

The Ultimate Guide To Financial Aid



Stony Brook
University

WE ARE THE CURIOUS
THE EXPLORERS. THE INNOVATORS
UNBOUND BY TRADITION. UNLIMITED IN OUR POTENTIAL
PROPELLED BY A VISION OF A BOLD NEW FUTURE

WE ARE PASSIONATELY ENGAGED
IN THE ISSUES OF OUR TIME
WE EMERGE FROM STONY BROOK WITH
THE MOMENTUM TO MAKE
A REAL DIFFERENCE
OUR SPIRIT IS EMPOWERED
BY WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE'VE LEARNED
IT DRIVES US IN PURSUIT OF

THE BIG IDEAS
THAT WILL TRANSFORM
THE WORLD
WE ARE STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
WE REACH AROUND THE GLOBE. WE ARE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.

GOING BEYOND THE EXPECTED

Stony Brook is one of America's most dynamic public universities. We are a center of academic excellence and an internationally recognized research institution that offers all students a world-class education.



How will the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship Services communicate with me?

If we need any information from you, we will create a To Do List item, which you can view on your SOLAR homepage. It is important that you check your SOLAR To Do list frequently so you do not miss any requests for documentation. Students will also receive email communications from our office with requested information.

Most requested To Do List Items are uploadable directly to us via SOLAR – directions will be provided in the To Do List Item text.

How is my eligibility for financial aid determined?

Stony Brook University reviews the information provided on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine your eligibility for federal and need-based aid.

In order to qualify for federal aid, students must meet the basic eligibility requirements as outlined at www.studentaid.gov. To qualify for most federal aid programs, you must register for at least six credits per term.

New York State Residents should also complete the NYS Student Aid Payment Application at www.hesc.ny.gov. To qualify for most state aid programs, you must register for at least twelve credits per term.

Students must maintain satisfactory academic progress requirements in order to remain eligible for aid. Please refer to our full policies at www.stonybrook.edu/FedSAP and www.stonybrook.edu/StateSAP.

How is financial need calculated?

Financial need (**for the 2026-27 FAFSA form**) is calculated by subtracting your Student Aid Index (SAI) from your Estimated Cost of Attendance (COA). Once your financial need is determined, Stony Brook will work to create a financial aid package for you.

The formula to determine your financial need is:



Your SAI is calculated using a formula determined by the U.S. Congress after the filing of a FAFSA. The analysis takes into account your income and assets and those of your parents or spouse, if applicable. The analysis formula used considers both taxed and untaxed income, as well as any assets and benefits received, such as unemployment or Social Security. Your SAI is listed on the FAFSA Submission Summary after your FAFSA has been submitted.

What types of financial aid are available?

Stony Brook University offers several different types of financial aid to help cover the costs of educational expenses.

FEDERAL GRANTS

Pell Grant

The Federal Pell Grant is available to matriculated undergraduate students working toward their first bachelor's degree. Eligibility is determined by a federal formula based on the results of a FAFSA.

Federal SEOG

Federal SEOG is awarded to matriculated undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional need. Students must file by the **priority deadline date - February 15th** - in order to be considered for funding, which is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit our website at www.stonybrook.edu/finaid/aid/federal_grants.

NEW YORK STATE AWARDS

Tuition Assistance Program

TAP is administered by the NYS Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) and is available to full-time undergraduate students who are NYS residents. For more information and to apply, visit www.hesc.ny.gov.

Excelsior Scholarship

The Excelsior Scholarship may provide NYS resident students up to \$5,500 annually for assistance with tuition. It is a tuition-specific award, meaning it only pays toward tuition charges. It is also a last dollar award and the \$5,500 will be reduced by other grant/scholarship assistance received, even if those awards are not earmarked to pay tuition only. For more information and to apply, visit www.hesc.ny.gov.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Federal Work Study

Federal Work Study is offered through the federal campus-based aid program and provides employment opportunities to eligible matriculated students. Priority consideration is given to students who file a FAFSA by the priority deadline - February 15th.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Stony Brook University offers a variety of scholarships to new and continuing students, some of which are based on merit alone and others that take into account special talents, leadership and community service, or financial need.

Learn more at: stonybrook.edu/finaid/scholarships

Merit-based scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen and require no special application. Funds are available on an available basis:

- Presidential Scholarship
- Honors College
- WISE
- National Merit Scholarships
- Science Talent Search Finalists and Semifinalists
- Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Scholarship Universe

Stony Brook University uses Scholarship Universe as a platform for students to apply for and accept scholarship opportunities across campus. Based on information the student adds to their profile it will create a personalized Scholarship Universe profile. Students will be able to review a customized list of scholarship opportunities that they qualify for and directly connect and submit online applications with university departments and organizations offering those scholarships. Be sure to log into Scholarship Universe regularly as the university continues to enter scholarships on an ongoing basis.

Sign up at: stonybrook.scholarshipuniverse.com

VETERANS AWARDS

Students interested in applying for benefits under any of the VA educational assistance programs should contact Stony Brook's Office of Veterans Affairs.

INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Federal Loans

Loans are funds made available for students but must be repaid to the lender. Students apply for federal loans through the completion of the FAFSA each academic year. If needed, students can also apply for a private educational loan through the lender of their choice. Students can view our preferred private loan lender list at: www.stonybrook.edu/finaid/aid/private_loans.

How will my financial aid be applied to my bill?

Since student bills are generated before financial aid disburses, many awards will be listed as anticipated aid on your bill. Anticipated aid simply means that payment is expected for the award, so it is counted against your balance due. In most cases, anticipated aid will be for an award that you have accepted as part of your award package. However, there are a few awards that will **not** display as anticipated aid:

Award estimates - If you see an estimated award in your award package, that means additional action needs to be taken. The award will not appear as anticipated aid until an official amount has been determined.

What will happen to my financial aid if I withdraw or drop below full-time study?

Federal financial aid is awarded to a student under the assumption that the student will attend school for the entire period for which the aid is awarded. When a student withdraws, federal aid may be adjusted based on the percentage of the semester that the student completed. The date recorded by the Registrar's Office will be used as the official withdrawal date. This date will be used to determine the amount of federal financial aid earned.

If a student withdraws before 100% tuition liability, the charges will be reduced accordingly. This may temporarily create a credit on the student account.

NOTE: *Non-attendance of classes does not qualify as an official withdrawal and does not relieve the student of their financial obligation.*



Federal Satisfactory Academic Progress

In order to remain eligible to receive federal financial aid, students must continue to meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) guidelines.

CUMULATIVE GPA

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

PACE

Students must earn 67% of the credits they attempt. This is monitored on a cumulative basis. The completion rate is calculated at the end of each semester by dividing the number of credits earned by the number of credits attempted. Additionally, students who enroll in a semester and fail to earn any credits in the semester will be found to be failing pace requirements, even if they are passing the 67% pace requirement.

MAXIMUM TIME FRAME

Students are no longer eligible to receive federal financial aid once they have attempted 150% of the credits required to complete their degree. A 120-credit program must be completed by the time a student has attempted 180 credits.

For more information and to view sample calculations, visit www.stonybrook.edu/finaid/eligibility/federal_sap.





**FAR
BEYOND**

TAP

**New York State Tuition
Assistance Program**

What is the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)?

TAP is administered by the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC). TAP provides funds toward tuition to full-time undergraduate matriculated students who are New York State residents. Additional information and application procedures are available on the HESC website at www.hesc.ny.gov. State Satisfactory Academic Progress is a requirement. More information can be found on our website at www.stonybrook.edu/finaid/eligibility/state_satisfactory_academic_progress.

Who is eligible for TAP?

To be eligible for TAP, an applicant must meet the criteria listed on the HESC website. Students should note that they **must be enrolled as a full-time student taking twelve or more credits applicable toward their degree program each semester.**

What is Stony Brook's TAP school code?

Undergraduate Students: **0875**

Graduate Students: **5430**

How can I view my TAP application status or change my school code?

You may view your status and/or make school code changes online by visiting your HESC account through Student Access at www.hesc.ny.gov.

If you would like assistance in making this change, you can schedule a one-on-one appointment with a HESC Customer Communications representative at the following website: <http://reservation.hesc.ny.gov/scholarships>

What is the SUNY Tuition Credit?

Students who are eligible for a TAP award may also be eligible for the SUNY Tuition Credit, which is an additional grant applied to help pay tuition charges. The combination of TAP, SUNY Tuition Credit, and any other tuition-specific award cannot exceed the tuition charged.



How is my TAP Award amount determined?

HESC determines the value of TAP awards. TAP awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,665 per year. The award amount is determined by a variety of factors including, but not limited to:

- Combined family NYS taxable income, federal, state, or local pension income, and private pension and annuity income, if applicable
- Financial status (dependent or independent)
- Other family members enrolled in college

After your TAP application is processed, HESC will notify you by email to log into your HESC account to view the status of your TAP award.

Why is my TAP award estimated?

Estimated TAP awards are included in financial aid award packages when we believe that you will qualify for the grant based upon the results of your FAFSA. Additional action is required on your part when you see an estimated award. In most cases, students need to:

1. Complete the TAP application at www.hesc.ny.gov
2. Add Stony Brook's school code, or
3. Submit additional documentation to HESC.

Federal Financial Aid Verification

FAFSA filers should receive their FAFSA Submission Summary after submitting their FAFSA. You might see a note on your FAFSA Submission Summary indicating that the federal processor has selected your application for a process called verification. If selected, our office is required to request additional documentation to confirm that the data reported on your FAFSA was filed accurately. Verification ensures the accuracy of data used to establish eligibility for need-based federal student aid. Your SOLAR To Do List will indicate which documents must be submitted to satisfy the federal verification requirement.

Commonly requested items include:

- Dependent or Independent Household Form
- Verification of Income Form for Non-Tax Filers (Student and/or Parent)
- IRS Verification of Non-Filing Letter (Student and/or Parent)
- High School Completion Status
- Statement of Educational Purpose

What is the time frame to verify a financial aid application?

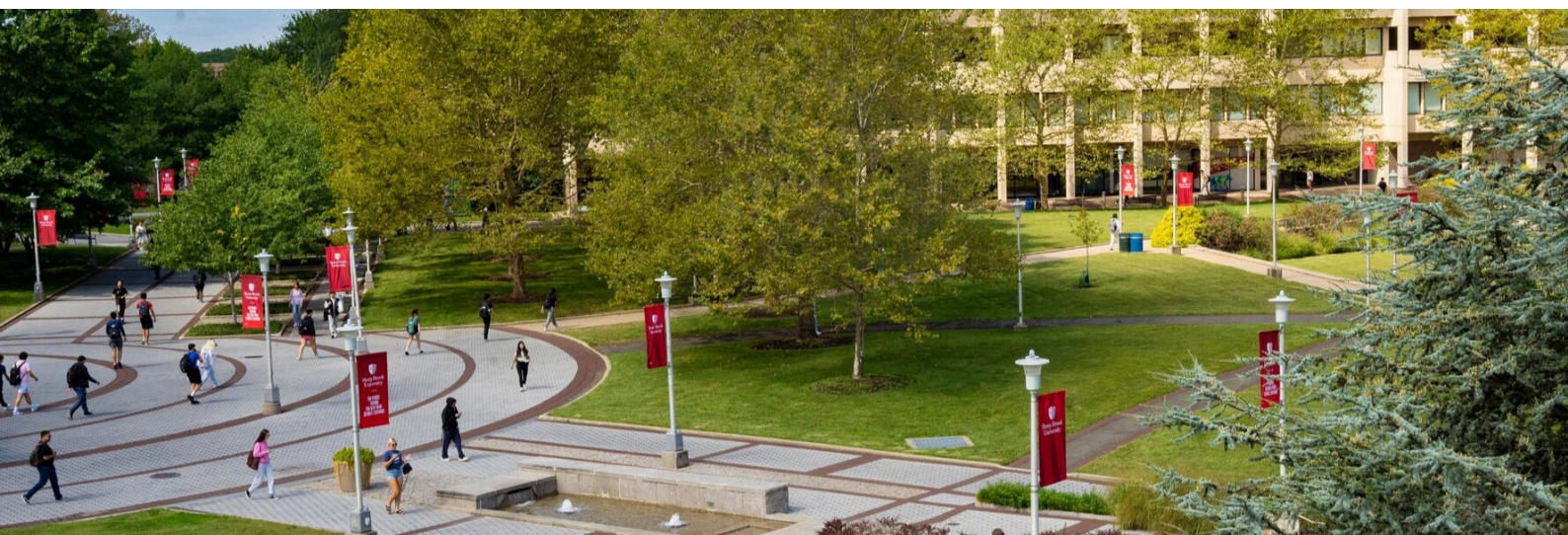
Required documentation varies depending on the reason(s) your application was selected. To allow time for processing, all requested documentation should be submitted no later than two weeks prior to your last date of attendance for the academic year.

What happens if discrepancies are found in the financial aid application?

If our office finds discrepancies, we will make corrections to your FAFSA. Sometimes, the discrepancies are significant enough to change your financial aid eligibility. If this is the case, we will notify you of your revised financial aid award package.

What happens if I do not submit the requested documentation?

You will not be eligible to receive any federal aid. If you received an initial award package, aid will not disburse to your student account until all required documents have been submitted and reviewed.



Undergraduate Federal Direct Loans



How do I apply for a federal direct student loan?

Completing the FAFSA each academic year will allow our office to determine what type of federal loans you qualify for.

What is the difference between a subsidized and unsubsidized federal student loan?

FEDERAL DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOANS

- Subsidized loans are need-based loans. You must be enrolled in a degree program with six or more credits each semester to be eligible.
- **The federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans while you are enrolled in at least 6 credits, and throughout your 6-month grace period.** Your loan grace period is defined as the 6 months immediately following your graduation or the date at which your enrollment dropped below 6 credits.

FEDERAL DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS

- Unsubsidized loans are non-need based loans, and are available regardless of financial need. You must be enrolled in a degree program with six or more credits to be eligible.
- **The federal government does NOT pay the interest. Interest begins to accrue as soon as the loan funds are disbursed. Students may choose to pay the interest that accumulates or have it capitalized – meaning, the interest will be added to the principal amount of your loan, and additional interest will be based upon the higher amount. Paying the interest as it accumulates will reduce the amount of interest that must be repaid.**

What fees are associated with these loans?

Both subsidized and unsubsidized federal direct loans have an origination fee which will automatically be deducted. You can see the net disbursement amount that will be credited to your account on SOLAR.

When does repayment begin?

Repayment begins six months after you graduate or are no longer enrolled for six or more credits. Payments are made directly to your loan servicer.

How do I accept my loan offer?

You can accept the loan(s) offered to you in the "Campus Financial Services" section of SOLAR. Additionally, first-time borrowers will be required to complete a Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling at www.studentloans.gov before loan funds can be disbursed.

How much can I borrow per academic year?

Undergraduate student loan limits range from \$5,500 to \$12,500 per year depending on certain factors, including the student's year in college and other aid received.

Dependent Students	Maximum Eligibility	
Freshman	\$5,500	If eligible, up to \$3,500 may be subsidized.
Sophomore	\$6,500	If eligible, up to \$4,500 may be subsidized.
Junior or Senior	\$7,500	If eligible, up to \$5,500 may be subsidized.

Independent Students	Maximum Eligibility	
Freshman	\$9,500	If eligible, up to \$3,500 may be subsidized.
Sophomore	\$10,500	If eligible, up to \$4,500 may be subsidized.
Junior or Senior	\$12,500	If eligible, up to \$5,500 may be subsidized.

What happens if I need additional aid to cover my balance due?

If you need additional funds after you have accepted your maximum loan eligibility as shown in the chart above, you may want to consider a private educational loan. Students can view our preferred private loan lender list on our website at www.stonybrook.edu/finaid/aid/private_loans.

Parents of dependent students may also want to consider applying for a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan.

Applying for Parent Aid

Parents interested in applying for a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan to help cover the cost of a dependent student's education need to know the following:

- Parent PLUS loans are credit-based federal loans available to a parent (custodial or non-custodial) or stepparent of the student.
- The annual loan limit is the student's cost of attendance minus any financial aid received.
- Repayment begins 60 days after the final loan disbursement unless a deferment is granted through your assigned loan servicer.

A parent borrower applies for a PLUS loan by logging into www.studentloans.gov. Parent borrowers must log in using their unique FSA ID. The FSA ID is also used for a parent to sign the FAFSA.

1. Select the award year
2. Enter student information
3. Select school - SUNY AT STONY BROOK
4. Select the loan period
 - Summer Only (May - August)
 - Fall Only (August - December)
 - Fall/Spring (August - May)
 - Spring Only (January - May)
5. Select one of three options when indicating a loan amount:
 - Specific loan amount- This option is strongly encouraged as you will determine the amount you are requesting.
 - Maximum loan amount- If this option is selected, the school will determine the loan amount based upon the student's cost of attendance minus other financial aid for the loan period.
 - Unknown loan amount- Selecting this option will delay processing and require additional follow-up.

When will the borrower be notified of the result of the application?

A credit check will be performed by the US Department of Education. You will be notified whether your credit has been approved or denied for the loan at the end of the application.

What are the options for the parent if denied for a PLUS loan?

If denied, the parent can provide an endorser. If the parent does not want to provide an endorser the student will be offered an additional unsubsidized loan in the amount of \$4,000 or \$5,000 based on their grade level.

PLEASE NOTE: If credit is approved as a result of obtaining an Endorser or a favorable decision is rendered after a review of your Extenuating Circumstances, complete the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) and the PLUS Credit Counseling session online at www.studentloans.gov. Additional Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans offered based on a PLUS denial will be cancelled if a subsequent PLUS approval is processed.



Tuition Payment Plans and Options

UNIVERSITY PAYMENT POLICY

The Student Financial Services Office does not accept cash payments at their service counter. They accept credit, debit, or check payments. Check payments may also be mailed to:

Student Financial Services
P.O. Box 619
Stony Brook, NY 11790-0619

TIME OPTION PAYMENT PLAN (TOPP)

The Time Option Payment Plan (TOPP) is a semester-based program. As such, you are required to enroll in the program each semester you would like to participate. Since the plan is not a loan, there are no interest or finance charges. You pay only a \$50.00 non-refundable application fee to help defray the program's administrative expenses. Enrollment in the program will allow for your payments to be distributed equally over three or four months, depending on when you enroll.

In order to be eligible to participate in the TOPP program, any remaining prior semester balances must be paid in full. Enrollment in the TOPP program must be completed online through SOLAR under "Campus Financial Services." In order for your enrollment in the plan to be effective, you must make your first payment at the time of enrollment.

Additional information can be found at:

https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/sfs/billing_payment/topp.php

529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PROGRAM

You may request a withdrawal of funds through www.nysaves.org under "NEED TO MAKE A WITHDRAWAL?". You will need the Stony Brook University school code – 002838 and the campus code – 00.

There are two easy ways to request a withdrawal:

1. LOG ON, click on the account number, select "ASSET MANAGEMENT", then "MAKE A WITHDRAWAL". You will need to specify how much to withdraw and who should receive the funds (this is the fastest and easiest way to withdraw funds).
2. Download the WITHDRAWAL REQUEST FORM, print, complete and mail. To avoid delays in withdrawals, please complete all the required information on the form.

Funds can be sent to you, to the student beneficiary of your account or an eligible college or university.

As New York's 529 College Savings Program is not administered by SUNY or Stony Brook University, any questions regarding the program or enrollment process should be directed to the NY Saves administration at 1-877-NYSAVES (1-877-697-2837).

INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS

Student Financial Services has partnered with Flywire to provide a streamlined way to make international payments that is both simple and cost-effective. For more information or to make your payment, please visit www.flywire.com/pay/stonybrook.

Merit Based Scholarship Requirements

All incoming freshmen are considered for our freshmen merit-based scholarships. The majority of our freshmen merit-based scholarships require no special scholarship applications as all admitted first-time freshmen students who are academically qualified are automatically reviewed for scholarship eligibility. Scholarships are offered on a funds available basis.

Stony Brook will send a scholarship award letter via e-mail to those students selected to receive a merit-based scholarship. The e-mail process begins in the early part of the new year and typically follows an offer of admissions.

The award amount and duration of scholarships vary. Some offer scholarship support for four years. Some scholarships are for one year only, while others are renewable based upon meeting the criteria of the specific scholarship. To view the most up-to-date terms and conditions of your scholarship, click the "Award Detail" link in SOLAR. In most cases, students will not be awarded more than one scholarship and it will be the most beneficial scholarship offer that we can make. Stony Brook University's freshmen scholarships begin upon enrollment in the fall semester of the academic year for which they are offered.



QUICK GUIDE FOR APPLICATION/AWARDING PROCESS

DECEMBER

The **2026-27** FAFSA (Free Application For Student Aid) is available on December 31st. NYS Residents can also complete their TAP applications.

JANUARY

Our office will begin loading FAFSA data. We will send you an email confirmation when we successfully load your application.

If we need any additional information we will create a To Do List item, which you can view on your SOLAR homepage.

Scholarship letters will be sent to incoming freshman students who qualified for merit-based awards.

MARCH

Students who would like to be considered for need-based federal financial aid (Federal Work-Study, Federal SEOG), must complete their FAFSA by the priority filing deadline - **February 15th**.

MAY

May 1st is decision day! Let us know what awards you would like to accept or decline via SOLAR.

How/when will I be notified of my financial aid award package?

A To Do List Item will be assigned and viewable in SOLAR informing you that your awards are ready to view/accept.

Financial Aid Awarding and Notification Begins:

- Undergraduate Freshmen – End of April
- Undergraduate Transfers (Non Health Science) – End of April
- Health Science Students – July
- Medical and Dental Students – July
- Graduate and Professional Students – July
- Continuing Undergraduate Students – July
- New Spring Admits – Mid-November



**Stony Brook
University**

**Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship Services
Stony Brook Union, Suite 208
Stony Brook, NY 11794-9525**

Contact Us

Email us at: finaid@stonybrook.edu

Call us at: 631.632.6840

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