**Save $D! the Pell Grant**

For Now! More than halfway through the 2011 fiscal year (FY), Congress finally passed a continuing resolution on April 14 to fund the federal government for the remainder of FY 2011, preserve the $5,550 maximum Pell Grant for the 2011-2012 award year, and delay elimination of second Pell awards until after this summer. This is a major victory for students and families, considering that the original long-term spending bill (H.R.1) passed by the House in February called for a $845 cut to the maximum grant! However, the Year-round Pell provision, which makes it possible for students to receive two Pell Grant awards within one award year, is permanently eliminated beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year. This cut is projected to save $8 billion over the next two years and will help lower the $20 billion Pell Grant shortfall that would have occurred for the 2011-2012 academic year had the program not been changed.

**Important Dates**

- **June 30, 2011** Deadline for receipt of the 2010-2011 FAFSA by the Central Processing System for aid covering the 2010-2011 academic year
- **July 10, 2011** Deadline for undergraduate Bachelor of Health Science drop/add period (summer semester) for state and federal grants
- **August 22, 2011** Deadline for Master of Education and Speech Language Pathology drop/add period (fall semester) for the TEACH grant
- **August 26, 2011** Deadline for receipt of fall semester NSU State Aid Application pertaining to state aid programs

**PELL GRANT GUIDE**

Not sure if you are eligible for a second Pell award for the summer? Click on our Pell Grant Guide on the financial aid Web site to find out:

**CAPP Online Degree Evaluation**

Not sure what courses you’ll need to graduate? The Curriculum Advising and Program Planning (CAPP) degree evaluation system can help. CAPP online degree evaluation is available 24/7 through SharkLink and allows you to compare your completed coursework against the degree requirements published in the college catalog. Unlike a transcript, your CAPP report easily identifies requirements that are fulfilled and what you still need to complete.

Visit [www.nova.edu/capp](http://www.nova.edu/capp) for more information!

**Welcome (back) to our HPD students!**

Students in NSU’s allied health, nursing, dental, and pharmacy programs were the first ones on campus to ring in the new academic year.

**For useful “Back-to-School” financial tips, see page 3.**

**INSIDE:**

- Student Employment
- Regulatory Updates
- Increase in Yellow Ribbon Scholarship
- Scholarships
- Back-to-School Tips
- Understanding Your Credit Score
Return of Title IV Regulations Are Changing Effective July 1
Students enrolled in multiple parts of terms may be affected

RETURN OF TITLE IV FUNDS

Effective July 1, 2011, students enrolled in a semester that includes multiple parts of term will be subject to a change in the Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation. An R2T4 calculation will be applicable when a student begins courses offered during the first part of term and then ceases attendance in all those courses regardless of having a registration on file for courses starting later in the term. The exception to this new rule is when a student provides written confirmation, at the time of withdrawal/drop, that he or she will attend courses that begin later in the same term.

REGULATORY UPDATE

Students receive federal financial aid under the assumption that they will complete the entire period for which the aid was received. However, if the student withdraws before the end of the period, NSU is required to determine the portion of aid that the student “earned” and calculate if any Title IV funds (Direct Stafford, Perkins, Pell, Parent and Grad PLUS Loans, FSEOG, and TEACH) need to be returned to the Department of Education.

Dropping and withdrawing from your classes may impact your financial aid!
For more details on the Return of Title IV funds, visit the financial aid Web site at www.nova.edu/financialaid/grantsloans/title_iv_return.html!

STUDENT

Positions are available at:
◊ Campus Recreation
◊ Museum of Art
◊ Mailman Segal Center
◊ Health Professions Division
◊ Athletics Department
◊ And many more areas

To assist students with financing their education, NSU offers employment opportunities through various programs. Positions are available to students with or without financial need at locations on or off campus.

All applicants must be fully admitted into an eligible degree or certificate program (i.e., all admissions requirements/documents have been satisfied) to be able to apply for any student employment positions.

For a full list of positions visit: www.nova.edu/financialaid/employment/index.html

NEED EXTRA CASH?
Are you a current student interested in an on-campus job?

If you answered yes to these questions, then the Office of Student Employment may have opportunities available for you.
New Regulations for the 2012-2013 Academic Year

**Verification**

Verification is a federally-mandated review process in which the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) verifies the accuracy of information provided by students on their FAFSA. Verification regulations were originally published in 1985 and have not been substantially revised until now.

Effective July 1, 2012, for the 2012-2013 academic year, the Department of Education (DOE) will annually publish what FAFSA information will be subject to verification for that award year. In addition, the information to be verified can vary from student to student. Currently, the OSFA is required to verify the following five standard items each year for each student selected for verification.

- Adjusted Gross Income
- Taxes Paid
- Untaxed Income
- Household Size
- Number of household members attending college

Stay tuned for verification updates in the near future!

**SAP**

New federal regulations pertaining to Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) are aimed at limiting the length of time students can receive federal financial aid funds while not meeting SAP. SAP regulations require students to meet minimum qualitative and quantitative standards in order to remain eligible for federal financial aid.

Stay tuned for updates from the Office of Student Financial Assistance on SAP. NSU’s current SAP policy is posted at [www.nova.edu/financialaid/](http://www.nova.edu/financialaid/).

**10-Month Payment Plan Available for Fall and Winter**

Payment for tuition, fees, and other NSU charges is due in full at the time of registration. If you need a little extra help in meeting your obligations, you may defer payment for any current balances remaining on your student account after all financial aid and other credits have been applied. The 10-Month Payment Plan is now available for the fall and winter semesters combined. Applications for the 10-Month Payment Plan are being accepted through mid-June. International students are not eligible. For more information, including the application, visit [www.nova.edu/bursar/payment/payment_plans.html](http://www.nova.edu/bursar/payment/payment_plans.html).

**Back-to-School Financial Tips**

Think twice before taking out a credit card. If you do, be smart and shop around for low interest rates and finance charges (APR).

Make a budget BEFORE the semester begins. Figure out how much money you’ll be spending and stick to it.

Don’t take out more loans than you truly need. It is better to make sacrifices while in school than to incur unmanageable debt. Team up with a roommate or friends to enforce each others’ budgets.

Check your NSU email every day. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) sends important notices regarding your financial aid status, your financial aid award, and deadlines that you don’t want to miss.

Avoid late fees; don’t miss a bill! Your NSU eBill will be sent to your NSU email account or any other email account you designate. You can also authorize others—such as your parents or spouse—to view your account and pay your bill.

Keep hunting for scholarships! Designate one hour each week to apply for new scholarships. After a year, you will be happy you did!

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year starting on January 1. The earlier you apply, the better chance you have of receiving the maximum amount of funds for which you may be eligible. The NSU priority deadline is April 15.

Be sure to meet the standards for Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) published at [www.nova.edu/financialaid/receiving/academic_progress.html](http://www.nova.edu/financialaid/receiving/academic_progress.html) or you might lose your financial aid.

Check with a financial aid counselor before you drop or withdraw from classes. You may lose your eligibility for financial aid or you might have to repay financial aid funds (e.g., Florida Bright Futures).

Buy used textbooks early! By ordering online, you will be first in line for limited used copies. Hold on to those receipts in case you need to return textbooks and be sure to review the bookstore’s refund policy.
Electronic Funds Transfer Scholarship
Award Amount: $2,000
Deadline: August 15, 2011
Requirements: Awards are made to undergraduate or graduate continuing students who have established a GPA of 3.0 or higher at NSU. Leadership ability, community/volunteer activities, academic excellence, as well as the student's financial need (based on the student's FAFSA for the 2011-2012 academic year) will be considered in the awarding process. This scholarship is not renewable.

Trustee Scholarship Fund for Students
Award Amount: $2,500
Deadline: August 1, 2011
Requirements: Awards are made to first year entering graduate and first year entering undergraduate full-time students. Leadership ability, community/volunteer activities, and academic excellence will be considered in the awarding process. Minimum GPA is 3.5. Scholarships are renewable with a GPA of 3.2 and based on available funds. Submit your application along with your prior school’s unofficial transcripts to the Office of Student Financial Assistance Scholarship Department. Due to the number of students applying, only selected students will be notified.

Understanding Your Credit Score

The criteria for obtaining a Private Education Loan, also known as Alternative Education Loan, have become significantly more stringent. Private Education Loans can help bridge the gap between the amount of federal loans that you are eligible to receive and the actual cost of your education.

Lenders heavily rely on your credit score, also known as FICO score, to determine eligibility for private student loans. FICO scores range from 300 to 850, with 850 being the best possible FICO score. A credit score less than 650 is considered “sub-prime.” The FICO score generally depends on the following factors:

- Payment History-35%
- Amounts Owed-30%
- Length of Credit History-15%
- New Credit-10%
- Types of Credit Used-10%

The number of inquiries and how recent they are will also impact your FICO score. Education lenders generally use the FICO score in combination with other factors to determine eligibility for private student loans. The other criteria typically involve factors such as debt-to-income ratio and recent bankruptcies.

Most education lenders divide their interest rates and fees into tiers. Borrowers with the worst credit score can have interest rates that are 5 to 6 percent higher than the interest rates charged to borrowers with excellent credit. Borrowers with lower FICO scores will also be subject to lower loan limits and proceeds may be restricted to school charges.

The bottom line is that maintaining a good credit score can save you thousands of dollars in interest on private student loans.

For more information, visit www.nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships/scholarships.htm.
NSU renews commitment to veterans
Large Increase in Yellow Ribbon Scholarship Rates

For NSU’s undergraduate and graduate Yellow Ribbon Scholarship recipients, the news keeps getting better. The university has not only recently renewed its commitment to the Yellow Ribbon Scholarship Program but also once again increased the amounts that the university will contribute for the upcoming academic year. For the 2011-2012 academic year, NSU contributions for undergraduate and graduate students have been increased to $8,500 (up from $6,000 for undergraduates and $3,000 for graduates for the 2010-2011 academic year). Including the Department of Veterans Affairs’ equal match, eligible students will receive up to $17,000 to be applied toward 2011-2012 charges for tuition and fees. Funding levels for students in doctoral and first-professional programs will remain the same.

New Eligible Students May Apply
The Yellow Ribbon Scholarship Program assists veterans who already qualify for the Post 9-11 GI Bill and are eligible for increased benefits under the Yellow Ribbon Program. Scholarships are only offered to students who have been accepted to NSU and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Students who have received an NSU Yellow Ribbon Scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year and continue to maintain eligibility do not need to submit a new application.

More information, including access to the online application, is available at www.nova.edu/financialaid/veterans/yellow_ribbon.html.

Changes to Post-9/11 GI Bill Affect Eligibility, Tuition, Fees, and More

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill which will affect eligibility, tuition, fees, book stipend, and the monthly housing allowance. A brief summary is provided below:

**Tuition and Fees**
- Discontinuation of the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 billing rates for veterans and service members
- Implementation of a flat billing rate for tuition and fees up to $17,500 based on percentage of maximum benefit payable (see chart). Eligibility for Yellow Ribbon at the 100% rate.
- Implementation of an active duty service rate of up to $17,500 based on percentage of maximum benefit payable (see chart). No eligibility for Yellow Ribbon on active duty.

**Eligibility**
- Expanded to include Active Service in the National Guard under Title 32

---

**Book Stipend**
- Implementation of a book stipend for active duty service members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of:</th>
<th>Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 36 months</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 continuous days and discharged due to service-connected disability</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 months &lt; 36 months</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 24 months &lt; 30 months</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 18 months &lt; 24 months</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 12 months &lt; 18 months</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 6 months &lt; 12 months</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 90 days &lt; 6 months</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monthly Housing Allowance**
- Change to include payments based on the appropriate rate of pursuit (credits taken vs. credit needed to be full time; for example, 9/12 = 80% rate of pursuit)
- Implementation of a housing allowance exclusively for online students to be paid at half the national average, effective October 1, 2011
- Discontinuation of break and interval pay

For full details, please visit the VA at www.gibill.va.gov.
Following is a brief description of important steps in the financial aid process. For more detailed instructions, visit the NSU financial aid Web site at www.nova.edu/financialaid.

1. Complete the FAFSA

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov annually (between January 1 and June 30 of the following calendar year.)

2. Plan for Housing and Meals

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 & Housing at www.nova.edu/reslife.

3. Check Your Financial Aid Status

Access your financial aid status via SharkLink’s student tab to ensure that you have no outstanding requirements. Now is a good time to confirm your admissions status. You must 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 being awarded. You will be notified of outstanding requirements via your NSU email. Your requirements (outstanding and completed) can also be viewed via SharkLink. (On the Student tab, locate the financial aid section and click: My financial aid > Eligibility > Student Requirements.)

If you are interested in receiving student loans, you will be required to complete a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN). If you are applying for a Direct PLUS loan for the first time as a graduate or first professional student or a parent borrower, you or your parent(s) will be required to complete a PLUS MPN that is separate from the MPN used for Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans.

Provided you have met all eligibility requirements and submitted all requested documents, you will receive your Award Notice via your NSU email or the U.S. Postal Service.

Before accepting your awards, carefully review the terms and conditions of your Award Notice.

5. Accept, Reduce, or Decline Your Loan(s) or FWS Award in WebSTAR

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

6. Complete Entrance Interview

If you are a first-time federal loan borrower, you will also be required to complete an Entrance Interview before your loan funds can be disbursed.

7. Register for Classes

All students awarded federal 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, your program of study defines half-time status. 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 program through which aid is received. Be sure to register early to ensure timely disbursement of your financial aid.

Completion of FAFSA Now Also Required for FRAG and Bright Futures

Effective for the 2011-12 academic year, students who wish to apply for state aid programs only, will now also have to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Previously, students who were only applying for the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG) and/or the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship were only required to complete the NSU State Aid Application but not the FAFSA. Students who do not meet the federal citizenship requirement but have a valid status for state aid, should select the “No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen” response for question 14 on the FAFSA.

State Aid Funding Updates

- The award amount for the Florida Academic Scholars will be $101 ($125 in 2010-11) per credit hour.
- The award amount for the Florida Medallion and Gold Seal Vocational Scholars will be $76 ($94 in 2010-11) per credit hour.
- The annual award amount for the FRAG will be $2,149 ($2,425 in 2010-11).
- The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program is not funded in 2011-12.
Q: Will I be able to receive the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and SMART Grant (National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant) in the future?

A: No, both ACG and SMART are only funded through the 2010-2011 academic year and will not be available for the academic years beginning July 1, 2011.

Q: What is a Social Security Receipt and why do I need one?

A: In order to be eligible for federal financial aid, former permanent resident aliens must update their citizenship status to United States citizens with the Social Security Administration. The receipt is evidence of student compliance with this step in the financial aid process. For more information on citizenship status and financial aid, visit the financial aid Web site at www.nova.edu/financialaid/eligibility.html and click on "details" regarding U.S. citizen and eligible non-citizen requirements.

Q: What is the difference between a subsidized Direct Loan and an unsubsidized Direct Loan?

A: There are two types of Stafford Loans: subsidized (need-based) and unsubsidized (non-need based). For a subsidized loan, the U.S. Department of Education pays the interest (3.4 percent for undergraduates and 6.8 percent for graduates for the 2011-2012 academic year) while you are in school at least half-time, for the first six months after graduation, and during a period of deferment. For an unsubsidized loan, you are responsible for paying the interest (fixed at 6.8 percent) that accrues on the loan from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full.

Q: I have a hold on my account. What does this mean?

A: According to NSU’s Payment Policy, payment is due in full at the time of registration. When a payment becomes delinquent, the Bursar’s Office may place either a Transcript/Diploma Hold (TD-Hold) or a Bursar Hold on the student’s account. The TD hold only prevents a student from receiving a diploma or a transcript, but does not prevent other university services. There is no fee associated with this hold. The Bursar Hold is placed on a student’s account 30 days after the start of classes. It prevents a student from registering for future semesters, obtaining grades, and accessing the University RecPlex. In addition, a $100 late fee is placed on the student’s account. To remove either hold, login to NSU eBill at https://touchnet.nova.edu/tbp/web/login.jsp and pay the outstanding balance. Once payment for all outstanding balances has been received and the student’s account shows a zero balance, the hold will automatically be lifted within one business day.

Q: Why should I fill out an Authorization for Release of Information Form?

A: According to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), NSU, with limited exception, is required to receive written consent from students before personal identifiable information can be discussed or released to any third party (e.g., parent, spouse, employer, etc.) NSU will not discuss or release any information relating to a student’s financial aid, academic standing, or student account, without a completed Authorization for Release of Information (ROI) on file. The ROI form is posted on the financial aid and registrar’s Web pages at www.nova.edu/cwis/registrar/forms/release_of_information.pdf and allows you to authorize individuals to receive specific information. You may also indicate a time limitation, and you may update your submitted information at any time. It is a good idea to complete an ROI form in case your parent or spouse may need to obtain information on your behalf.

Q: What are the fees to receive an official transcript and a diploma?

A: You can order an official transcript via SharkLink by navigating to the Records & Academics section on the Student tab. You may view your transcript or order an official transcript. There is a $10 charge for an official transcript ($5 until June 30, 2011). You may also apply for degree conferral via SharkLink. The charge for that service is $100 ($75 through August 31, 2011).
## Timetable for Success

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **First-time borrowers:** Have you completed both MPN and entrance interview? As a first-time borrower of student loans, you are required to complete a Direct Master Promissory Note (MPN) and entrance interview before your loan funds can be disbursed. Both requirements can be completed at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). If you are thinking about dropping a course, be sure to review NSU’s [Satisfactory Academic Progress policy](#) and contact your academic advisor and financial aid counselor BEFORE making adjustments to your schedule. | **Do you know the status of your financial aid?** To find out, login to SharkLink at [https://sharklink.nova.edu/cp/home/displaylogin](https://sharklink.nova.edu/cp/home/displaylogin) and click on My financial aid in the financial aid section on the Student tab. | **Welcome to the 2011-2012 academic year!**  
*August 1, 2011*  
Start of classes (Colleges of Dental Medicine, Optometry, Medical Sciences, Osteopathic Medicine, and Allied Health and Nursing—physical therapy, second year)  
*August 22, 2011*  
Start of classes (Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, Center for Psychological Studies, College of Pharmacy, College of Allied Health and Nursing, Criminal Justice Institute, Fischler School of Education and Human Services, Shepard Broad Law Center, Oceanographic Center) | **September 15, 2011**  
Deadline for submission of corrections to the FAFSA on the Web for the 2010-2011 academic year. |

---

### Call Center Offers Extended Hours

**Hours of Operation**

- **Monday-Friday:** 6 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. (through June 30, 2011)  
- **24 hour service (Mon-Fri) as of July 1, 2011**  
- **Saturday-Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

- **University Bursar**  
  (954) 262-5200

- **University Registrar**  
  (954) 262-7200

- **Financial Aid**  
  (954) 262-3380

- **Help Desk**  
  (954) 262-HELP (4357)

As of July 1, 2011, the University Call Center (UCC) will be available around the clock, Monday through Friday, to answer any of your financial aid, bursar, or registrar questions!