



Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letter

What is the difference between a scholarship, grant and loan?

Scholarships and grants are considered “gift aid” and do not need to be repaid. Loans do need to be repaid and should be considered as serious commitments.

What is a Federal Pell Grant?

This federal grant is available to students who have demonstrated the highest calculated need. It is estimated that this award will range between \$976 and \$5,350 for full-time study. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated from the FAFSA and determines the Pell Grant.

What is SEOG?

SEOG stands for Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and is a federal grant awarded to students that have also received the Federal Pell Grant. This award will normally range between \$300 and \$600.

What is an ACG?

ACG stands for Academic Competitiveness Grant. You must be a year 1 or year 2 student with a high school graduation date after June 2006. You must be receiving a Pell Grant and have completed a rigorous high school program of study. Awards are up to \$750 for year 1 and up to \$1300 for year 2. Year 2 recipients must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00.

What is a National SMART Grant?

SMART stands for National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant. You must be a year 3 or year 4 student enrolled in a specific major identified by USDE (Science, Technology or Math). In addition, you must be receiving a Pell Grant. Awards are up to \$4000 per year and you must have a minimum grade point average of 3.00.

What is a TEACH Grant?

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA), created the **Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH)** Grant Program. Eligible undergraduate and graduate students can receive up to \$4,000 per year for a total of \$16,000 for undergraduate study and up to \$ 8,000 for graduate study. Eligible students must be accepted into the Undergraduate and Graduate Teacher Education programs at Mansfield University and agree to teach full-time in a high-need subject area for at least

four years at schools that serve students from low-income families. Part-time students are eligible, but the grant will be reduced based on the student's enrollment status.

What is a Federal Perkins Loan?

This is a low interest (5%) loan for students demonstrating financial need. This award will normally range between \$800 and \$1,200 per year. This loan is interest free while attending school and repayment begins 9 months after enrollment ceases. If you are a first-time borrower, the Perkins Loan Office at Mansfield University will send you a letter with instructions on how to sign your promissory note.

What is a Pennsylvania State Grant?

Pennsylvania State Grants (PHEAA Grants) are estimated to range between \$200 and \$3,507 for the 2009-10 academic year. This program allows eligible Pennsylvania residents to obtain financial assistance for undergraduate study. The FAFSA serves as the program's application and must be received no later than May 1st. Secondary paperwork from the state may also be required to complete the application process.

What are the eligibility requirements for a PHEAA Grant?

You must be enrolled on at least a half time basis. (6 or more credits at Mansfield University)
Meet the requirement for financial need according to the FAFSA
Be a high school graduate or the recipient of a GED
Demonstrate academic progress (for continued aid)
Meet Pennsylvania domicile requirements

What is Federal Work Study?

This award provides employment opportunities, funded through the federal government, in various campus offices. The award amount listed is the maximum you are permitted to earn; however it is not a guarantee that you will actually earn that amount and students are not guaranteed a job. Federal Work Study awards are offered to students with financial need. If no amount is listed, a student may still work under student employment funded through the University. Students are paid the state minimum wage and are paid bi-weekly based on the number of hours worked. On average, students work approximately 8-10 hours per week during the academic year. **It is important to note that work study wages are paid directly to the student and are not credited toward University charges.** Students should contact the Office of Financial Planning for available work study positions.

What is a Federal Stafford Loan (subsidized and unsubsidized)?

These are low-interest, long term loans available for student's education expenses. The student is the borrower of the loan and is responsible for repayment. Loan repayment begins six months after graduation or after student is no longer enrolled at least half-time. The interest rates on Subsidized Stafford Loans is fixed at 5.6% for loans disbursed

on or after 7/1/09 and before 6/30/10. Unsubsidized Stafford Loans and all Stafford's for graduate students remain at 6.8% fixed.

The Federal Stafford Loan may be subsidized or unsubsidized. A subsidized loan is awarded on the basis of financial need. Students who qualify for a subsidized loan will not be charged interest before they begin repayment or during authorized periods of deferment. Unsubsidized loans are not awarded based on need. The student is responsible for the interest on the loan from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full.

What are the Federal Stafford Student Loan limits?

There are limits as to how much a student can borrow each academic year. Please refer to the following chart:

<i>Year in School</i>	<i>Base Amounts</i>	<i>Additional Eligibility</i>	<i>Additional Unsubsidized Eligibility</i>
Freshmen 0-29 Credits	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$2000
Sophomore 30-59 Credits	\$4,500	\$4,000	\$2000
Junior 60-89 Credits	\$5,500	\$5,000	\$2000
Senior 90+ Credits	\$5,500	\$5,000	\$2000

Note: Half-time teacher certification students may borrow at the senior level as a 5th year undergraduate.

What is a PLUS loan?

PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students) loans are for the parents of a dependent student who is enrolled at least half time in a degree program. Parents may borrow up to the student's cost of attendance, minus any other financial aid.

How do I apply for a Stafford Student Loan?

For first-time borrowers, in order for you to take advantage of the Federal Stafford Loan you **must** complete the following:

1. Entrance interview loan counseling at www.aessuccess.org; look for the tab: "Find Aid for School" and scroll down to "Entrance & Exit Counseling."
2. Complete your Stafford Loan MPN (Master Promissory Note.) You can complete the application process online at www.aessuccess.org. First time borrowers should click on the tab: "Find Aid for School". The next step is to click "create an account" in the Account Access box, then click the "Create an Account Now" button. Once you have created an account then choose Stafford Loans, Apply Now. You can sign your MPN electronically with your U.S. Department of Education PIN #.

3. How do we apply for a PLUS loan?

In order for you to take advantage of the PLUS Loan your parent **must** complete a Federal PLUS Loan Pre-Qualifications Form and a Federal PLUS Loan MPN. First time borrowers should click on the tab: "[Find Aid for School](#)". The next step is to click "create an account" in the Account [Access](#) box, then click the "Create an Account Now" button. Once you have created an account then choose *PLUS Loans, Apply Now*. You can sign your MPN electronically with your U.S. Department of Education PIN #. To request a paper promissory note, please contact American Education Services (AES) at (800)692-7392.

OK, now I understand my financial aid award letter but how do I estimate my "out-of-pocket" expenses?

Use the following worksheet to estimate the amount that you will owe for the 2009-2010 academic year. The actual 2009-2010 charges will not be available until July but the chart shows *typical* costs.

HOW TO ESTIMATE WHAT YOU WILL OWE:

A. ESTIMATED EXPENSES	PA Resident	Good Neighbor	Non-PA Resident
Tuition/Fees (full-time)	\$7434	\$11,010	\$15,564
Room (double)/Meals (14 meals)	\$6,396	\$6,396	\$6,396
Estimated total	\$13,827	\$17,406	\$21,960

B. FINANCIAL AID (see your award letter)	
Federal Pell Grant	\$
PA State Grant	\$
Federal SEOG Grant	\$
ACG/SMART Grant	\$
Federal Perkins Loan	\$
Federal Stafford Loan	\$
Federal PLUS Loan	\$
MU Academic Scholarship	\$
Other Aid	\$
Total Aid	\$

Total Expenses (Section A above)	\$
Minus your Total Aid (Section B above)	\$
Estimate your out-of-pocket expenses	\$