

Financial Aid Process



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

NSU
Florida

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Going to college can be both exciting and financially challenging. Enrollment and Student Services (ESS) is dedicated to helping you navigate the financial aid process. This brochure provides you with a brief description of the important steps. Please visit the NSU financial aid website, nova.edu/financialaid, for detailed instructions. In addition, students should frequently check the status of their financial aid in SharkLink. NSU email and SharkLink are the official means that ESS will use to communicate with you.

Ready to get in gear?

Follow the steps.

Getting Started

1. Complete FAFSA

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov annually. It becomes available each October 1 for aid in the following award year. The earlier you apply, the better chance you have of being considered for maximum available funds.

To apply for Florida grants and scholarships, undergraduate students must complete the NSU State Aid Application available on the financial aid website.

2. Identify and Apply for Scholarships

Institutional and external scholarship opportunities are available to assist you in meeting your educational goals. The best resource for up-to-date information is the NSU scholarship website located at nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships. You will find information on how to apply, as well as resources to help you identify scholarships. Commit to continually identifying and applying for scholarships. This type of financial aid does not have to be repaid.

3. Plan for Housing and Meal Expenses

Your financial aid budget includes a housing and meal component. Please ensure that you budget for these expenses if you intend to live on campus. For more information on housing, visit Residential Life and Housing at nova.edu/housing.

4. Check Financial Aid Account Frequently

Regularly check your financial aid status via SharkLink to ensure that you have no outstanding requirements. Now is a good time to confirm your admissions status. All admission requirements must have been completed before your financial aid funds can be disbursed.

5. Submit Additional Documentation

Some students may be required to submit additional documents prior to having their financial aid awarded. You will be notified of outstanding requirements by email. Your requirements, both outstanding and completed, can also be viewed in SharkLink.

- Log in to SharkLink at sharklink.nova.edu.
- Click on My Financial Aid on the left navigation to view your Financial Aid Requirements.
- Click on View Requirements for additional details.

To learn more about financial aid eligibility requirements, the NSU State Aid Application, Verification, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), and other requirements, visit nova.edu/financialaid.

6. Accept, Reduce, or Decline Loan(s) or a Federal Work-Study Award

Your award notice will provide you with detailed instructions on how to accept, reduce, or decline your financial aid award.

Your Financial Aid Award Notice

Financial aid award notifications are sent to your Nova Southeastern University (NSU) email. Students who are new to NSU will receive their first financial aid award notification by both email and postal service. The award notice lists all awards that you are currently eligible to receive. Receipt of additional awards or changes in your eligibility will result in a revised award notice.

All aid that does not have to be repaid, such as grants and scholarships, will be offered to you in an accepted status. These types of aid will automatically disburse, provided you meet all eligibility requirements. If you receive a Federal Work-Study (FWS) award, the amount of your award reflects the amount you may be eligible to earn.

Before accepting, carefully review the terms and conditions of your financial aid award, which outline eligibility requirements and your obligations as a financial aid recipient.



Procedures to Receive Funds

7. Complete Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note (MPN)

(first-time federal loan borrowers only)

If you are a first-time federal loan borrower, you will also be required to complete entrance counseling and a Master Promissory Note (MPN) online at studentloans.gov before your loan funds can be disbursed. The MPN is a legal and binding contract that establishes the terms of loan repayment. In most cases, you will not be required to complete another MPN, and you can borrow additional direct loans on a single MPN for up to 10 years. If you are applying for a Direct PLUS for the first time as a graduate/first-professional student or a parent borrower, you or your parent(s) will be required to complete and sign a PLUS MPN that is separate from the one used for direct subsidized and unsubsidized loans.

8. Register for Classes

You need to familiarize yourself with the enrollment requirements defined by your program office, as well as by the financial aid program through which you are receiving aid. Enrollment requirements for federal and state grants vary. Students awarded federal direct loans must be enrolled at least half time in courses that are required for degree or certificate completion. Half-time enrollment is defined as 6 credits per semester for undergraduate students. For graduate and first-professional students, half-time status varies by program. Be sure to register as early as possible to ensure timely disbursement of your financial aid funds.

Think before you drop a class!

Consult your academic advisor and financial aid counselor before you drop or withdraw from classes. Your scholarships, grants, and loans may be reduced or canceled. You may lose your eligibility for federal and state aid, or your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) may be affected.



For additional information, call Enrollment and Student Services at 800-806-3680 or (954) 262-3380, email finaid@nova.edu, or visit the One-Stop Shops located in the Horvitz and Terry Administration Buildings at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. At the regional campuses, please see a financial aid staff member if you need more assistance.

Nova Southeastern University
Enrollment and Student Services
Office of Student Financial Assistance
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796

nova.edu/financialaid

NSU Federal Code: 001509

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