

# 2026-2027 Financial Aid Facts

Undergraduate Accelerated Programs  
Starting Summer 2026, Fall 2026, or Spring 2027



## 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, 2026 you would file the 2026-2027 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. Your aid package will show your financial aid eligibility for each reporting term for the financial aid year (Summer 1 & Summer 2= Summer Reporting Term, Fall 1 & Fall 2= Fall Reporting Term, Spring 1 & Spring 2= Spring Reporting Term). 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												
<b>Federal Pell Grant</b>	<b>Yearly amounts range up to \$7,395</b>	-must be eligible per the results of the FAFSA -award amount is dependent upon registered credit hours												
<b>PA State Grant</b>	<b>Yearly amount up to \$5,015</b>	-must be a Pennsylvania resident -must be enrolled at least part-time ( <i>for State Grants only, part-time equals 5 credits per term full-time equals 10 credits per term</i> ) -more State Grant information listed on the back of this form												
<b>LifeFlex Grant</b>	<b>Amounts determined by the Financial Aid Office based on results of the FAFSA and other aid eligibility</b>	-must be enrolled in an online, undergraduate LifeFlex program -more information listed on the back of this form												
<b>Federal Direct Loans (Yearly)</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>0-24 credits completed</td> <td>25-54 credits completed</td> <td>55+ credits completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Up to \$3,500 Subsidized</td> <td>Up to \$4,500 Subsidized</td> <td>Up to \$5,500 Subsidized</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+\$2,000 Unsubsidized</td> <td>+\$2,000 Unsubsidized</td> <td>+\$2,000 Unsubsidized</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+\$4,000 Unsubsidized (Indep. only)</td> <td>+\$4,000 Unsubsidized (Indep. only)</td> <td>+\$5,000 Unsubsidized (Indep. only)</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Definitions for Subsidized &amp; Unsubsidized Loans are on the back of this form.</i></p>	0-24 credits completed	25-54 credits completed	55+ credits completed	Up to \$3,500 Subsidized	Up to \$4,500 Subsidized	Up to \$5,500 Subsidized	+\$2,000 Unsubsidized	+\$2,000 Unsubsidized	+\$2,000 Unsubsidized	+\$4,000 Unsubsidized (Indep. only)	+\$4,000 Unsubsidized (Indep. only)	+\$5,000 Unsubsidized (Indep. only)	
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<b>Private Alternative Loans</b>	<b>Amount determined by student application and lender approval</b>	- Available to any student - We have a preferred lender list at ELMSelect.com. You are not required to use a lender on the preferred lender list.												
<b>Outside Scholarships</b>	<b>Amount determined by outside scholarship organization</b>	- Available to any student - We have a list of outside scholarship opportunities: eastern.edu/outside-scholarships												

**Note: Students who have already earned their first bachelor's degree are not eligible for the Federal Pell Grant or PA State Grant.**

## Glossary

**Financial Aid-** Financial aid includes scholarships, grants, and loans and is added to your financial aid package.

**Subsidized Direct Loan-** The Federal Government will pay the interest on this loan while you attend school.

**Unsubsidized Direct Loan-** Interest will accrue on this loan while you attend school. You have the option on paying the interest throughout the school year, or paying the interest when you later enter repayment.

**Disbursement or Disbursed-** These words are used when financial aid (including grants, scholarships, and loans) are sent to the school. The Student Accounts Office will receive the financial aid and then disburse it to your student account.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How will my PA State Grant eligibility be determined?

Based on the length of each term in your program, every two terms will be combined to ensure you receive the maximum State Grant eligibility. The Spring 1 and 2 terms correspond to a Winter State Grant and Fall 1 and 2 terms correspond to Fall State Grant. A separate Summer State Grant application is needed to determine the Summer 1 and 2 State Grant award. You must be registered in both Spring terms to receive a Winter State Grant, both Fall terms for a Fall State Grant, and both Summer terms for a Summer State Grant. Please be sure to complete the FAFSA by May 1<sup>st</sup> and the Summer State Grant application by August 15<sup>th</sup> (notification is sent via email) to ensure that you receive the maximum eligibility, based on your enrollment.

### How much will I have to pay out of pocket?

Students will pay anywhere between \$82 per credit and \$249 per credit out of pocket after all grants and scholarships are applied. If the only grant you receive is a LifeFlex Grant, you will pay no more than \$249 per credit. If you receive a Pell Grant and/or a PA State Grant, it will change your LifeFlex Grant amount, but overall, you will still pay a lower out of pocket per credit amount than \$249 per credit.

### What is considered full-time and part-time enrollment?

Students who take 12 credits per reporting term are considered full-time. Students who take 6 credits per reporting term are considered part-time. Students who enroll less than full-time will have their loans prorated based on their enrollment level using the following calculation:

Number of credits in the reporting term divided by the number of credits equal to full-time enrollment for the year multiplied by the annual loan limit

Example:

9 credits in Fall & 6 credits in Spring; 24 credits= Full-time yearly enrollment; Annual Loan Limit= \$3,500

Subsidized & \$6,000 Unsubsidized (first year student)

9/24= .375 \$3,500= \$1,313 in Subsidized Loans for Fall

6/24= .25 \* \$3,500= \$875 in Subsidized Loans for Spring

9/24= .375 \$6,000= \$2,250 in Unsubsidized Loans for Fall

6/24= .25 \* \$6,000= \$1,500 in Unsubsidized Loans for Spring

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

Each reporting term 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 issue a refund within 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.

### I have a question about my bill. Who do I call?

The Student Accounts Office is responsible for billing you each term, applying financial aid to your Eastern student account, sending refunds, and helping to set-up payment plans. Student Accounts can be reached at 610-341-5831 or via email at [student.accounts@eastern.edu](mailto:student.accounts@eastern.edu).

**Questions?** Contact the Financial Aid Office at 610-225-5102 or by email at [finaid@eastern.edu](mailto:finaid@eastern.edu).