PLANNING FOR COLLEGE STARTS NOW.

FINANCIAL AID DEFINITIONS

DIRECT LOAN
A federal student loan offered to students seeking education after high school, including college, university and trade school students

DIRECT PLUS LOAN
A federal loan made to parents of dependent undergraduate students to help their children pay for college

FAFSA® — FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID
A form that is completed annually by current/prospective college students and their parents to determine eligibility for student financial aid

FAFSA SUBMISSION SUMMARY
A report that summarizes the information from the student's FAFSA and provides families and schools with the student's Student Aid Index (SAI)

FINANCIAL AID OFFER
A notification of the types and amounts of aid being offered by the college(s) that you listed on your FAFSA

FSA ID
A Federal Student Aid username and password used to log in to the FAFSA and all products and tools on studentaid.gov

GRANT
Financial aid that is need-based and doesn't need to be repaid

PRIVATE LOAN
A nonfederal loan made by a lender, such as a bank, credit union, state agency or school, to cover college costs

SCHOLARSHIP
Gifts and money that do not need to be repaid; scholarships are offered by schools, employers, nonprofits, religious groups and other professional/social organizations

STUDENT AID INDEX (SAI)
An index number used to determine a student's eligibility for federal student financial aid

Check out our online resources to get organized and on your way to a great college experience:

VISIT PNC.COM/SCHOLARSHIP
Create a PNC Financial Literacy account and enter for a chance to win a $2,000 scholarship for college.[1]

VISIT PNCONCAMPUS.COM
Explore our private student loan products, including the PNC Solution Loan® for undergraduate students.[2]

VISIT PNC.COM/STUDENTBANKING
Learn about the full suite of products we offer students and build your financial knowledge through My Finance Academy.

PNC BANK

SUCCESS STARTS WITH PLANNING.

Preparing now with our tools, timelines and financial information makes it easier to start off strong.

COLLEGE PLANNING LIST

Middle School to High School Junior Year

- Discover how to start preparing for college at studentaid.gov/resources.

- Explore college options via internet searches and college campus visits.

- Determine if the college(s) you're exploring accept Advanced Placement (AP) courses as college credit.

- Create a budget to help you keep track of your spending. Consider opening a checking and savings account.

High School Junior Year

- Take required college admission exams, which may include the ACT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests.

Summer Before High School Senior Year

- Register for an FSA ID at studentaid.gov. You and your parent(s) will need an FSA ID to access the FAFSA.

- Begin researching and applying for scholarships and grants.

High School Senior Year

Fall

- Retake the ACT and/or SAT, if necessary.

- Apply to the college(s) you have chosen by each college's application deadline.

- Complete and submit your FAFSA at studentaid.gov.

- Review your FAFSA Submission Summary, make necessary corrections and submit to the FAFSA processor.

- Review/compare financial aid offer(s) and contact your financial aid office with questions.

Spring

- Visit pnc.com/scholarship and enter for a chance to win a $2,000 scholarship.[1]

- Review college acceptance letters carefully for acceptance instructions.

- Review/compare financial aid offer(s) and contact your financial aid office with questions.

- Accept the offer at your chosen college by the decision deadline and make any required financial deposits.

- Apply for a private student loan, like the PNC Solution Loan, if scholarships and other financial aid don't cover the cost of college.[2]

  For informational purposes. You should explore all scholarship, grant and federal borrowing options before applying for a private loan.

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