

Financial Aid Process

Don't Forget About Scholarships!

NSU offers various scholarship opportunities to assist students in meeting their educational goals. The best resource for up-to-date information is the NSU scholarship website located at www.nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships. You will find information on how to apply, as well as many other resources including reliable scholarship websites.

Scholarship Golden Rules

◆ Begin the Search Process Early

A good rule is to start one year before you think you will need financial assistance.

◆ Research, Research, Research

Scholarship opportunities are available in many places. Search in your local library, places of worship, civic organizations, and on the Internet.

◆ Enhance Your Chance of Success

Carefully read the requirements for each scholarship. Apply for all scholarships for which you meet the eligibility requirements. Follow instructions carefully and be mindful to meet all deadlines. Apply early. Do not wait until the last minute, because many scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.



For additional information, contact Enrollment and Student Services at 800-806-3680 or (954) 262-3380, email finaid@nova.edu, or visit the One-Stop Shop located in the Horvitz and Terry Administration Buildings or your local regional campus.

Nova Southeastern University
Enrollment and Student Services
Office of Student Financial Assistance
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314-7796
www.nova.edu/financialaid

NSU Federal Code: 001509

- ☒ Complete FAFSA
- ☐ Plan for Housing and Meal Plan
- ☐ Check Financial Aid Account
- ☐ Submit Additional Documentation
- ☐ Accept, Reduce, or Decline Award(s)
- ☐ Complete Entrance Interview and Master Promissory Note
- ☐ Register for Classes



A word of caution about dropping classes

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.



Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. ■ Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's, baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Nova Southeastern University.

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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 all the important steps. Please visit www.nova.edu/financialaid, the NSU financial aid website, for detailed instructions.

In addition, students should frequently check the status of their financial aid in WebSTAR/SharkLink. WebSTAR/SharkLink and NSU email are the official means that ESS will use to communicate with you. Ready to get in gear? Follow the steps below.

Getting Started

1. Complete FAFSA

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov annually. Beginning with the 2017–2018 academic year, the FAFSA becomes available on October 1 of the year prior to the upcoming award year. Thus, the 2017–2018 FAFSA filing will begin on October 1, 2016. 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. Plan for Housing and Meal Expenses

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

3. Check Financial Aid Account Frequently

Regularly check your financial aid status via SharkLink to ensure that you have no outstanding requirements. The link to **My Financial Aid** is located in the center of your SharkLink **Student** tab. Now is a good time to confirm your admissions status. You will have to be fully admitted in order for your financial aid funds to disburse.

4. 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 (outstanding and completed) can also be viewed in WebSTAR/SharkLink.

- ◆ Log in to SharkLink at sharklink.nova.edu.
- ◆ Click on the **Student** tab and locate the financial aid section.
- ◆ Select **My Financial Aid** and click on **Eligibility**.
- ◆ Click on **Student Requirements** and select the appropriate award year to view both satisfied and unsatisfied requirements.

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

5. Accept, Reduce, or Decline Loan(s) or 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

Provided you have met all eligibility requirements and submitted all requested documents, you will receive your award notice for the academic year via your NSU email. Receipt of additional awards or changes in your eligibility will result in a revised award notice. The award notice lists all awards that you are currently eligible to receive.

Procedures to Receive Funds

6. 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 www.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.

7. Register for Classes

All students awarded federal direct loans must be enrolled at least half time. Half-time enrollment is defined as 6 credits per semester for all undergraduate students. For graduate and first-professional students, half-time status varies by program. Enrollment requirements for federal and state grants vary. Students need to familiarize themselves with the enrollment requirements defined by their program offices, as well as by the financial aid programs through which aid is received. Be sure to register as early as possible to ensure timely disbursement of your financial aid funds.

All aid that does not have to be repaid, such as grants and scholarships, will be offered to you in an accepted status in your award notice. These types of aid will automatically disburse, provided you meet all other 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.