

2025-2026 Financial Aid Facts

Graduate and Doctoral Programs



How do I apply for Financial Aid?

1. Apply for a FSA User ID at StudentAid.gov. This will act as your electronic signature.
2. File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at StudentAid.gov. If your first term starts on or after May 1, file the FAFSA for the upcoming academic year. Eastern's school code is 003259.
For example, if your first term starts May 19th, 2025, you would file the 2025-2065 FAFSA.
3. Complete the Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling for the Federal Direct Loan at StudentAid.gov. You will use your FSA User ID to sign into the website.

What happens next?

Based on the results of your FAFSA and your full acceptance into the University, we will process an estimated Financial Aid package for you on your my.Eastern.edu account. In some instances, we may need to request additional information from you. If you are missing any paperwork, an email will be sent to your **Eastern email account** with instructions on how to view Required Documents using my.Eastern.edu. After ALL of your documents are received and you are registered for classes, your financial aid eligibility will be finalized.

What types of Financial Aid are available?

Aid	Award Range	Criteria
Institutional Awards	Amounts determined by Admissions	-check with your program recruiter or enrollment counselor to see what award(s) are applicable to you
Federal Direct Loans (Yearly)	Teaching Certification Programs: Up to \$5,500 Subsidized + \$2,000 Unsubsidized + \$5,000 Unsubsidized (<i>for Independent students only</i>) Masters & Doctoral Programs: Up to \$20,500 Unsubsidized	Subsidized – the government will pay the interest on your loan while you're in school; eligibility for Subsidized Loans is based on the results of the FAFSA Unsubsidized – you are responsible for the interest which accrues from the first date of disbursement to the school

If you need additional funding, please review the following options:

Outside Scholarships- www.eastern.edu/offices-centers/financial-aid-office/outside-scholarships

Graduate PLUS or Private Alternative Loan- www.eastern.edu/admissions-financial-aid/financial-aid-office/loan-options

(Please note: you are not required to use a lender on the Private Alternative Loan Preferred Lender list.)

When will my financial aid be applied to my bill and when will I get a refund?

Each reporting term (summer, fall, and spring) has one disbursement date after all the add/drop periods have concluded for the particular reporting term. All financial aid will be disbursed on the scheduled disbursement date for each reporting term assuming you have met all the criteria for the financial aid. If that results in a credit on your bill, the Student Accounts Office will then start the refund process, which typically takes 10 business days from the disbursement date. We strongly recommend that students sign up for ERefund on their myEastern account under the Student Accounts link.

StudentAid.gov- Loan Borrowing History- this website keeps a record of all the Federal Loans you have borrowed at all levels of your education, including the balance on each loan and the respective lender.

For questions concerning student account charges, billing statements, refunds, or payment plans/options, please contact the Student Accounts Office at 610-341-5831 or student.accounts@eastern.edu.

Questions? Contact the Financial Aid Office at 610-225-5102 or by email at finaid@eastern.edu.