at Title I (low-income serving) schools in the United States. If teaching obligations

are not completed, the amount of the TEACH Grants received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

If a student is not eligible for a Pell Grant but a parent or guardian was a member of the U.S. armed forces and died as a result of service performed in Iraq or Afghanistan after 9/11, this grant is available. You must have been under 24 years old or enrolled in college, at least part-time, at the time of the parent's or guardian's death.

STATE GRANTS

Several student financial aid programs are available from the State of Mississippi for students who are Mississippi residents. State awards cannot be stacked. Students must enroll full-time and pass at least 15 hours each semester to maintain eligibility for State Aid Programs.

Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG)

MTAG awards are given up to \$500 annually for freshmen and sophomores and up to \$1,000 annually for juniors and seniors. In general, students must have a minimum ACT score of 15 and a minimum high school GPA of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale. Students must enroll full time each fall and spring semester and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA. Application deadline is September 15th each year.



Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG)

MESG awards are \$2,500 annually for up to 4 years (8 semesters). In general, students must have a minimum ACT score of 29 or be a National Merit/Achievement Semi-Finalist and have a minimum high school GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Students must enroll full time each fall and spring semester and maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA. Application deadline is September 15th each year.

William Winter Teacher Program

Students who seek a degree in teacher education as a first undergraduate degree and agree to teach in a Mississippi public school are eligible for consideration. Awards are up to \$4,000 annually for a maximum of 2 years. The loan to service obligation can be discharged on the basis of one year's service for one year of loan received. Application deadline is March 31st.

Higher Education Legislative Plan

HELP is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need as a result of filing the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA). A student must be a legal resident of the State of Mississippi, have at least a 2.50 GPA, and a minimum of 20 on the ACT. Awards are the amount of tuition and required fees annually. Application deadline is March 31st.



SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) is defined as proceeding toward successful completion of degree requirements. Mississippi State University, as required by federal regulations, monitors minimum standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as it relates to each student's eligibility to receive federal student aid funds, including grants, loans and work-study, and the Sumner's Grant program funds. The complete SAP Policy can be viewed online at <https://www.sfa.msstate.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress/>.

Your SAP status will be reviewed at the end of each spring term after final grades have been recorded by the Registrar's Office. All enrollment terms, including summer, must be considered in the determination of SAP, even enrollment terms for which you did not receive federal financial aid.

In general, schools must measure your progress by using the following criteria. SAP is a combination of both qualitative and quantitative components.

Qualitative Standard:

Minimum grade point average (GPA):

You must maintain a minimum GPA on courses taken at Mississippi State University as listed below:

Class of Student	Semester Hours Earned	MSU GPA
Freshman	29 or fewer	1.6
Sophomore	30-59	1.8
Junior	60-89	2.0
Senior	90 or more	2.0
Graduate level		3.0

Please refer to SAP policy for requirements for students working on subsequent degree(s).

Quantitative standards: (PACE)

1. maximum time frame you have to complete a degree
2. minimum percentage of courses attempted must be passed and
3. maximum number of courses from which you are allowed to withdraw or drop.

Maximum Time Frame

You are expected to complete the requirements for a degree within a reasonable time frame. The maximum number of hours you are allowed to attempt for a first bachelor degree program is 150% of the minimum number of hours required to graduate. For example: If 120 hours of course work are required to complete the degree, then you can attempt a maximum of 180 hours (120 X 150%). Please refer to SAP policy for requirements for students working on subsequent degree(s).

Completion Rate or Pace

You must also pass a minimum of 67 percentage of course work attempted at MSU. Pace is determined by dividing

the total number of credit hours earned by the total number of credit hours attempted at MSU. Please refer to SAP policy for requirements for students working on subsequent degree(s).

Withdrawals

Excessive withdrawals and/or dropped courses indicate a lack of progression toward a degree. You must not exceed a total of 30 hours of MSU course work in which grades of "W" are received. Please refer to SAP policy for requirements for students working on subsequent degree(s).

Requirements to be Granted a Probationary Semester

To be granted a Financial Aid Probationary period, you must have filed a successful appeal. SAP Appeals forms can be obtained online at <http://www.sfa.msstate.edu/pdf/sapaf.pdf>. SAP Appeals must be submitted by the specified deadline. An Academic Plan must be included in your SAP Appeal.

Academic Plan

Students who have failed to achieve minimum SAP standards are required to submit as part of the appeal process an Academic Plan listing the required courses for their program of study. The Academic Plan is designed to help the student meet the minimum standards for academic progress.

The Academic Plan is reviewed after one semester of Probation to determine if you are meeting the minimum standards for satisfactory academic progress for financial aid eligibility or if you are following your academic plan. Conditions of Academic Plan:

If your SAP appeal is approved, you must meet all of the following criteria on your Academic Plan to be granted one additional semester of Financial Aid eligibility (if otherwise eligible):

1. Do not drop any courses listed
2. Pass all courses listed. Do not make any 'F's
3. Earn minimum 2.5 GPA (undergraduate) for the semester (3.0 graduates)
4. Do not withdraw from any courses

If you are on suspension for exceeding the maximum time frame/max hours, you must submit another successful appeal to be granted aid.

Regain Financial Aid Eligibility

If you have been placed on Financial Aid Suspension as a result of your failure to meet SAP, you can regain financial aid eligibility by meeting at least one of the following criteria:

1. Correct the SAP problem(s) and meet the overall SAP Policy requirements.



2. Submit SAP Appeal. If your SAP Appeal is approved by the SAP committee, you will be placed on Financial Aid Probation and you may be granted one additional semester of Financial Aid eligibility (if otherwise eligible). Additional information about the Financial Aid Probationary Semester can be viewed at <https://www.sfa.msstate.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress/>.

Are there any other sources of funding?

If you have been placed on Financial Aid Suspension, there may be additional funding opportunities (non federal aid) for you through the Alternative Loan program. These loans are not guaranteed and you must complete a credit application. More information about Alternative Loans can be viewed at <https://www.sfa.msstate.edu/loans/>.

Financial Aid Appeal

SAP Appeal Forms can be accessed at <https://www.sfa.msstate.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress/>. If extenuating circumstances beyond your control prevented you from making satisfactory academic progress, you may appeal to the Financial Aid SAP Appeals Committee for reinstatement of your financial aid. Examples of extenuating circumstances may include:

1. Medical problems (physical or mental)
2. Serious illness
3. Accident or injury
4. Death of family member
5. Exceeding Maximum Time Frame Hours to complete degree

HELPFUL LINKS

FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Students can use this site to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid – (FAFSA).
 1(800)-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

Federal Student Aid FSA ID Web Site

<https://fsaid.ed.gov>

Students and parents can use this site to request their FSA ID. You and your parents can use your FSA ID to sign and review your FAFSA, sign a Master Promissory Note and complete Entrance Counseling.

Student Aid on the Web

www.studentaid.ed.gov

Students' gateway to the US Government, delivering government information to services across your campus and around the world

College.gov

www.college.gov

Learn how to pay for college, why you should go, what you need to do to get there and how to talk to your family about college.

FAFSA4caster

www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

See how federal student aid can help you pay for college!

Loan Repayment Calculator

www.ed.gov/offices/OFSAP/DirectLoan/RepayCalc/form1.html

LOAN RESOURCES

www.studentloans.gov

You may access and manage your account, complete entrance counseling and exit interviews or change your demographic information. This site contains details on annual and aggregate loan limits. You may also download deferment and forbearance forms, change your payment plan, and review your payment history.

If you are interested in Loan Consolidation, the information can be found at the site above.

Complete the electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN). You and your parent(s) can complete and sign an MPN over the web. You will be required to use your U.S. Department of Education PIN to complete an electronic MPN.

DIRECT LOAN APPLICANT SERVICES

1-800-557-7394

DIRECT LOAN SERVICING CENTER

1-800-848-0979

CREATE YOUR BUDGET

Use this worksheet to help keep your finances in order for each academic semester.

STEP 1: YOUR INCOME

Add up your financial aid, job, income, and help from parents etc. for an entire academic semester.

Net Wages	
Student Loans	
Scholarships/Grants	
Parental Help	
Other:	
TOTAL INCOME	\$

STEP 2: YOUR MANDATORY EXPENSES

Add up all the necessities you'll pay for during the entire academic semester.

Tuition	
Books/Supplies	
Rent or Housing Charge	
Groceries or Dining Plan	
Utility:	
Utility:	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	
TOTAL MANDATORY EXPENSES	\$

STEP 3: YOUR DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES

Add up all the extra items you think you'll need or want for the entire academic semester.

Gas/Transportation	
Personal Items	
Clothing	
Entertainment	
Dining Out	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	
TOTAL DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES	\$

STEP 4: DO THE MATH

Total Income	\$
Mandatory Expenses	– \$
Discretionary Expenses	– \$
TOTAL INCOME	

The total should be \$0 or higher. If you come up with a negative number, go back and cut some things out. Get tough with yourself...what do you really NEED? Some of your discretionary expenses may have to wait until you aren't on a fixed student budget!

Notification of a decision regarding my appeal

You will be notified via your official MSU email address of the SAP committee's decision. If you submitted your appeal by the priority deadline, we will make every effort to alert you of your appeal status prior to the start of classes. If your appeal was not submitted by the priority deadline date, you may not know your appeal status until classes have begun. Regardless of the outcome of the appeal, you are responsible for the payment of any fees.

Financial Aid Status Overview

FINANCIAL AID STATUS	ELIGIBLE FOR AID?	DEFINITION
GOOD STANDING	Yes	Eligible to receive financial aid
FINANCIAL AID SUSPENSION	No	Student is not eligible for financial aid, but can submit an appeal to request to have their aid reinstated. If appeal is approved, student will be placed on Financial Aid Probation for one semester
FINANCIAL AID PROBATION	Yes	As a result of a successful appeal to have aid reinstated, student is eligible for aid during probation term only. Student must meet SAP standards at the end of the probation term or will be placed back on Financial Aid Suspension
ACADEMIC PLAN	Yes	As a result of a successful appeal and being placed on Financial Aid Probation, student who is meeting all the conditions of their Academic Plan may be granted one additional semester of aid. The Academic plan is designed to help student meet SAP within a specific point in time.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY

Students who choose to withdraw from the University prior to the end of an enrollment period (semester) should follow the University's guidelines for withdrawing from school. The Online Withdrawal Request must be completed by the student and approved by the academic department in the college of the student's major before a student can be considered officially withdrawn. Information concerning the details of withdrawal procedures can be found in the University Catalog or by contacting the University Registrar.

Federal student aid recipients who begin attending classes during a semester and who cease attending or performing academic activities prior to the end of the semester, and never complete the Online Withdrawal Request, are considered by the federal government to have Unofficially Withdrawn.

When a federal student aid recipient withdraws, officially or unofficially, the University will return, and the student aid recipient will be required to repay, a prorated portion of funds received based upon the federally required Return of Title IV Funds calculation.

Note: The information contained in this section is subject to change, without notice, in order to comply with federal, state, or university requirements.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

You have the right to ask a school:

- The names of its accrediting and licensing organizations. You also have the right to ask for a copy of the documents describing the institution's accreditation or licensing.
- About its programs, its instructional, laboratory and other physical facilities and its faculty.
- About its job placement rates for programs preparing students for a particular vocation, trade or career field.
- About the cost of attending and its policy on refunds to students who drop out.
- What financial assistance is available, including information on all federal, state, local, private, and institutional financial aid programs.
- Who its financial aid personnel are, where they're located, and how to contact them for information.
- What the procedures and deadlines are for submitting applications for each available financial aid program.
- How it selects financial aid recipients.
- How it determines your financial need. This process includes how costs for tuition and fees, room and board, travel, books and supplies, and personal and miscellaneous expenses are considered in your cost of attendance. It also includes the resources considered in calculating your need (such as parental contribution, other financial aid, assets, etc.).
- How much of your financial need, as determined by the school, has been met.
- How and when you'll receive your financial aid.
- To explain each type and amount of assistance in your financial aid package.
- What the interest rate is on any student loan you have, the total amount you must repay, the length of time you have to repay, when you must start repaying, and what cancellation or deferment (postponement) provisions apply.
- If you're offered student employment – what kind of job it is, what hours you must work, what your duties will be, what the rate of pay will be, and how and when you'll be paid.
- To reconsider your package if you believe a mistake has been made or if there is a change in your enrollment or financial circumstances.
- How the school determines whether you're making

satisfactory progress, and what happens if you're not making satisfactory progress.

- What special facilities and services are available to students with disabilities.

You have the responsibility to:

- Review and consider all information about a school's program before you enroll.
- Pay special attention to your application for student financial aid, complete it accurately, and submit it on time to the correct location. Errors can delay or prevent you receiving aid.
- Know and meet all the deadlines for applying or re-applying for aid.
- Provide all documentation, corrections and/or new information requested by either the financial aid office or the agency to which you applied for financial aid.
- Notify the Department of Student Financial Aid if any information has changed since you applied for financial aid.
- Read, understand, and keep copies of all forms you're asked to sign.
- Ensure you repay your student loans. When you sign a promissory note, you are agreeing to repay your loan.
- Complete an exit interview at your school if you have a Federal Student Loan.
- Notify your school of a change in your name, address or attendance status (half-time, three-quarters-time or full-time). If you have a loan, you also must notify your lender of these changes.
- Satisfactorily perform the work agreed upon if you are a college student employee.
- Understand your school's refund policy. You may be able to get a part of your educational expenses returned to you if you drop out of school within a short time after you start. But after a certain date, you won't receive a refund. Check with your school to find out what expenses you may have to pay if you withdraw from classes.
- Report to the Department of Student Financial Aid any assistance that you receive for an expense item listed in the cost of attendance.





MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

MSU STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

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