

Financial Aid Frequently Asked Questions:

Q.: What is federal financial aid?

A.: Federal Student Aid is a part of Department of Education and is responsible for managing the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*. There are 4 types of Federal Student Aid that Nightingale College participates in: Pell Grants, Direct Subsidized Student Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan and Parent Plus Loan for dependent learners.

Pell Grants - Federal Pell Grants usually are awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or a professional degree. A Federal Pell Grant, unlike a loan, does not have to be repaid, except under certain circumstances.

Direct Subsidized Student Loan. A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest. Direct Subsidized Loans are loans made to eligible undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need to help cover the costs of higher education at a college or career school. If you demonstrate financial need, you can qualify to have the government pay your interest while you are in school.

Direct Unsubsidized Student Loan are loans made to eligible undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, but in this case, the student does not have to demonstrate financial need to be eligible for the loan.

Direct PLUS Loans are loans made to graduate or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students to help pay for education expenses not covered by other financial aid.

Q.: What is FAFSA?

A.: FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You need to complete FAFSA to apply for federal student aid for college, career school, or graduate school.

Q.: How do I apply for financial aid?

A.: To apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study, and loans, you need to complete the Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> . Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free and easy. Alternative funding options may also be discussed with a financial aid advisor

Q.: What is the school code that I need to provide on my FAFSA?

A.: For us to receive your FAFSA, you will need to add the school code when applying for federal funding. The school code is 038383.

Q.: How do I qualify for Federal Student Aid?

A.: Our general eligibility requirements are

- that you must demonstrate financial need (for most programs);
- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- have a valid Social Security number (with the exception of students from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau);
- be registered with Selective Service, if you're a male (you must register between the ages of 18 and 25);
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program;
- be enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for Direct Loan Program funds;
- maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school;
- sign the certification statement on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) stating

- that you are not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe money on a federal student grant and
- you will use federal student aid only for educational purposes; and
- show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
 - having a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as a General Educational Development (GED) certificate;
 - completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law (or—if state law does not require a homeschooled student to obtain a completion credential—completing a high school education in a homeschool setting that qualifies as an exemption from compulsory attendance requirements under state law); or
 - enrolling in an eligible career pathway program and meeting one of the "ability-to-benefit" alternatives described below.

Q.: How much federal aid can I receive?

A.: If you are an undergraduate learner, you may borrow between \$5,500 to \$12,500 per year in Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans depending on certain factors, including your year in college.

Annual Maximum Loan Limits

Student Status	Subsidized Loan Limit	Total
Dependent learner 1 st Year (<24 credits)	3,500	5,500
Dependent learner 2 nd Year (24 credits +)	4,500	6,500
Dependent learner 3 rd Year +	5,500	7,500
Independent learner 1 st Year	3,500	9,500
Independent learner 2 nd Year	4,500	10,500
Independent learner 3 rd Year +	5,500	12,500

Aggregate Maximum Loan Limits

Student Status	Subsidized Loan Limit	Total
Dependent undergraduate learner (excluding those whose parents can't borrow PLUS)	23,000	31,000
Independent undergraduate Learner and dependent learner whose parents can't get PLUS	23,000	57,500
Graduate and Professional Learners	65,500	138,500

If you are a parent of a dependent undergraduate learner, you may borrow the remainder of your child's college costs that are not covered by other financial aid. Note: A credit check is required for a parent loan (called a PLUS loan).

Q.: How do my parents apply for a PLUS loan?

A.: Parents will need to go to the StudentLoans.gov website and click the green "Sign In" button. Parents will then be directed to sign in with **their** Social Security Number, FSA ID and other information. After signing in, parents will have the option to:

- Request a Direct PLUS Loan

- **Complete a Master Promissory Note** (important later)
- **Obtain an Endorser for their PLUS loan** (important if credit is initially denied)

After clicking on "**Request a Direct PLUS Loan**," your parents will be given the option to choose either a **Parent PLUS** loan or a **Graduate PLUS** loan. They should choose the **Parent PLUS** loan option. This will begin the **Parent PLUS** application itself.

Parents will complete the Personal Information section using their information.

The next section will ask for **student, school, and loan information**. Here, parents should carefully review their deferment and repayment options. There, parents may choose whether they wish to begin immediate repayment of their PLUS loan (repayment begins 60 days after the last disbursement of the loan), or defer repayment until their student drops below the minimum required enrollment or graduates.

The **Student, School, and Loan Information** page will also ask that parents indicate the loan amount requested. If you would like the Financial Aid Office (FAO) to process the loan for the maximum amount the student is eligible to receive, select the first option, "I want to borrow the maximum Direct PLUS Loan amount for which I am eligible, as determined by the school."

If you are aware of the maximum amount the student is eligible for or would like FAO to process the loan for a lesser amount, select the second option, "I would like to specify a loan amount." If the third option, "I do not know the amount I want to borrow. I will contact the school" is selected, a zero-dollar amount will be sent to Nightingale College, and you will have to complete this process again to select the first or second option.

After clicking "Continue", parents will be prompted to review the information provided before authorizing a credit check and completing the PLUS Request.

Note: Even with credit approval, the process is incomplete. Parents will still need to complete a Master Promissory Note for their PLUS loan.

Q.: My parents were denied for the PLUS loan. What can I do?

A.: Should your parent's credit be denied, they may be provided with an option to continue pursuing the loan by obtaining an endorser or by providing extenuating circumstances. They may also decide not to pursue the loan altogether or may be undecided.

- If using an endorser, please make sure your parent applies for their own FSA ID at <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action> and completes the "Endorser Addendum."
- If appealing the credit decision, your parent will be required to disclose contact information at <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>
- If your parent will not pursue the loan, he or she will receive an email from <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>, confirming their decision.
- If your parent is undecided, he or she will receive an email from <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>, confirming their decision.

In certain situations, students whose parent's credit is denied may be eligible for additional funding through a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. Additional funding may not equal the original amount offered in the Direct Parent PLUS loan. **Please wait 3-5 business days before contacting our office about the denial.** This allows adequate time for our

office to receive denial information from the U.S. Department of Education. Once this information is confirmed by our office, we are able to review your options.

Q.: Why should I take federal student loans?

A.: Federal loans have many benefits to offer. Here are some of them:

- The interest rate on federal student loans tend to be much lower than that on private loans—and much lower than that on a credit card!
- You don't need a credit check or a cosigner to get most federal student loans.
- You don't have to begin repaying your federal student loans until after you leave college or drop below half-time.
- If you demonstrate financial need, you can qualify to have the government pay your interest while you are in school.
- Federal student loans offer flexible repayment plans and options to postpone your loan payments if you're having trouble making payments.
- If you work in certain jobs, you may be eligible to have a portion of your federal student loans forgiven if you meet certain conditions.

Q.: What are my options for covering the gap balance after receiving federal funding?

A.: If you still have a gap balance after receiving all federal funding for which you are eligible, you may explore scholarship options. Check our website for available scholarships here <https://nightingale.edu/financial-aid/scholarships-2/>.

You may also contact your local Department of Workforce Services or Department of Labor to see if you qualify for any state funding through local programs. If you are currently employed, check with your employer if they provide tuition assistance or tuition reimbursement.

A lot of employers currently offer tuition assistance programs to promote their employees' professional success. Nightingale College also offers private student loan financing. You may apply for a private loan here <https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/3838300/1>

As a last resort the payment plan option is available to those who do not qualify for any other alternative funding. Please contact a financial aid advisor for further details.

Q.: Are there any scholarships available?

A.: Yes. Nightingale College offer a couple of institutional scholarships. There is also a list of outside scholarships available on our web-site here <https://nightingale.edu/financial-aid/scholarships-2/>

Q.: What is an FSA ID?

A.: An FSA ID gives you access to Federal Student Aid's online systems and can serve as your legal signature.

Q.: How do I get an FSA ID?

A.: There are two options to create an FSA ID. You may register at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> by filling out the form. Or you may create your FSA ID when filling out Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the first time. The web-site will prompt you to create it before proceeding to the application. You will need to remember your username and password to access and submit Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other federal funding requirements such as entrance counseling and the Master Promissory Note. FSA ID web-site.

Q.: I forgot my FSA ID, what should I do?

A.: If you forgot your credentials for accessing federal student aid websites, try first resetting your password/username at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> under Manage My FSA ID or by using the “Forgot Username or Password” option when accessing your FSA account . If that option fails, contact the Student Loan Support Center for assistance at 1-800-557-7394.

Q.: What is the difference between direct subsidized, direct unsubsidized and Plus student loans?

A.: Direct Subsidized Loans have better terms. Here are some benefits of Subsidized Loans:

- Direct Subsidized Loans are available to undergraduate students with financial need.
- Your school determines the amount you can borrow, and the amount may not exceed your financial need.
- The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest on a Direct Subsidized Loan
 - while you’re in school at least half-time,
 - for the first six months after you leave school (referred to as a *grace period**), and
 - during a period of *deferment* (a postponement of loan payments).

Direct Unsubsidized Loans are available to undergraduate and graduate students; there is no requirement to demonstrate financial need.

- Your school determines the amount you can borrow based on your cost of attendance and other financial aid you receive.
- You are responsible for paying the interest on a Direct Unsubsidized Loan during all periods.
- If you choose not to pay the interest while you are in school and during grace periods and deferment or forbearance periods, your interest will accrue (accumulate) and be capitalized (that is, your interest will be added to the principal amount of your loan).

PLUS loans are federal loans that graduate or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students can use to help pay for college or career school. PLUS loans can help pay for education expenses not covered by other financial aid.

Here’s a quick overview of Direct PLUS Loans:

- The U.S. Department of Education is your lender.
- You must not have an adverse credit history.
- The maximum loan amount is the cost of attendance (determined by the school) minus any other financial aid received.

For more information about federal loans, please visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types>

Q.: What are the requirements to receive federal funding?

A.: Before you can receive federal financial aid, you need to complete a few requirements. Department of Education requires you to complete Entrance Counseling and Sign a Master Promissory Note. These 2 requirements can be completed online on student loans web-site here <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action> . You will also need to submit Credit Balance Authorization Form, Reference Form and FERPA (Release of Information) Form. These documents can be completed online in your Financial Aid Student Portal.

Q: What do I need to complete if I am a first-time borrower?

A.: You are required to sign a Master Promissory Note and complete an Entrance Counseling through <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action>.

Q.: What is Entrance Counseling?

A.: If you have not previously received a Direct Loan or Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL), the Federal Government requires you to complete entrance counseling to ensure that you understand the responsibilities and obligations you are assuming.

The entire counseling process must be completed in a single session. Most people complete counseling in 20-30 minutes.

Q.: Where do I complete entrance/exit counseling? (possibly will add a tutorial)

A.: If you apply for federal loans, you will need to complete the Entrance Loan Counseling as one of the requirements for receiving federal funding. The loan counseling can be completed online at

<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/login.action?redirectTo=%2FmyDirectLoan%2Findex.action>

You will need to use your FSA ID to log into your account, then select Entrance Counseling on your dashboard, and follow the web-site prompts to finish the process.

Q.: What is the Subsidized/Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note (MPN)?

A.: The Subsidized/Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note (MPN) is a legal document in which you promise to repay your federal student loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to your lender or loan holder. There is one MPN for Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans and a different MPN for Direct PLUS Loans.

The entire process must be completed in a single session. Most people complete the MPN in less than 30 minutes.

Q.: How do I sign the Master Promissory Note? (possibly will add a tutorial)

A.: If you apply for federal loans, you will need to sign the Master Promissory Note as one of the requirements for receiving federal funding. The Master Promissory Note can be signed online at

<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/login.action?redirectTo=%2FmyDirectLoan%2Findex.action> You will need your FSA ID to log into your account. Scroll down to the bottom of the page, and select "Complete Loan Agreement (MPN)." Follow the web-site prompts to finish the process.

Q.: What is the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) and how do I use it? (possibly will add a tutorial)

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) allows you to transfer safely your tax return data directly from the IRS database system. If you or your parent are eligible to use the DRT, then you will be given access to use it when filling out your FAFSA. Simply follow the prompts on the web-site to transfer your tax data to your FAFSA. Note, once the data is transferred, you will not be able to see it or alter it in any way. You will see the words "Transferred from the IRS" displayed on the screen.

Q.: What is the Joining Forces Scholarship and how do I qualify for it?

A.: The Joining Forces Scholarship is designed to assist service members and veterans in achieving educational and professional goals. If you are a veteran, an active duty service member, or the spouse of an active duty service member, you may be eligible for the Joining Forces Scholarship. To learn more about this scholarship and to submit an application follow the link <https://nightingale.edu/financial-aid/scholarships-2/#tab-id-3>

Q.: What is Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)?

A.: All learners are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward graduation. Also, Satisfactory Academic Progress must be maintained to remain eligible to continue to receive federal student aid. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) consists of two components: quantitative and qualitative.

Quantitative Measure

A learner must complete a certain percentage of credits attempted to be considered as making Satisfactory Academic Progress. To be considered meeting SAP, learners are required to attend a minimum of 67% of their educational program in no longer than 100% of the length of the program as measured in semester credits and determined by the program. Evaluation is conducted at the end of each semester to determine if a learner has the minimum requirements.

Qualitative Measure

Learners must also achieve specific cumulative GPA requirements at certain points during enrollment at the College to meet SAP. These requirements are detailed in the Satisfactory Academic Progress Table within the specific Academic Program sections of the College Catalog. Learners are required to achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 to graduate from the Academic Program. In order to avoid being placed on academic probation, a learner must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 at the end of each semester.

For more information about Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) please, refer to the College Catalog here https://nightingale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Nightingale-College-Catalog-Version-IV-2017-2018_April-2018.pdf

Q.: What is the SAP Appeal and how do I submit it?

A.: When minimum Satisfactory Progress Requirements (SAP) are not met, you will be issued a Financial Aid Warning. When you do not meet the minimum SAP requirements for the second consecutive semester you will not be eligible for federal funding unless you successfully appeal your SAP determination. You may complete the SAP Appeal Form online here <https://nightingale.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-appeal/#tab-id-3b>

Q.: Why was I selected for Verification?

A.: The main reasons for being selected for verification include that you were chosen randomly, the FAFSA you submitted was incomplete, your FAFSA contains estimated information or the data you provided on the FAFSA is inconsistent. Verification is a federal regulation. Learners who are selected for verification are not being punished; rather, verification prevents ineligible learners from receiving aid by reporting false information and ensures that eligible learners receive all of the aid for which they are qualified.

Q.: What should I do if selected for Verification?

A.: All learners selected for verification must submit the appropriate documents to the Financial Aid Office (FAO). This may include, but is not limited to:

- A Nightingale College verification worksheet, (if required) with all items completed and learner/parent or learner/spouse signatures included
- IRS Data Retrieval Tool or Tax Return Transcripts
- All learner/spouse W-2 form(s) or 1099-MISC forms(s) for total wage income
- All parent W-2 form(s) or 1099-MISC form(s) for total income
- Learner/parent verification of non-tax filing statement
- Proof of high school or equivalent completion

Please note that additional documentation may be requested from the FAO's discretion. Do not wait to submit your documents as this may cause delays in your federal funding.

Q.: How can I expediate the verification process?

A.:

- Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool OR Request Tax Return Transcripts as soon as notified.
- Complete the verification worksheet in its entirety prior to submitting.
- Make sure you submit all requested documents and they are complete and legible.

Monitor your Nightingale email account for requests for additional information and updates.

Q.: Where do I obtain my tax transcripts to complete the verification process?

If you were selected for verification and were requested to submit your tax transcripts, you may order them online at <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript> . Keep in mind that when requesting your tax transcripts by mail it may take between 5 to 10 calendar days to receive them.

Q.: Where can I check the status of my financial aid?

A.: Upon enrolling in Nightingale College, you will be registered with the Financial Aid Campus Ivy Portal. <https://solutions.campusivy.com/Apps/Core/Account/Login>

You will receive an email with your username, and when first accessing your account you will need to use the “Forgot my password” option to reset your password. Once you access your account, you will be able to see the status of your documentation. When all the documents on your dashboard show approved status and are all highlighted in green that means that you have completed the financial aid process and your federal funding is good to go. You will also receive a system generated email stating that all the documentation has been received and approved. It is recommended, however, to check the status of your financial aid at least every once semester to make sure that you submit any additional verifications in a timely manner.

Q.: Do I have to apply for financial aid every year?

A.: Yes, you need to complete and submit FAFSA every year to continue qualifying for federal funding. New FAFSA is available for completion each year as early as October 1st.

Q.: What are the interest rates on federal student loans?

A.: For the most accurate information about federal student loans interest rates, please refer to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans/interest-rates>

Q.: Can I qualify for more financial aid, if my financial situation changes?

A.: Once you submit FAFSA, your information cannot be changed. However, if you experience some unique circumstances such as income reduction, please contact your financial aid advisor for your case review.

Q.: If I withdraw from the college before the semester ends, will that affect my financial aid?

A.: Since a calculation is made based on the percentage of the semester you have completed, the Financial Aid Office (FAO) cannot give you a specific amount upon your inquiry. You **may** owe a portion of your financial aid award back to Nightingale College and/or to the U.S. Department of Education.

If a learner withdraws completely, the FAO, is responsible for determining the amount of federal and state aid that a learner earned during the semester. This is done by a specific formula from The Department of Education (ED) that is called the ‘Return of Title IV (R2T4) Funds Calculation’. This calculation determines the amount of aid that a learner earned at the point he/she withdrew. If a learner was disbursed more federal aid than earned, the institution will return all unearned funds back to ED.

If the amount of aid that the learner received was more than the amount the learner earned based on the R2T4 calculation, the institution is responsible for refunding the amount of aid the learner did not earn based on the date he/she withdrew. The order of funds that the institution must return is as follows:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan
2. Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan
3. Federal Perkins Loan (**not available at Nightingale College**)
4. Federal Plus

5. Federal Pell Grant
6. Federal SEOG Grant (note available at Nightingale College)

The Financial Aid Office will perform this calculation after notification of the learner’s withdrawal from the Registrar’s Department. After the calculation is completed, the Learner Accounts Department will notify the learner if they owe monies back to the institution.

Q.: How do I repay my Federal Student Loans?

A.: Your loan servicer handles all billing regarding your student loan, so you’ll need to make payments directly to your servicer. Each servicer has its own payment process and can work with you if you need help making payments.

Q.: Who is my Loan Servicer?

A.: You can find out your Loan Servicer by logging in your FSA account here <https://studentaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.

Q.: What types of repayment options are available?

A.: There are several repayment options available:

- Standard Repayment Plan
- Graduated Repayment Plan
- Extended Repayment Plan
- Revised Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (REPAYE)
- Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (PAYE)
- Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR)
- Income-Contingent Repayment Plan (ICR)
- Income-Sensitive Repayment Plan

For more information about these options, please read here <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/understand/plans>

Q.: My federal loan is in default. What do I do?

A.: The two main ways to get out of default are loan rehabilitation and loan consolidation. While loan rehabilitation takes several months to complete, you can quickly apply for loan consolidation. However, loan rehabilitation provides certain benefits that are not available through loan consolidation. Take a look at the chart below to compare the benefits of loan rehabilitation versus the benefits of loan consolidation.

Benefit Regained	Loan Rehabilitation	Loan Consolidation
Eligibility for Deferment	Yes	Yes
Eligibility for Forbearance	Yes	Yes
Choice of Repayment Plans	Yes	Yes (but there may be limitations, please refer to https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/default/get-out)
Eligibility for Loan Forgiveness Programs	Yes	Yes
Eligibility to Receive Federal Student Aid	Yes	Yes
Removal of the Record of Defaulted Form Your Credit History	Yes*	No

* If you rehabilitate a defaulted loan, the record of the default will be removed from your credit history. However, your credit history will still show late payments that were reported by your *loan holder* before the loan went into default. If

you consolidate a defaulted loan, the record of the default (as well as late payments reported before the loan went into default) will remain in your credit history. Late payments will remain on your credit report for seven years from when they were first reported. It's important that you fully understand loan rehabilitation and loan consolidation before making your decision.

For more information, please refer to this web-site: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/default/get-out>