

Financial Aid

Presented by:
F. Shannon Little
Director of Financial Aid



NOMA Nation Orientation
Sonoma State University

Applying for Financial Aid

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) available October 1
 - [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov)
 - [DREAM.csac.ca.gov](https://dream.csac.ca.gov)
- Fall 24 admits = 2024-2025 application
- 2025-2026 application available October 1, 2023
 - The Department of Education has communicated a delay to December 1 for 2025-2026



Financial Aid Timeline

- Complete the FAFSA or CADAA by **March 2 each year you want financial aid** to be considered an on-time applicant
- New Cal Grant applicants: Submit the GPA Verification form by March 2
- Check your "To Do List" in your SSU Portal and submit all documents by due date
- Continuing students receive award offers late April (after all documents have been submitted and reviewed)



MySSU Portal


ID

Student Center | General Info | Admissions | Academics | Finances | Financial Aid | Transfer Credit

Student Center

Academics


My Class Schedule
Shopping Cart
Seawolf Scheduler

other academic... 

Finances

My Account
Account Inquiry
Enroll In Direct
Deposit

Financial Aid
View Financial Aid

other financial... 

Search for Classes


Holds
No Holds.

To Do List

Financial Aid Req tasks
College Transcript

Advisor
Program Advisor
None Assigned

Admissions & Records



Informational Messages:

- To see future Fall/Spring enrollment, go to My Class Schedule under the "other academic" drop down.
- You have no outstanding charges at this time.
- *Important Student Fee Information
View Bill or Make a Payment



MySSU Portal

Financial Aid Award

The screenshot displays the MySSU Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: Student Center, General Info, Admissions, Academics, Finances, Financial Aid, and Transfer Credit. Below this, the 'Student Center' section is active. It features a '▼ Academics' dropdown menu with links for 'My Class Schedule', 'Shopping Cart', and 'Seawolf Scheduler'. A dropdown menu is currently set to 'other academic...'. An information icon (i) provides a tip: 'To see future Fall/Spring enrollment, go to My Class Schedule under the "other academic" drop down.' Below the Academics section, there are links for 'Order an Official Transcript' and 'Online Orientation'. The '▼ Finances' dropdown menu is expanded, showing 'My Account', 'Account Inquiry', 'Enroll in Direct Deposit', and 'Financial Aid'. A red arrow points to the 'View Financial Aid' link. An information icon (i) states: 'You have no outstanding charges at this time.' Below the Finances section, there is a link for '*Important Student Fee Information' and 'View Bill or Make a Payment'. A dropdown menu is set to 'other financial...'. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Search for Classes' box, a '▼ Holds' section showing 'No Holds', a '▼ To Do List' section with 'Financial Aid Req tasks' and 'College Transcript', an 'Advisor' section showing 'Program Advisor' and 'None Assigned', and an 'Admissions & Records' section.



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Financial Aid Offer

- Review the [Help Book](#) to understand your award offer
- Email communications are sent to student's SSU email

Fall 2024 Term Award Detail

Fall 2024

[View Scheduled Disbursement Dates](#)

Award Description	Category	Offered	Accepted
Federal Pell Grant	Grant	3,698.00	3,698.00
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	Loan	2,750.00	0.00
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Ln	Loan	1,000.00	0.00
State University Grant	Grant	3,042.00	3,042.00
Term Totals		10,490.00	6,740.00

Spring 2025 Term Award Detail

Spring 2025

[View Scheduled Disbursement Dates](#)

Award Description	Category	Offered	Accepted
Federal Pell Grant	Grant	3,697.00	3,697.00
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	Loan	2,750.00	0.00
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Ln	Loan	1,000.00	0.00
State University Grant	Grant	3,042.00	3,042.00
Term Totals		10,489.00	6,739.00



Housing Discrepancy

- You are awarded with financial aid based on the housing preference you listed on your Cal State Apply Admission Application.
- Your housing preference should be listed on your award offer
- If your housing preference has changed, let financial aid know. This discrepancy may delay your financial aid disbursement.
- Example: You have listed on-campus on your Cal State Apply Admission Application but you decide to live off-campus or at home.



Academic Transcripts

- Once your Spring 24 semester is over, request that your official academic transcripts get sent to Sonoma State University.
- Financial aid will be held until all academic transcripts have been submitted to Admissions and reviewed.



Federal Direct Loans

- Yearly amounts – loans are subject to annual limits set by the Department of Education (ED).

Loan Type Maximum Amounts		
Grade Level	Dependent	Independent
Freshman	\$5,500 (maximum \$3,500 subsidized)	\$9,500 (maximum \$3,500 subsidized)
Sophomore	\$6,500 (maximum \$4,500 subsidized)	\$10,500 (maximum \$4,500 subsidized)
Junior/Senior, 2nd Bachelor	\$7,500 (maximum \$5,500 subsidized)	\$12,500 (maximum \$5,500 subsidized)
Credential, Unclassified Grad (taking pre-requisites)	\$5,500	\$12,500 (maximum \$5,500 subsidized)
Graduate Students	N/A	\$20,500 (unsubsidized only)



Federal Direct Loans

- Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans
 - Go to [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) to complete:
 - [Loan Entrance Counseling](#)
 - [Master Promissory Note \(MPN\)](#)
 - 2024-2025 Interest rate: 6.53% (Undergraduate)
8.08% (Graduate)
 - 2023-2024 Loan Processing fee: 1.057%
 - Must accept/decline federal loans. Any loans that are declined/canceled may be reinstated by submitting the [Direct Loan Change Form](#)



Other Funding Sources

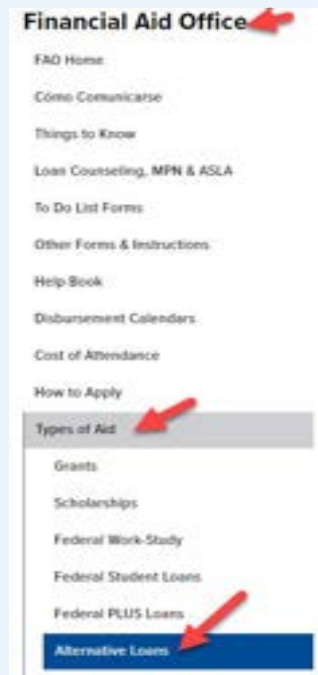
- PLUS Parent Loans
 - Go to [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) to complete:
 - [Parent PLUS Loan application](#) – credit qualification required
 - Must apply & be approved each year
 - [Master Promissory Note \(MPN\)](#)
 - 2024-2025 Interest rate: 9.08%
 - 2023-2024 Loan Processing fee: 4.228%
 - If application is denied, student may borrow additional Unsubsidized loan:
 - Freshmen/Sophomore \$4,000
 - Junior/Senior \$5,000



Other Funding Sources

- Alternative Education Loans
 - Credit based - requires good credit history
 - Interest rate can be variable or fixed and may be higher or lower than the Federal Direct Loan
- [ELMSelect](#) is a way for students and parents to compare various lenders and loan products.

financialaid.sonoma.edu



MySSU Portal

How Much Do I Owe?

ID

Student Center | General Info | Admissions | Academics | Finances | Financial Aid | Transfer Credit

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other academic: [dropdown] ⓘ

To see future Fall/Spring enrollment, go to My Class Schedule under the "other academic" drop down.

Order an Official Transcript
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other financial: [dropdown] ⓘ

You have no outstanding charges at this time.

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Search for Classes

Holds

No Holds.

To Do List

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More ▶

Advisor

Program Advisor
None Assigned

Admissions & Records



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How Much Do I Owe?


- Log into your SSU Portal
Under Finances, you will see Account Inquiry

Account Summary

You owe 4,486.00.

What I Owe

Term	Outstanding Charges & Deposits	Pending Financial Aid	Total Due
Fall 2024	4,486.00	1,000.00	3,486.00
Spring 2025		1,000.00	
Total	4,486.00	2,000.00	3,486.00



- In this case, the student will owe \$3,486 for Fall 2024. Loans will not be considered until accepted.



How Much Do I Owe?

- Log into your SSU Portal
Under Finances, you will see Account Inquiry

Account Summary

What I Owe			
Term	Outstanding Charges & Deposits	Pending Financial Aid	Total Due
Fall 2024	4,551.50	6,740.00	
Spring 2025		6,739.00	
Total	4,551.50	13,479.00	



- In this case, the student's financial aid is more than the charges which creates a credit balance or refund of \$2,188.50.



Financial Aid Disbursements

- Review the [Disbursement calendars](#) for each term online
 - Generally occur every Monday throughout the semester
 - Half in Fall and half in Spring
- Funds are posted to student account and pay outstanding fees/institutional charges first. Remaining funds will be refunded to student.
- Sign up for [Direct Deposit](#) through your SSU Portal to have the refund automatically put into your bank account.
- We recommend that students be prepared to buy their books themselves instead of waiting for their refund. If you are participating in the Seawolf Bundle, your learning materials will already be paid.



Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

There are three major components to the standards:

- Pace (Pass Rate) Standard: Satisfactorily complete a minimum of 67% (UG) of the cumulative units attempted.
- Maximum Time Frame Standard: Complete a degree program within 150% of the units for the degree.
- GPA Standard: Meet the minimum cumulative GPA of: 2.0 for undergraduate students.

More information can be found:

financialaid.sonoma.edu/help-book/satisfactory-academic-progress



Family Contribution Appeal

- Special Circumstances - (SAI) Appeal may include:
 - Change in income or employment
 - Change in parent marital status
 - Loss of taxed/untaxed benefits
 - One-time, non-recurring income that won't be received in subsequent years.
- Requests can be found in MyFA Forms
- Additional information found on financialaid.sonoma.edu under Other Forms & Instructions: Special Circumstance Request



Financial Aid Representatives

- Last Name A – Li Carson Williams
carson.williams@sonoma.edu
- Last Name Lj– Z Teresita Ornelas Vega (Spanish speaker)
ornelasvet@sonoma.edu

General Questions: finaid@sonoma.edu or 707-664-2389

Financial Aid is located on the 1st floor of Salazar Hall – check in with Seawolf Services.



Contact Information

Salazar Hall, first floor

Office Hours : M – Th 8am - 5pm and F 9am - 5pm

Seawolf Service Center: We are the One Stop shop for all financial matters including general questions about financial aid, your student account, payments and more!

Phone: (707) 664-2308

Email: seawolf.servicecenter@sonoma.edu

Website: seawolfservices.sonoma.edu

Financial Aid Office: Meet with a Financial Aid Representative

Phone: (707) 664-2389

Email: finaid@sonoma.edu

Website: financialaid.sonoma.edu

