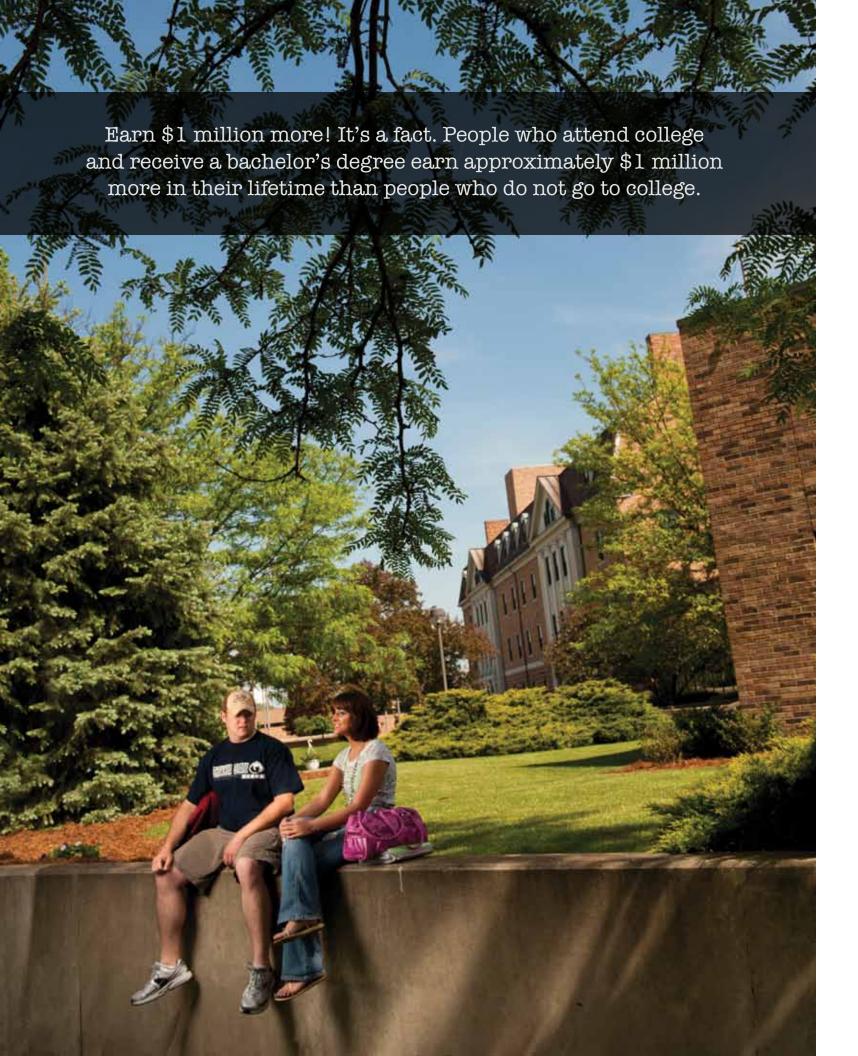


# Making College a Reality through Financial Aid





#### How do I pay for college?

The cost of higher education is increasing each year and paying for college is becoming more challenging. However, financial aid opportunities are available for students.

Shawnee State University offers grants, scholarships, loans, and Federal Work-Study to help students pay for college. The Financial Aid Office at Shawnee State University will help you complete the necessary steps to apply for financial aid.

#### How much does college cost?

The fees for a new freshman at Shawnee State for the 2011-12 academic year are below.

#### Shawnee State University 2011-12 Annual Cost \*

Tuition and Fees University Center Bond Fee Room and Board Total for Ohio Resident	\$6,462 \$ 300 \$7,774 - 9,746 \$14,536 - 16,508	Other Expenses: Books and Supplies Personal Expenses *Fees subject to change	\$ 1,440 \$ 2,174
Out-of-State Fees Total Out-of-State Resident	\$4,806 \$19,342 - 21,314		

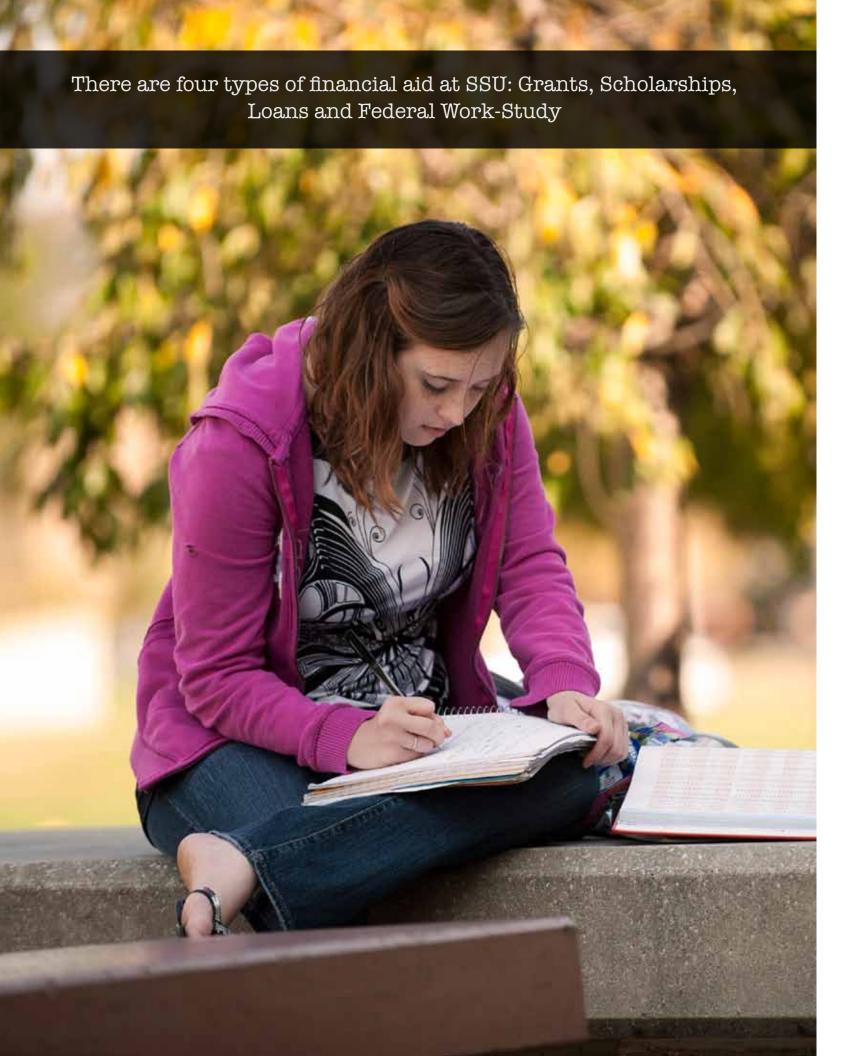
#### How do I apply?

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step to applying for financial aid. Shawnee State University uses the results of the FAFSA to determine the student's eligibility for financial aid. FAFSA applications are accepted beginning January 1 of each year.

The first step is to go to **www.pin.ed.gov** and apply for a PIN (personal identification number). A PIN lets you apply for and sign your FAFSA online. Both the student and the parents need to obtain a PIN.

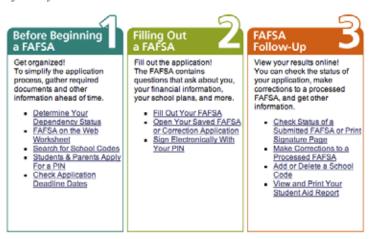
Once you have your PIN, you can complete the FAFSA electronically by going to **www.fafsa.ed.gov**. You will need your income tax returns, W-2 forms, and any other records of income. A full list of what you need is at **www.fafsa.ed.gov**. A FAFSA Worksheet on the Web is also available to assist you in filing online.

When you complete your FAFSA, you need to include Shawnee State's federal school code **009942**. By including this number, Shawnee State University is authorized to receive your FAFSA information from the Department of Education.



#### Filling Out a FAFSA

The FAFSA website, **www.fafsa.ed.gov** is easy to use and will lead you through the process step-by-step. *Below is a snapshot of what you'll see on the site.* 



#### What happens next...

In late March, Shawnee State will send you a financial aid notice explaining the types of financial aid you have been offered. This award notice can be viewed by going to your myssu portal <a href="https://myssu.shawnee.edu/ics/">https://myssu.shawnee.edu/ics/</a>. Students accept or decline the offered financial aid.

Financial aid is awarded one academic year at a time. Each semester, after the student has registered, approved financial aid is credited to the student's account in the Bursar's Office.

#### **Grants and Scholarships**

Grants and scholarships are considered gift aid. Gift aid is based on either merit (academic) or financial need and does not have to be paid back. These funds come from a variety of sources, which include federal, state, and institutional dollars.

Shawnee State University offers the following grants:

#### The Federal Pell Grant

The maximum annual award is \$5,550 for 2011-12. This grant is a federal grant. It is a need-based award based on the results of the FAFSA and enrollment status.

#### Tips for filing your FAFSA:

- Complete the entire FAFSA form.
- Make sure both the student and the parent sign the FAFSA.
- Step-parent information must be included on the FAFSA.
- All income is based on the previous year's income information.



#### The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

Awards range up to \$600 a year for 2011-12. FSEOG is a federal grant awarded to undergraduate students on the basis of exceptional financial need. The student must be Pell Grant eligible. These funds are limited to the amount allocated to the University by the U.S. Department of Education.

#### The Ohio College Opportunity Grant

OCOG provides need-based tuition assistance to Ohio students from low-to-moderate-income families.

#### **Scholarships**

Shawnee State University offers many scholarships. A complete list is available at www.shawnee.edu/off/fa/index.html. Applications for scholarships offered through the SSU Development Foundation are also available at www.shawnee.edu/off/fa/index.html.

#### The deadline to apply is February 15.

Note: To be considered for Shawnee State University Development Foundation awards and University scholarships, transcripts, verifying ACT, and GPA, must be submitted to the Office of Admission no later than February 15.

Shawnee State recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement through a merit-based scholarship program. The University offers two levels of academic scholarship—the President's Scholarship and the University Professor's Scholarship.

There are many sources of scholarships available to students from outside organizations and programs. Contact your high school guidance office for information on scholarships available through your community. Also, check with local businesses, religious organizations, employers, unions, and national organizations. Internet searches are also a good resource for information on available scholarships.

#### **Federal Student Loans**

Shawnee State participates in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, which is a government-sponsored program that makes loans available for college students and parents. There are primarily two kinds of federal loans available: the **Federal Direct Student Loan** for students and the **Federal Direct Parent Loan** for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) loan for parents.

If you demonstrate sufficient financial need, you can qualify for a subsidized Student Loan—which means the federal government will pay the interest that accrues while you are in school, during a six-month grace period, or in any authorized period of deferment.

If you do not demonstrate sufficient financial need, you can qualify for an unsubsidized Student Loan—which means you are responsible for paying the interest that accrues during school, grace, and deferment periods.

Payments on Federal Direct Loans are deferred until six months after you graduate, stop attending, drop below six credit hours, or withdraw from school.

### All students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as possible.



#### **Parent PLUS Loans**

The Parent PLUS loan is a credit-based loan that the parent applies for to assist the student in paying for educational expenses. With credit approval, the parent can borrow up to the total cost of attendance minus any aid received. If the parent receives a credit denial, the student can then borrow additional unsubsidized Direct Student Loans.

#### **Private Student Loans**

Private student loans are credit-based loans that the student can apply for to pay for educational expenses. Like the parent PLUS loan, the student can borrow up to the total cost of attendance minus any aid received. Students are required to have at least two years of established credit or a cosigner is required.

#### Loan award maximums per academic year for 2011-12

**\$5,500** dependent freshman

**\$6,500** dependent sophomore

**\$7,500** dependent junior and senior

Independent students and dependent students whose parents are denied a PLUS loan are eligible for additional unsubsidized loan money. The amounts are:

**\$4,000** freshman and sophomore

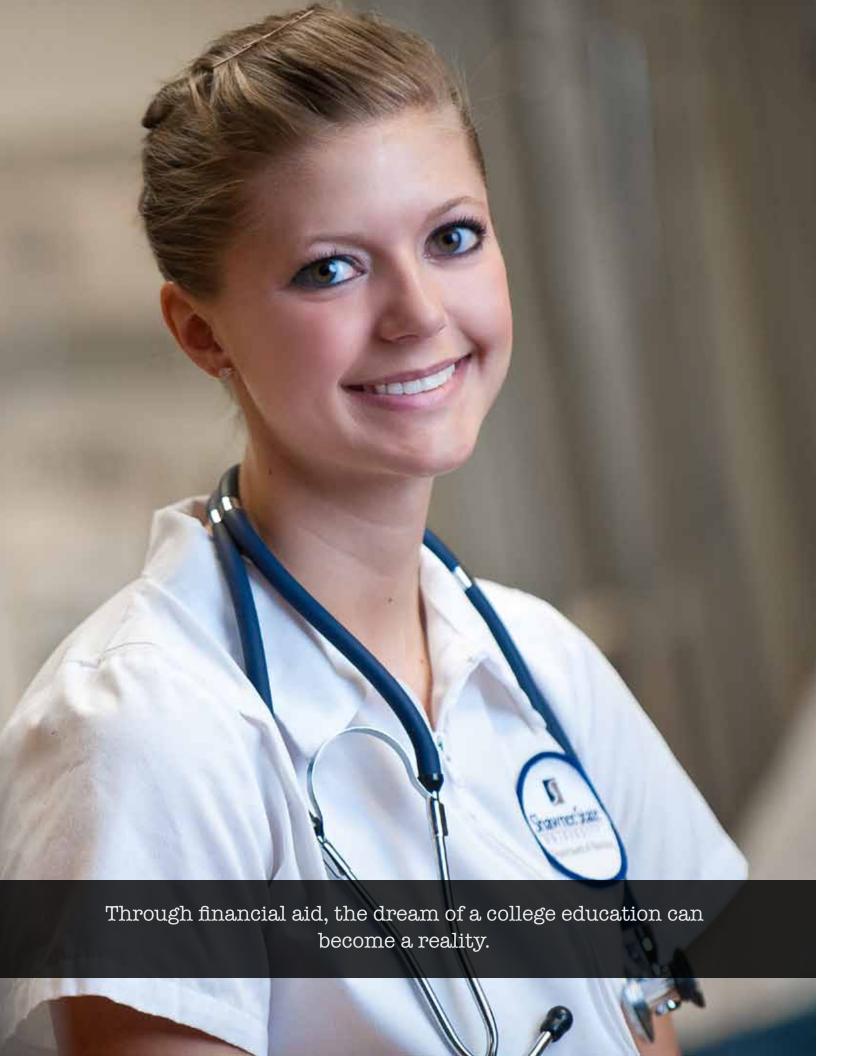
**\$5,000** junior and senior

#### What is a Forbearance?

A forbearance is similar to a deferment but may be granted at the discretion of the lender.

#### What is a Period of Deferment?

Once your are in repayment of your student loans, there are reasons that your student loan payments can be delayed for a period of time. Deferments are an entitlement and can be granted for enrollment in school for at least half-time, unemployment, or economic hardship.



#### **Other Payment Options**

The Bursar's Office offers a payment plan called a Short-Term Loan. This allows you to make four payments during fall and spring semesters and two payments during summer semester. For more information, go to www.shawnee.edu/off/brsr/payplans.html. There is a \$10 charge per semester to participate in this option.

#### **Employment Possibilities**

#### Federal Work-Study (FWS)

Federal Work Study jobs are available to students who qualify based on financial need. Positions are available throughout campus. Applications and available positions are posted on the financial aid web page at **www.shawnee.edu/off/fa/index.html**. Please note: Federal Work study does not reduce a student's Bursar bill. Students earn a bi-weekly paycheck for hours worked.

#### **Other Employment Opportunities**

In addition to Federal Work-Study, Shawnee State offers positions to students through student employment. Student employment is a non-need-based work program for students to earn additional funds to help pay for college expenses. Students are paid bi-weekly, based on hours worked. For more information regarding student employment, please contact Career Services at 740.351.3213.

#### **Financial Aid Schedule**

#### lanuary

File your FAFSA as soon as possible following January 1. If you have not filed your taxes yet, you can estimate your income.

Male students, be sure to register with the Selective Service. You must be registered to be eligible for financial aid.

#### February 15

Scholarship application deadline.

Transcripts must be received in Office of Admission verifying ACT and GPA (for scholarship application process)

#### **February**

College Goal Sunday. The Financial Aid office will assist you in filing your FAFSA

#### March/April

Financial aid award notices sent to students who have completed the FAFSA process.

#### April/May

Students accept or decline financial aid awards.

#### May

If you are accepting a Federal Direct Loan, complete entrance counseling and sign your Master Promissory Note online.

If your family has a special circumstance and you would like the financial aid office to consider (loss of child support, loss of job, etc), a Special Condition Application is available on the financial aid website.

#### June/July

Attend Orientation



## **Shawnee State University**

#### **Financial Aid Office**

940 Second Street Portsmouth, OH 45662

Come see us! We are located in the University Center, on the second floor.

740.351.HELP (4357) Fax: 740.351.3435

Email: fin\_aid@shawnee.edu

www.shawnee.edu



SSU is an AA/EEO institution.