



FINANCIAL AID AWARD NOTICE GUIDE

Dear Student:

This guide will assist you in reviewing your Financial Aid Award Notification Letter that shows you the types and amounts of Financial Aid you are eligible to receive at Cleveland State University for the 2025-26 academic year.

Please review your financial aid award notification letter to see how we can help you earn a degree at CSU.

This publication explains:

- How your award is determined
- Your Financial Aid Award Notification
- The steps you need to take to receive the aid

HOW YOUR AWARD IS DETERMINED

Your Financial Aid Award is based on the information that you provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the formula established by the Federal U.S. Department of Education that determines financial need.

Student Aid Index (SAI) – This is an eligibility index number that the financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid you will receive. This number results from the information that you provide on your FAFSA form. This number is not a dollar amount of aid eligibility or what your family is expected to provide.

Your SAI number indicates to the financial aid office what types of and how much federal and state aid we are permitted to award to you. Important: The amount we are able to award may not be enough to cover the total costs.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ATTEND CSU?

Tuition and Fees (www.csuohio.edu/bursar/tuition-and-fees) are displayed in your CampusNet, Student Account tab once you register for classes. Financial aid will apply prior to the beginning of semester, if you have completed all the necessary steps to receive your financial aid. You are expected to pay the balance remaining or go on a free budget payment plan, prior to the first day of the semester.

Most students use a combination of financial aid, student loans, parental support, and self-pay to cover the total cost.

Living on campus or CSU sponsored housing: You are not required to live on campus; if you choose to sign a contract to live in CSU housing, these charges are added to your total charges due to the University. **IMPORTANT – completing a FAFSA will not provide enough aid to cover the cost of living on campus.** Students and Parents must be willing and approved to borrow through the Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate students (PLUS), private loans or self-pay to cover the cost of living on campus.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER

Financial aid listed on your Award letter may be a combination of federal, institutional (university), state, private and other sources. The amount of financial aid offered is determined by information you entered on your FAFSA.

Your Financial Aid Award notice informs you of your financial aid for the academic year. If you receive other aid and/or there are changes to your family circumstances, please tell us — adjustments to the amounts offered may be made and a revised award letter issued.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

SCHOLARSHIPS/GRANTS

Money you do not have to pay back: available from federal, state and University sources. More information available at: www.csuohio.edu/financial-aid/scholarship

FEDERAL PELL GRANT

Eligibility is determined based on the results of the FAFSA. The grant amount is adjusted down based on your enrollment; you will receive less if you attend less than full-time. For the 2025–26-year, Federal Pell Grant range is expected to be \$740 to \$7,395

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)

A limited federal resource to help meet the cost of high need students. For the 2025-26 year, grant amounts range from \$200-\$1,000 per year.

OHIO COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANT (OCOG)

A state funded need-based grant for Ohio residents. Eligibility is based on the results of the FAFSA. An SAI of 3750 or less qualifies you for this award. For the 2025-26 year, the grant amount is \$4,000 for full- time students for the year, \$2,000 each semester. The grant amount is adjusted down if not enrolled full time.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT – FEDERAL WORK STUDY (FWS) AND NON-WORK STUDY

The University offers many employment opportunities for our students. Students who are hired to work on campus may be paid by Federal Work Study dollars or non-work study dollars. Federal Work Study is a need-based federal program that provides funding to pay students who work on campus.

If you are awarded Federal Work Study, it will appear on your financial aid award letter. Note: It does not automatically apply to or pay towards your balance due at the University.

Student employment, whether Federal Work Study or non-work study, does not apply to the student's account. Students who work on campus will receive a bi-weekly paycheck. Working on campus is a wonderful opportunity for our students to gain valuable skills and earn income while being a student.

For more information, visit our Career Services website at: www.clestatecareers.com/students

EXTERNAL FUNDING

If you are receiving funds from external source (i.e. scholarship awards) and the funding is not listed on your Financial Aid Award letter, please notify the Financial Aid Office. If required, adjustments will be made to your award offer.

If we need to add these funds to your award after your financial aid has been disbursed to you, an adjustment could result in you owing a balance to CSU. Please tell us about any funding you may be receiving before classes begin.

WHERE SHOULD THE ORGANIZATION SEND YOUR SCHOLARSHIP CHECK?

Scholarship checks need to be mailed to:

Cleveland State University
c/o The Bursars Office
2121 Euclid Avenue, BH 116
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Please be sure to include your name and CSU identification number with the check. The scholarship check will appear as a Miscellaneous Scholarship on your Financial Aid Award Letter.

The CSU policy is to divide scholarship funds equally between the Fall and Spring semesters. Scholarship donors may request a one semester distribution by providing written instruction with the scholarship payment.

DIRECT SUBSIDIZED AND UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS

Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans are part of the Federal Direct Loan Program, which offers low-interest loans to students to help students pay for college. They are called Direct Loans because they are made directly from the U.S. Department of Education, without going through a bank or other lender.

Students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are automatically considered for federal student loans and will be listed on your award letter.

The U.S. Department of Education limits the amount of loans students may borrow. The student loan(s) listed on your award letter is for the maximum amount we are permitted to offer and may not be enough to cover the total costs. For more information on federal student loans visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans>

The Financial Aid Office determines your loan eligibility based on federal rules. See chart for eligibility amounts.			
Dependent student annual loan limit	total credit earned	maximum loan amount for the year	amount of loan that can be subsidized
freshman	0-29	\$5,500	\$3,500
sophomore	30-59	\$6,500	\$4,500
junior/senior	60+	\$7,500	\$5,500
lifetime maximum eligible to borrow		\$31,000	
Independent student annual loan limit			
freshman	0-29	\$9,500	\$3,500
sophomore	30-59	\$10,500	\$4,500
junior/senior	60+	\$12,500	\$5,500
lifetime maximum eligible to borrow		\$57,500	
Graduate/ Law			
Unsubsidized		\$20,500	
GradPLUS		TBD	
GradPLUS- is a federal based consumer loan - requires credit approval			
Graduate/Law lifetime maximum -this includes borrowing as under		\$138,500	
Undergraduate Loans can be a combination of subsidized and unsubsidized- link below to learn more			
www.studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized			

FEDERAL PARENT LOAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (PLUS)

The Federal PLUS loan enables credit-worthy parents or stepparents to borrow on behalf of their dependent student. The loan is to help pay for the cost of attending CSU.

A parent interested in applying for a PLUS loan can complete the online application at www.studentaid.gov/plus-app/parent/landing.

- Parents: You must use your FSA ID and password to log in and apply.
- Please do not use your student's FSA ID and password.
- The parent loan is in the parent's name, and repaying the loan is the parent borrower's responsibility.

HELPFUL HINTS TO COMPLETE THE PLUS APPLICATION

Parents must use their FSA ID and password, not the student's. Request the full amount needed for both fall and spring semester.

The loan will apply to your student's account and pay before all other financial aid. Parents are borrowing on behalf of your student for the student's educational costs.

Important: The Parent PLUS application for 2025-26 will become available at <https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/parent/landing> on May 1, 2025.

The maximum amount you can request is the cost of attendance minus all of the student's financial aid that is listed on your award notice that can be viewed in CampusNet/ Financial Aid tab at <https://campusnet.csuohio.edu/index.jsp>

If the PLUS Application is approved, we will begin processing.

If not approved, the student is then allowed to apply for an additional unsubsidized loan. The maximum amount for this additional loan for freshman is \$4000 for the year.

PRIVATE EDUCATION LOAN

Private or alternative loan programs are used to cover educational expenses not already covered by federal student loans, grants, scholarships or other resources. To learn more visit: <https://www.csuohio.edu/financial-aid/privatebank-loans-alternative-loans>

REAPPLY ANNUALLY

You must renew your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) every year in order to be considered for financial aid for the next academic year. You can renew your FAFSA online at www.studentaid.gov. Apply early to maximize your aid opportunity.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) AND WITHDRAWAL FROM CLASSES

SAP rules require students earn a minimum of 2.0 cumulative grade point average and successfully complete 2/3 (67%) of their schedule each semester in order to keep their financial aid.

It is important for students to know that withdrawing from classes after they have started and/or earning a non-passing grade will have a negative impact on their current and future financial aid eligibility.

Please check with All-in-1 before withdrawing to learn how this will affect you immediately and in the future.

Review the financial aid withdrawal policy found at <https://www.csuohio.edu/financial-aid/federal-financial-aid-compliance-and-disclosures>. **Bursar Refund Policy:** <https://csuohio.edu/bursar/refunds>

CHANGES/CORRECTIONS OR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Corrections or changes to the information you originally submitted on your FAFSA may result in a revision to your financial aid award. If you have unusual circumstances that were not reported on the FAFSA such as; loss of income due to unemployment, death or divorce, a review of your circumstances can be requested. Please contact All-in-1 for more information.

ELIGIBILITY STATUS/ FUNDING LEVELS

The Financial Aid Office reserves the right to adjust the offered financial aid based on review (called "Verification") of your eligibility. CSU reserves the right to adjust Financial Aid Awards if federal, state or the University funding levels for financial aid programs fall short of anticipated levels.

WHEN WILL YOUR FINANCIAL AID FUNDS PAY YOUR BILL AT CSU?

Financial aid funds will pay into your student account 10 days before classes begin each semester.

There are required items that must be completed before your aid is allowed to apply- it is important to complete all the necessary steps detailed in CampusNet on the financial aid tab. <https://campusnet.csuohio.edu/index.jsp>

WHAT IF YOUR FINANCIAL AID AMOUNT EXCEEDS YOUR TOTAL CHARGES?

If the financial aid applied is more than you owe, you will receive a refund to use for educational expenses, such as: books, supplies, parking. Refunds are processed by the University Bursar.

Visit <https://www.csuohio.edu/bursar/bursar>

HOW WILL YOU BE BILLED FOR ON-CAMPUS MEALS AND HOUSING?

If you choose to live in CSU housing and you are required to purchase a meal plan, your charges will be posted to your CSU student account.

The FAFSA does not offer enough aid to cover the cost of tuition fees, housing and meals. Please discuss with your family borrowing options and/or being prepared to go on the Budget Payment Plan.

PAYMENT OF YOUR CSU BILL

Your bill will be available late July for Fall Semester. Payment is due before classes begin. Financial aid will apply 10 days before the start of classes. Please login to Campusnet to pay your bill or explore payment plan options.

NEXT STEPS

- Log in to Campusnet, Financial Aid tab – <https://campusnet.csuohio.edu/login.jsp>
- Review and complete all necessary steps to receive your financial aid.
- Tuition/Fees and Housing and Meals (if you entered into contract to live in CSU housing) will appear on your Student Account tab at the end of July 2025. Payment is due before the first day of classes.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

Additional information regarding our programs and policies can be found at: <https://www.csuohio.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid>

Customer service for financial aid is provided by All-in-1 located in Berkman Hall, Room 116.

Please call: 216-687-5411 or email: All-in-1@csuohio.edu