

Financial Aid & Scholarships Overview For NSU Students



Presented By:
The Office of Student Financial Aid

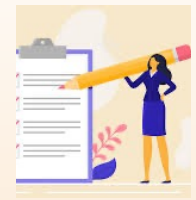


- **Students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for federal and some state aid (Go Grant, SEOG and Federal Work Study).**
- **FAFSA application must be completed each academic year (fall, spring, and summer) online www.studentaid.gov**
- **When completing the 2025-2026 FAFSA, family income from the 2023 tax year information is required to determine federal student aid eligibility.**
- **FAFSA applications for both 2024-25 & 2025-26 academic year are now available!**

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**NSU School
Code# 002021**

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS NEEDED FOR AID



- Title IV Authorization Form (completed within MyNSU – one time only)
- Terms and Conditions (completed within MyNSU – one time only)
- The Federal Government may select the students FAFSA application for a review process known as **Verification** that requires FA Staff to verify the accuracy of the FAFSA application.
 - Students and parents will be required in some cases to submit tax/wage information as well as other documentation to verify the data reported on the FAFSA.
- Students will be notified via Email of the required documentation needed for any verification review



Intent to Attend

- The Intent to Attend will be available during the first 7 days of class via myNSU each semester
- Aid will not disburse to a student's account until the student has verified that they will be attending their courses
- Students who have not completed the intent to attend within the first 7 days of classes will have their courses cancelled thereafter
- Students who do not have enough aid to cover their total balance will be required to complete a promissory agreement with NSU during the Intent to Attend process.



Awarding Process

- After all FA requirements including paperwork and/or verification is completed a financial aid package will be certified for the student based on the FAFSA detail.
- Students will receive email notifications of their award amounts - to view via their myNSU accounts
- Pell Grants & State awards (if eligible) will automatically be accepted on the student's behalf
- Students will need to log into MyNSU to accept/decline student loans offers
 - Note: **Subsidized loans** interest is paid by the federal government while a student is attending school for a total of **6 hours** or more.
 - **Unsubsidized loans** interest accrues daily
- If the student accepts their loan awards a master promissory note and loan entrance counseling must be completed on www.studentaid.gov

Additional Funding Opportunities

(Links are available within MyNSU and the Financial Aid website)

- Alumni Foundation Scholarships

- A variety of scholarships are available through the generous donations to our university
- Application required

- Tuition Hardship Exemption

- Up to \$300 per semester awarded to eligible LA residents (non-TOPS eligible students)
- Application required

- Parent Plus Loan

- Loans for parents of dependent students, based on credit
- The parent must complete the application www.studentaid.gov
 - Approval – can be awarded up to the students Cost of Attendance, based on the amount approved
 - Denial – awarded up to the dependent loan amounts based on classification (**This would be processed as an unsubsidized loan**)

- Fastweb – third party scholarship search

- Alternative Loans

- Should only be considered as last resort
- Based on applicants' credit

ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR FEDERAL AID

○ Satisfactory Academic Progress guidelines for Federal Aid includes all the following:

- Cumulative GPA of 2.0 for Undergraduate
- Cumulative completion rate of 67% of all courses (hours earned divided by hours attempted)

NOTE: All withdrawn courses count in attempted hours

- Cannot attempt more than 150% of hours needed for respective program
 - (Program requires 120 for graduation, if a student attempts over 180 hours, they are no longer eligible for federal aid without an approved Financial Aid appeal.)
- Please utilize our GPA/Hours Forecast Calculator to check your progress - this can be found on our website: www.nsula.edu/financialaid

ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Students must maintain the following for the Fall & Spring semesters:

- Full-time enrollment
- The required cumulative GPA
- Your award letter will give you eligibility requirements to maintain your scholarship

Note: Academic scholarships are not used for Summer

Family Education Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that sets forth requirements regarding the privacy of student records.
- FERPA governs the release of these records (known as educational & financial aid records) maintained by an educational institution. When a student turns 18 years old, or enters a postsecondary institution at any age, the rights under FERPA transfer from the parents to the student.
- Therefore, the student must have a FERPA Release Authorization Form on file with the University, before any NSU staff can discuss the student's account information with a third-party individual.
- FERPA Release Forms in most cases, must be submitted in person & can be found on our website www.nsula.edu/financialaid or by visiting the University Registrar website www.nsula.edu/registrar

Important Reminders

- Apply for FAFSA early and apply every year
- Complete Title IV Authorization Form (completed within MyNSU – one time only)
- Complete Terms and Conditions (completed within MyNSU – one time only)
- Complete Intent to Attend within first 7 days of classes (every semester)
- Book Allowances are available for students who have aid that exceeds their account balance

Note: NSU IncludEd Program allows the rental or purchase textbooks at a reduced costs – with charges being made directly to the students' myNSU tuition & fee bill.

- Maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress

Federal Aid - 2.0 cumulative GPA, 67% completion rate, & not exceeding allowed attempted hours

Scholarships - Required GPA/hours for TOPs along with Academic & Performance Scholarships

- Borrow conservatively – there are annual loan limits & lifetime loan limits
- Keep copies of all financial aid paperwork, security codes, and passwords in a safe place
- Monitor your myNSU & student account email regularly
- Always ask questions if you are unsure of anything

Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships Contact Information

Northwestern State University

Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships

Student Services Center, Suite 212

Natchitoches, La 71497

318-357-5961 or 1-800-823-3008

Fax 318-357-5488

Website: www.nsula.edu/financialaid

Email: nsufinaid@nsula.edu



Questions???



*Students can follow their financial aid progress by visiting their MyNSU account.

*All Financial Aid communications are sent via email to the students.

IMPORTANT BILLING REMINDERS

- A pre-bill is sent approximately one month before the start of the semester
 - Notifications are sent via NSU email and bills can be viewed through MyNSU
- Installment plans are applied for every student if account balances are not paid in full by the end of the 7th class day:
 - Installment plans split the outstanding account balance into three portions:
 - \$85 installment plan fee is applied & \$45 late fees if installments are not paid in full
- Direct Deposit is available for refund disbursement (funds that exceeds account balance)
- Check emails and billing summary frequently for any updates and
- Always reach out for any questions or concerns

NSU Office of Student Accounting & Cashiering

Student Services Center, 3rd Floor

Phone: 318-357-5447 **Email:** studentaccounting@nsula.edu