



Dollar\$ and \$ense

FALL/WINTER 2012

File Your FAFSA Every January for Financial Aid



It may be early for New Year's resolutions, but when it comes to financial aid, the early bird catches the worm.

The 2013-2014 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will become available on January 1, 2013, at www.fafsa.gov.

The earlier you apply, the better! Some financial aid is awarded on a first come, first-served basis. In addition, many scholarships require you to complete the FAFSA.

However, filing accurately is equally important, because careless mistakes and discrepancies in information can delay the financial aid process. Prepare now by checking on your PIN status, or applying for a PIN which is used each year to electronically apply for aid and to access your personal records. If you are a first-time filer, start learning about the process at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa>. It is important to begin gathering necessary documents and information now.

For detailed information about the NSU financial aid process, deadlines, and access to forms, visit www.nova.edu/financialaid.



IMPORTANT DATES

December 20, 2012
Registration deadline for the winter 2013 semester for undergraduate students

December 28, 2012
Disbursement date for winter 2013 semester aid. HOWEVER, do not expect a refund before the first week of January 2013 due to bank holidays and year-end closing.

January 1, 2013
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2013-2014 academic year becomes available at www.fafsa.gov

January 13, 2013
Drop/Add deadline for undergraduate students interested in receiving state grants such as the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, FRAG, and FSAG



NSU Salute to Veterans and Service Members

NSU proudly recognizes the contributions of servicemen, servicewomen, and their families to our country. The fourth annual NSU Salute to Veterans and Service Members, hosted by the Office of the President, took place Monday, November 19, at 5 p.m., in the Miniaci Performing Arts Center. All veterans and service members were cordially invited and encouraged to attend this celebratory tribute.



Posting of the Colors, presented by the Town of Davie, Fire Rescue Department, Honor Guard.

The first 40 currently enrolled NSU veteran students in attendance received a \$100 Barnes and Nobles gift card.

The event also served as a kick-off for the University's Toys for Tots campaign. Collection boxes for donations may be seen around campus through December 7, 2012.

INSIDE:

- Dropping A Class? Be sure to do it right
- What to Consider When Consolidating Loans
- Number of Credits Needed for Financial Aid
- Buzz on Scholarships
- Veteran student information

and more...

How Many Credits Do You Need for Financial Aid?

The Short Answer: It Depends!

Many factors determine a student's financial aid award, including general eligibility requirements, cost of attendance, academic record, the student's (and parents') financial situation and residence, and the availability of funds. Another important factor that can make or break the receipt of financial aid is the student's enrollment status. How many credits you need for financial aid depends on the type of financial aid you are looking to receive. For more information, see the chart to the right.

Pell Grant	1 - 12 or more financial aid eligible credits*
Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG)	12 or more financial aid eligible credits (9 credits for nursing students)
Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)	12 or more financial aid eligible credits (9 credits for nursing students)
Florida Bright Futures Award	6 or more financial aid eligible credits
NSU Honor Award (undergraduates only)	12 or more financial aid eligible credits
TEACH Grant	1 - 12 or more financial aid eligible credits*
Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans	Half-time**
Direct PLUS Loans	Half-time**
Scholarships	Varies ~ Usually 12 or more financial aid eligible credits for undergraduates and 6 or more credits for graduates
Federal Work-Study	1 - 12 or more financial aid eligible credits

*The grant amount is prorated when you enroll less than full 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.

When Time is Not Your Friend

Exceeding the Maximum Time Frame for Financial Aid Eligibility



Students must complete their program requirements within 150 percent of the published length of their program. Once students reach the 150 percent mark, they are no longer eligible to receive any financial aid at NSU. The maximum time frame stipulation is one of four criteria students must meet in order to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

It would seem like 150 percent should give students plenty of time to finish their program of study before running out of funds. For instance, undergraduate students requiring 120 credits to graduate may receive financial aid for up to 180 credits. Likewise, master's students who need 60 credits to graduate may receive financial aid for up to 90 credits.

Tip

Pay special attention to the maximum time frame stipulations if you:

- *Change your major*
- *Transfer credits from other institutions*
- *Repeat coursework*

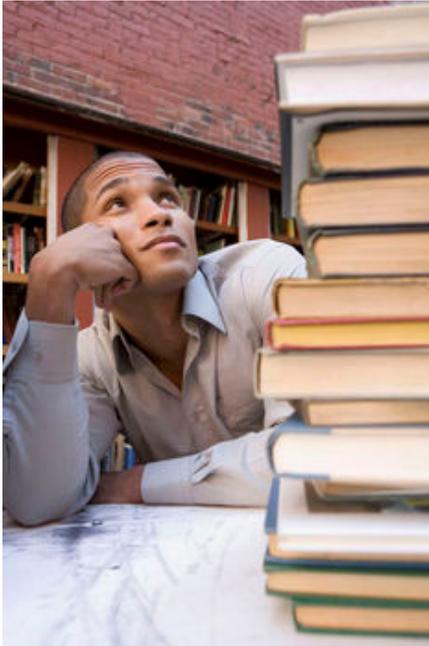
However, what many students do not realize is that the clock starts ticking with the start of the very first class within a degree level. Each course attempted is included in the maximum time frame calculation regardless of whether a course was dropped or failed, transferred, taken at another institution, or taken for a program or major no longer pursued. What also surprises students is that they will not receive any financial aid beyond the maximum time frame even if they have not previously received financial aid. The only time the clock gets reset is when the student graduates and starts a new program.

For details on NSU's Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements, visit www.nova.edu/sap.

Need to drop a class?

Be sure to do it right!

Undesired consequences may include:



Grade F
Loss of Financial Aid

The best time to drop a course is either before the class has started or during your program specific add/drop period. During this time, you can drop your class via SharkLink as follows:

- Log into [SharkLink](#).
- Access the student tab, locate the Records & Academics section, and click Course Information.
- Select Registration-Add/Drop.
- Continue as prompted.

If you want to drop a course after the add/drop period has passed, (usually the end of the first week of class) you need to contact your academic advisor and complete a Student Transaction Form (STF). The date you submit the completed STF is the effective date used for official records and billing purposes.

The last day to drop a course without record is generally at the end of the fourth week of a semester; however, students are advised to check with their program office for

exact drop deadlines and refund policies. If you withdraw after that time and up until three weeks prior to the end of the semester, a grade of W will be recorded on your official transcript. Your record will be sealed 30 days after the close of the semester and no further adjustments will be made.

Please remember: It is your responsibility to make sure you have been dropped from a course. Simply informing your professor or not attending class will not protect you from consequences to your grade or your financial responsibilities. If you never attend or stop attending your class and fail to complete the proper drop procedure, you will be held responsible for payment and receive a grade of F.



If dropping after the add/drop deadline, check with a financial aid counselor to determine how your financial aid may be affected.

Print Your **Enrollment Verification** for Free Through SharkLink

Your enrollment verification provides details on whether you are enrolled full-time, half-time, or less than half-time for the current semester as well as your enrollment status for previous semesters at NSU. Enrollment verifications are frequently requested by insurance companies, scholarship providers, employers, and loan companies to verify your enrollment status.

The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) is NSU's authorized provider of enrollment verification through Student Self-Service. The service is free, easy to use, secure, and avail-



able online 24/7. Besides enrollment, Student Self-Service allows you to check deferment forms, electronic notifications sent to your lenders, and to link to real-time loan information. For more information, visit www.studentclearinghouse.org.

To access Student Self-Service and to print an official copy of your enrollment verification, follow these steps:

- Login to [SharkLink](#).
- Access the student tab and locate the Records & Academics section.
- Click on Loan Deferments and Enrollment Verification.
- You will be redirected to the NSC Web site.
- Here you may obtain enrollment certificates for your current enrollment or all enrollment at NSU.

What to consider when Consolidating Your Loans

A Direct Consolidation Loan allows you to consolidate (combine) multiple federal student loans into one loan. Although the idea of simplifying your repayment may seem appealing, there are also reasons why consolidation may not be in your best interest. You may end up replacing a lower interest rate with a higher one or a shorter repayment period with a longer one. Each student's loan portfolio is different and no one solution fits all. Students are strongly advised to carefully weigh all consequences before consolidating.

Reasons to Consolidate

- Single monthly payment
- More manageable monthly payments
- Reduces the interest rate on some PLUS loans
- Resets the clock on deferments and forbearances
- Restarts the loan term on loans already in repayment
- Switch lenders for better loan discounts

The reasons for and against consolidation listed above are published on the FinAid.org Web site at www.finaid.org/loans/whyconsolidate.phtml.

There you will find an explanation for each of the reasons listed above. Please note that the Office of Student Financial Assistance does not endorse this or any other third party Web site that offers financial aid advice.

If you would like help with your decision, you can schedule a free one-on-one debt management counseling session by calling (954) 262-7438 or (954) 262-7549.



Reasons Not to Consolidate

- Loss of grace period
- Loss of subsidized interest benefits on Perkins Loans
- Loss of other benefits of the Perkins Loans
- Extended repayment is optional, not mandatory
- You can only consolidate once
- Inferior loan discounts
- Capitalization at status changes
- You don't need to consolidate to get extended repayment

Debt Management \$ Services \$

Did you know that NSU is one of the few institutions in the nation with its own debt management department? You can gather lots of information, strategies, and tips on the financial aid Web site at www.nova.edu/financialaid/tips/debt.

You can also schedule a free one-on-one debt management counseling session to discuss strategic borrowing tips, credit card management strategies, loan repayment options, loan consolidation, and loan forgiveness opportunities by calling (954) 262-7438 or (954) 262-7549.

NSLDS

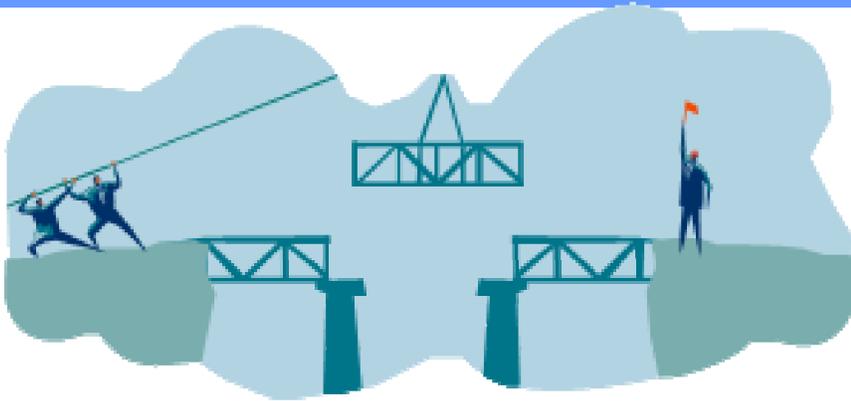
Your Federal Financial Aid History All in One Place

www.nslsds.ed.gov

The National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) is the U.S. Department of Education's central database for student aid. It tracks your loans from the time you apply until you complete repayment and lets you see details like loan type (e.g., subsidized, unsubsidized), loan amount, amount disbursed, amount you currently owe, and more. You may also view your federal grant history, including scheduled and disbursed award amounts, as well as your lifetime eligibility used for the Federal Pell Grant. Please note that private loans and state grants/scholarships are not included. For more information, visit www.nslsds.ed.gov.

Need Help Bridging the \$ Gap?

ESS May Be Able to Help



If you have held an overdue outstanding balance during the last semester, you may have received a phone call from a friendly representative from Enrollment and Student Services (ESS). The ESS “GAP” initiative aims at reaching out to students who have a gap between their financial resources and costs. “We try to reach students as early as possible so that we may present them with options before the semester is over and the hold on their account prevents them from

registering for the next semester,” says Luisa Arroyave-Waldman, GAP Team Leader and Collections Manager. “Usually, we are able to help.” Some students may need a little extra help in navigating the financial aid process, others are unaware that they have remaining financial aid eligibility.

If you don’t know how to pay your outstanding balance, don’t delay. Contact ESS for assistance.

800-541-6682 ext. 25200 or (954) 262-5200

- Payment Plans
- Loan Repayment
- Payment Arrangements
- Third Party Billing
- NSU eBill
- Direct Deposit
- Holds
- Refunds

Don’t know the status of your student account or financial aid?

- ➡ Login to SharkLink using your NSU User Name and Password.
- ➡ Click on the **student tab** and locate the **financial aid** and **billing account** sections.

University Call Center Here for You 24/7



Did you know that NSU is one of a few universities with its own call center?

Obtain information on your financial aid, student account, or registration 24/7 by calling:

(954) 262-3380
800-806-3680

Why Wait for the Mail When There’s Direct Deposit?

Direct Deposit is an expedient, safe, and environmentally friendly way to receive your financial aid refunds to your personal checking account. No need to wait for the mail and stand in line at the bank to cash your check. To set up direct deposit visit the Web to access the Direct Deposit Authorization form at

www.nova.edu/bursar/refunds/

[direct_delivery.html](http://www.nova.edu/bursar/refunds/direct_delivery.html).

Following is a brief description of important steps in the annual 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) annually, which becomes available each January 1 at www.fafsa.gov.

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 student, a 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 Additional Requirements

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. If you have accepted a Federal Work-Study award, you must complete an online student employment workshop and submit a completed Student Employment Application.

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.



Barnes and Noble Book Scholarship

- Open to undergraduate, graduate, and international students
- Must have been registered for the fall 2012 semester
- Academic excellence will be considered in the awarding process.
- Students must submit applications along with most current copies of receipts from the NSU bookstore.
- Applications become available December 1.

www.nova.edu/financialaid/scholarships/institutional.html

The Buzz on Scholarships



Did you know that you could possibly win a scholarship just by taking a quiz?

The Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships through the use of internet-based quiz competitions. Students who answer the most questions in the shortest amount of time are declared winners.



Check it out at: www.cksf.org/

Frequently Asked Questions

FINANCIAL AID

Q: How can I keep track of my lifetime Pell Grant eligibility ?

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 has reduced a student's lifetime eligibility for Pell Grants from 18 full-time semesters (or its equivalent) to 12 full-time semesters or 600% eligibility. This regulation took effect July 1, 2012. Therefore, if you are a Pell Grant recipient, you need to plan carefully so that you do not run out of funding before you finish your degree. You can track your used and remaining eligibility via the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). NSLDS is the U.S. Department of Education's central database for student aid. It tracks your loans as well as your federal grants. For more information, visit www.nsls.ed.gov.



Q: I have failed Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). What are my options?

A: If you have failed SAP, you are ineligible to receive any federal and state financial aid for the following academic year, and you will be responsible for tuition, fees, and other institutional charges. Your financial aid eligibility may be reinstated after the next annual evaluation, provided you have successfully met all SAP requirements.

In extenuating circumstances, you may appeal the denial of student financial assistance by submitting a completed SAP Appeal Form within 30 days of receipt of your denial notice. For more information, visit www.nova.edu/sap.

BURSAR

Q: When will I receive my financial aid refund for winter?

A: Generally, the Office of the University Bursar processes refunds within 10 days once a credit balance appears on the student's account. However, winter semester refunds will not be processed before the first week of January 2013 due to bank holidays (Christmas Day, New Year's Day) and the calendar year-end closing on December 31. Please make arrangements to pay for cost-of-living expenses, books, and other applicable expenses until excess funds are issued. Students who may be eligible for the Bookstore Advance Purchase Program (BAPP) will receive an email notification. To find out more about BAPP, visit www.nova.edu/bapp.



Q: Why should I sign up for electronic delivery of IRS Form 1098-T?

A: NSU is required to provide each eligible student with a copy of his or her Form 1098-T every January. This form serves to alert students that they may be eligible for federal income tax education credits. Online delivery is faster and more secure than the traditional mailing process, because it eliminates the chance of the form getting lost, misdirected, or misplaced once received. Plus, with electronic delivery, you can access your current and past years' 1098-T tax information any time online. For more information, and to sign up for electronic delivery, visit www.nova.edu/bursar/tax1098.html.

REGISTRAR

Q: What is **CAPP** ? online degree evaluation

A: Curriculum, Advising and Program Planning (CAPP) is NSU's online degree evaluation system designed to help students achieve their academic goals more efficiently. CAPP Degree Evaluation, which is accessed through SharkLink, enables students to measure academic progress toward degree requirements. Note that because students' CAPP Degree Evaluation is unofficial, students should consult their academic advisor/program office for detailed program requirements and course options. More information can be found online at www.nova.edu/capp.

Q: What is a Degree Application and when should it be submitted ?

A: A Degree Application states your intention of applying for an academic degree from NSU and is required for degree conferral. A Degree Application should be submitted by the time you reach your last academic semester. Only one Degree Application can be submitted for each anticipated NSU degree. Existing holds and outstanding balances on your student account will not prevent degree conferral, but failure to complete and submit a Degree Application in a timely manner will affect your degree conferral date. While your degree conferral will be duly noted by the NSU Board of Trustees, your diploma, transcript, or degree verification will not be released until all financial obligations are met. Other important instructions related to degree applications, diplomas, and costs can be found on the Web at www.nova.edu/registrar/instructions.html.

Veterans Education Benefits Update

View Your Post-9/11 Benefits on eBenefits

Updates to the eBenefits Web site now allow Post-9/11 GI Bill students to view their entitlement and enrollment information online. Veterans may view their VA education benefit enrollment information, including eligibility dates, amounts of entitlement used and remaining, and enrollment history. Spouses and dependents of service members may also access eBenefits. For more information, veterans can visit <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>.



NSU Continues Commitment with Yellow Ribbon

The Yellow Ribbon Scholarship Program was established under the provisions of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to fund tuition and fees. NSU has elected to continue its participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Effective August 1, 2012, NSU has entered into an open-ended agreement to provide a dollar-for-dollar match to fund Yellow Ribbon Scholarships. For more information, visit www.nova.edu/financialaid/veterans/yellow_ribbon.html.

Did You Know? VA Quick Facts and Figures

- During the next five years, more than 1 million active-duty personnel will add themselves to the ranks of America's 22 million veterans.
- The Post-9/11 GI Bill will help pay the educational expenses of more than 606,000 service members, veterans, family members, and survivors during the next fiscal year.
- In 2013, VA anticipates treating over 610,000 Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn veterans, which amounts to an increase of nearly 10%.
- New VA Hospitals are to be built during the next few years in Denver, Las Vegas, Orlando, and New Orleans.

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Enrollment and Student Services

Horvitz Administration Building
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314-7796

Web site: www.nova.edu/financialaid
Phone: (954) 262-3380
Toll Free: 800-806-3680
Fax: (954) 262-3966
Email: fnaid@nsu.nova.edu

Other email contacts:

Office of the University Bursar
bursar@nsu.nova.edu
Office of the University Registrar
nsuregistrar@nsu.nova.edu
Help Desk
help@nova.edu
Dollar\$ and Sense
dollarsandsense@nova.edu

NSU veteran students can find detailed information online about education benefits at

www.nova.edu/financialaid/veterans/