

## Paying for a Penn Education FINANCIAL RESOURCE GUIDE



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Doors of wisdom are never shut.

Benjamin Franklin

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## Congratulations

on your admission to Penn! On behalf of Student Registration and Financial Services, welcome to the University of Pennsylvania.

We know that paying for college can be complicated, and selecting the best financial programs is important to you and your family. This booklet presents information to help you with this decision.

We encourage you to read our literature, and visit our website where you can find answers to many commonly asked questions.

Please contact our office if you need assistance. Welcome to the Penn family!

Sincerely,

Elaine P. Varas Senior University Director of Financial Aid

Senior University Director of Financial Aid Student Registration and Financial Services

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# Penn Student Registration & Financial Services

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## GRANT-BASED FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

Penn is the nation's largest university with a program that enables full-time, traditional undergraduates to receive grant-based aid packages for eight academic semesters.

The grant-based aid program applies to dependent undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Nursing, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, and the Wharton School who are pursuing their first bachelor's degree.

The grant-based program demonstrates Penn's commitment to increase access for qualified students from all economic backgrounds.

### cost of attendance

The cost of attendance represents the cost of attending Penn for an academic year and includes both direct costs that appear on your student bill and indirect costs that are not billed by Penn. You should consider your cost of attendance as your budget for each academic year.

COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021		
Tuition	\$53,166	
Fees	\$6,876	
Housing	\$11,014	
Meals	\$5,770	
Books and Supplies	\$1,358	
Transportation	\$922	
Personal Expenses	\$2,002	
Total Cost	\$81,110	

The cost of attendance for 2021-2022 will be posted on our website in Spring 2021.

#### **Direct Costs** (Costs that appear on your student bill)

*Tuition and fees* are fixed costs. These mandatory fees include the general fee, the educational technology fee, and the student health clinical fee.

The *housing allowance* is based on the first-year room rate in the University College Houses. Students are required to live in on-campus housing during their first two years of enrollment.

The *meal allowance* represents the cost of the first-year dining plan through Penn Dining. Students are required to participate in a meal plan during their first two years of enrollment.

#### **Indirect Costs** (Estimated costs not billed by Penn)

The books and supplies allowance provides for the annual cost of required textbooks and supplies.

The *transportation allowance* provides for local transportation costs. The approximate cost of two round-trips home may be added based on your permanent address.

Personal expenses include allowances for clothing, laundry, recreation, etc.

#### **Other Expenses**

Other expenses include the New Student Orientation fee and student health insurance if you are not covered under your parents' plan. You may also wish to purchase a computer. For an explanation of fees, please visit **www.srfs.upenn.edu/undergraduate-fees**.

#### **Student Health Insurance**

All full-time students must submit health and immunization records and maintain comprehensive health insurance as a condition of enrollment. Students who do not have insurance, whose plans do not provide coverage in the Philadelphia area, or whose plans do not meet Penn's criteria for alternative insurance will automatically be enrolled in the Penn Student Insurance Plan (PSIP). For details, visit the Student Health Service's site at www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs.

## how financial need is determined

Penn's financial aid packaging philosophy is that a student's education is a shared investment between the student, their family, and the University. Therefore, Penn awards financial aid to supplement, not replace, your family's ability to pay. Our goal is to assist as many families as possible in a fair and equitable manner.

To evaluate your eligibility for need-based aid, Penn reviews each financial aid application on an individual basis. This review determines the expected family contribution, which includes contributions from both you and your parents.

#### **Cost of Attendance (COA)**

- Expected Family Contribution
- = Financial Need

Your parents' contribution is calculated by considering income (taxable and untaxable), assets, family size, all taxes paid, number of dependent children in college or private school and the cost of each school, and special circumstances. The student contribution includes a portion of your current savings, a portion of dividend and interest income, and expected savings from summer of 2021 employment.

Your total family contribution is subtracted from your Cost of Attendance to reach your financial need. If your expected family contribution is greater than the COA, you do not qualify for need-based financial aid. However, most families are eligible for federal loans or can enroll in a payment plan, as outlined on the next pages.

### a word about loans

If you choose to borrow, we recommend that you borrow only what you need, even if you are eligible for a higher amount, and only to accomplish a specific goal, such as to replace all or part of your expected family contribution.

#### **Types of Loans**

#### **Federal Loans**

Federal loans (Direct Loan for students, which may be subsidized or unsubsidized, and the Direct PLUS Loan for parents) should be the first choice for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. They generally offer the best terms, as well as loan consolidation and flexible repayment options. See the next page for more information.

#### **Private Alternative Educational Loans**

A number of private lenders and other financial institutions offer education loans to students. These loans are not subsidized and may carry higher interest rates and fees than federal loans. A credit-worthy co-signer is usually required, especially for international students. If you think you need an alternative loan, consult with a financial aid counselor and visit the loans section of our website at **www.srfs.upenn.edu/loans**.

#### For More Information

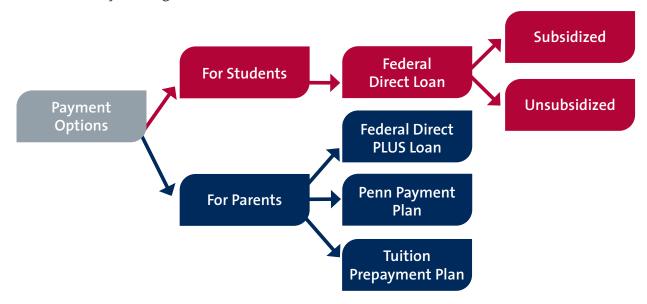
We urge you to educate yourself about student loans and repayment. These websites offer additional information that is helpful:

- > www.collegeboard.org
- > www.finaid.org
- > www.studentloans.gov

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## payment options

You and your family are likely thinking about how to pay your family contribution. Will you pay it in full at the beginning of each term? Would you prefer to budget it throughout the semester? Or would you rather extend your payments over a longer term with a loan? There are several options to assist you in planning in advance to cover any existing balance.



#### **Federal Direct Loan**

- Available to U.S citizens and permanent residents who are enrolled at least half-time in a degree program.
- First years can borrow up to \$5,500 per year (\$9,500 for independent students). Of that total amount, up to \$3,500 may be subsidized, depending on financial need.
- Interest rate is 2.75% for loans disbursed between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Origination fee is 1.057%.\*
- Repayment begins six months after graduation or withdrawal from the University. Consolidation, deferment (for grad school), and income-based repayment options are available.

#### **Penn Payment Plan**

- > Available to any Penn family.
- > Families can budget a semester's educational expenses over a four-month period.
- > Plans are interest-free. Families must pay a \$45 enrollment fee each semester.

#### Federal Direct PLUS Loan

- ➤ Available to parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are enrolled at least half-time in a degree program. Borrowers must undergo a credit check.
- > Can borrow up to the student's Cost of Attendance minus other financial aid received.
- Interest rate is 5.30% for loans disbursed between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Origination fee is 4.228%.\*
- > Repayment begins 60 days after final loan disbursement.

#### **Tuition Prepayment Plan**

- Prepay up to four years of tuition and mandatory fees at the 2021-2022 rate, thus saving on future tuition increases
- > Prepayment amount for Class of 2024 was \$240,168

**NOTE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** If you choose to borrow, please visit our website to learn more about alternative loan options, as in most cases you will not be eligible for U.S. federal loan programs. Note that international borrowers generally need a U.S citizen or permanent resident co-signer.

<sup>\*</sup> Interest rates are scheduled to change July 2021, fees will change October 1, 2021

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## your bill

#### Penn.Pay

Penn.Pay is the University's electronic billing and payment system. Here you can view your account activity, make payments, and set up authorized users. Authorized users are able to view your bill and make payments on your behalf. In order for your parents to access Penn.Pay, you must invite them to be authorized users.

#### **Receiving Your Bill**

Students and authorized users will receive notification via email each month when a new electronic bill is available, beginning with a July statement.

#### **Billing Schedule**

The billing schedule will be posted to the SRFS website in the spring.

#### **Paying Your Bill**

There are several ways to pay your bill:

Please note: Penn does not accept student account payments in cash.

#### Online via your U.S. bank

Use Penn.Pay to schedule both the payment date and amount to pay from your checking or savings account. Accounts must be with a U.S. financial institution.

#### Online using a Credit Card

Use Penn.Pay and pay with a credit card. A convenience fee will be assessed and will appear on your credit card billing statement. Note that Penn does not receive any compensation or portion of the convenience fee for providing credit card payment options.

#### Check

Pay from a U.S. checking or savings account. Payment remittance slips must accompany your payment and can be printed from Penn.Pay.

#### Wire Transfer

See the SRFS website for details at www.srfs.upenn.edu/billing-payment/wire-transfer.

A late payment penalty of 1.5% of any past-due balance will be assessed monthly. A past-due balance may result in your student account being placed on financial hold which can restrict future registration, receipt of your diploma and transcript requests.



## checklist for the next steps

Note: Check only those boxes that apply to you

		Deadlines
ı. To P	enn Admissions	
	Use the " <i>Reply!</i> " link on the Penn Applicant Portal to confirm your place in the class.	January 6, 2021
	Send your Enrollment Deposit per instructions on the "Checklist" located on the Penn Applicant Portal.	January 6, 2021
2. Payı	ment Options (if you choose to participate)	
	Apply for the Federal Direct Loan (for students)	June 15, 2021
	Apply for the Federal Direct PLUS Loan	June 15, 2021
	Apply for the Penn Payment Plan	July 10, 2021

#### **Helpful Websites**

Admissions Penn Applicant Portal

https://key.admissions.upenn.edu/status

Campus Express > www.campusexpress.upenn.edu

Overview of key services for life at Penn

Office of the University Registrar >

www.srfs.upenn.edu/registrar

Transcripts, course offerings and descriptions, academic records

#### Penn Portal >

https://portal.apps.upenn.edu/penn\_portal/portal.php Access campus information and manage transactions

Student Employment Office > www.srfs.upenn.edu/seo

Student employment information and non-work study jobs

#### **Student Registration and Financial Services**

www.srfs.upenn.edu

Forms, general information, and answers to commonly asked questions

Student Health Service > www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs

Student health insurance and more

University of Pennsylvania > www.upenn.edu

Penn's website

FAFSA > www.fafsa.ed.gov > (800) 433-3243

Penn Federal Code: 003378

**Outside Scholarship Listings** 

www.finaid.org > www.collegeboard.com

U.S. Dept. of Education

www.ed.gov > (800) 4-FED-AID > (800) 433-3243

The College Board > www.collegeboard.org

#### FERP/

The federal government views your educational information, both financial and academic, as yours, regardless of who pays your educational expenses. Therefore, federal guidelines require that students provide written permission before we can share financial information with any third party, including parents or spouses. A summary of University policy on the privacy of student records, which include rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), is available at Penn's Privacy site at www.upenn.edu/privacy.

## Policy on Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

The University of Pennsylvania's special character is reflected in the diversity of the Penn community. Diversity is prized at Penn as a central component of its mission and helps create an educational and working environment that best supports the University's commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and scholarship. We seek talented faculty, students and staff who will constitute a vibrant community that draws on the strength that comes with a substantive institutional commitment to diversity along dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, veteran status, interests, perspectives, and socioeconomic status.

Grounded in equal opportunity, nondiscrimination, and affirmative action, Penn's robust commitment to diversity is fundamental to the University's mission of advancing knowledge, educating leaders for all sectors of society, and public service. The University of Pennsylvania prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected class.

Penn is committed to ensuring that its academic, social, recreational programs and services as well as opportunities for admission and employment are available on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis without regard to an individual's legally protected class status. Penn also has written affirmative action programs to address any underrepresentation of women, minorities, people with disabilities, and qualified covered veterans. The Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, in collaboration with the Division of Human Resources and the Office of the Provost, oversees the implementation and administration of the University's equal opportunity, affirmative action, and nondiscrimination policies and programs

The University recognizes the right of members of the community to raise questions and pursue complaints of discrimination and adheres to a strict policy that prohibits retaliation for doing so. Questions, complaints of alleged discrimination, or concerns regarding these policies or their implementation may be directed to the Executive Director, Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Sansom Place East, Suite 228, 3600 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106, (215) 898-6993 or Fax number (215) 746-7088.

## how to contact student financial services

When contacting our office, please identify yourself as a member of the Class of 2025.

Website	www.srfs.upenn.edu		
Admissions Portal & Award Notice	key.admissions.upenn.edu/status		
Email	General Questions Penn Payment Plan Tuition Prepayment Plan Third Party Billing	sfsmail@pobox.upenn.edu budgetpl@pobox.upenn.edu stuaccts@pobox.upenn.edu thirdpartybilling@pobox.upenn.edu	
Submit Documents Online	https://www.sfs.upenn.edu/forms/OnlineDocSubmitForm.php		
Fax	215-573-5428 Please include an SRFS Cover Sheet, available on our website		
Telephone	215-898-1988		
Mailing Address	Student Financial Services University of Pennsylvania Franklin Building, Room 005, 3451 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-6270  We encourage you to submit documents electronically this year to expedite processing.		
Mailing Address for Outside Scholarships	Outside Scholarship Office University of Pennsylvania Franklin Building, Room 100, 3451 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-6270		
Office Hours	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Tuesday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	
Winter Break	SRFS will close for winter break and reopen on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.		
	Please check our website for updates.		
	Should you have general questions during this time, please visit our website at <b>www.srfs.upenn.edu</b> .		

#### **Customer Service**

When you first call or email the SRFS Student Services Center, a customer service professional will likely answer your question or resolve your issue at first contact. If your question is more complicated or requires adjustments to your package, we will put you in touch with a financial aid counselor.

Every student at Penn is assigned a financial aid counselor. Visit **www.srfs.upenn.edu/contact** to see these assignments based on last name.



