



a smart educational investment

Getting Started with Financial Aid

Apply to
Buffalo State

Complete FAFSA &
TAP Applications

Compare
Aid Offers

Choose
Buffalo State

Welcome to SUNY Buffalo State!

SUNY Buffalo State provides access to a top-caliber education with small class sizes, personalized attention, and high-quality academics—all at a fraction of the cost charged by private institutions. True to our mission, Buffalo State continues to be one of the most affordable universities, public or private, in New York State. A few key highlights include:

- 85% of students receive some sort of financial aid.
- The average loan indebtedness for full-time freshmen that graduated with a bachelor's degree during the 2013-14 academic year was \$24,290. This is below the national average of \$28,950 (Project on Student Loan Debt).
- Buffalo State has the lowest fees of any comprehensive SUNY college.
- Transit passes are issued to all undergraduate students which provide access to Buffalo's metro bus and rail system. Whether you're commuting to a part-time job in Elmwood Village or enjoying Buffalo's many cultural offerings, your learning will go beyond the classroom.

"REACHING FOR THE STARS

Engagement, Excellence, and Social Responsibility"

- ★ committed to student success and inclusion
- ★ we strive for excellence in all we do
- ★ we work to make the world a better place



A Smart Investment

According to the U.S. Government, students that obtain a bachelor's degree can expect to **earn twice** as much as high school graduates in their lifetime!

- ✓ A high school graduate will earn \$1.2 million.
- ✓ A bachelor's degree graduate will **earn \$2.1 million.**
- ✓ A master's degree graduate will earn \$2.4 million.

Given Buffalo State's low tuition and fees you'll have the potential to keep more of your earnings and repay less in student loans.

TIP ▶ Access the **SUNY Smart Track Financial Literacy Program** for a fun way to learn about budgeting, borrowing, and smart spending. Get started at financialaid.buffalostate.edu

Apply for Aid Today!

1 File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov using school code **002842**. You may begin filing the FAFSA on October 1 for the following fall semester.

2 File the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) application using school code **0905**. Students can link to complete the application at the end of the FAFSA or at www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw.

3 Follow-up with us in January or after you are admitted to ensure we have received your applications and to see if other documents need to be submitted. See the timeline on page 4 for more.

Good Grades Matter

Students that demonstrate **academic excellence** in high school are automatically reviewed for the Presidential, Provost, and Muriel A. Howard Honors Scholarship at the time of admission; no separate application is required. Scholarship recipients may receive the award for up to eight (8) consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment, so long as the minimum cumulative GPA is maintained (see below). Additionally, federal and state financial aid (including loans) require students to meet minimum standards each semester to continue their eligibility. **Remember: good grades mean more money!**

Scholarship ¹	Total Award	Per Year	HS GPA	SAT Score ²	College GPA
Presidential	\$10,000	\$2,500	90.0	New: 1270+ Old: 1200+	3.2
Provost	\$8,000	\$2,000	90.0	Old: 1100 - 1199 New: 1170 - 1269	3.0
Muriel A. Howard Honors Program	\$10,000	\$2,500	90.0	Old: 1100+ New: 1170+	3.5

¹ Scholarship criteria subject to change; amounts are effective for Fall 2017 and are pending availability of funds. ² SAT scores represent the math and verbal sections based on either the new or old scoring system.

Visit financialaid.buffalo.state.edu/scholarships for a full list of scholarships. Note that Buffalo State is an NCAA Division III school which bars it from offering athletic scholarships.

Diversity Matters

The Burrell Diversity Scholarship Program is designed to enhance student diversity at Buffalo State through services, activities, and a campus environment that is conducive to high academic achievement. New full-time freshmen that meet the qualifications will be contacted by the Financial Aid Office in July preceding the fall semester to apply.

The Ross B. Kenzie Scholarship is awarded to full-time, first-time freshmen that are of African-American, Hispanic, Native American, and Asian American backgrounds. High school GPA and SAT/ACT scores are also considered. Students must maintain a 3.0 overall Buffalo State GPA to renew the award for up to four (4) years.

Aid Package and Bill Example

Depicted below is a 2016-17 award package and bill for a student that lives on-campus. In this example, the student qualifies for the maximum in federal and state aid. After applying all the student's aid to the full-year costs, the family determines they will owe \$2,873 for the year, or \$1,437 each semester plus the cost of textbooks.

	Amount
Tuition and Fees	\$7,701
Room and Board	\$12,982
Total Charges	\$20,683
Pell Grant	-\$5,815
TAP Grant	-\$5,165
SUNY Tuition Credit	-\$1,330
Subsidized Loan	-\$3,500
Unsubsidized Loan	-\$2,000
Total Aid	\$17,810
Annual Out-of-Pocket	\$2,873
Billed each Semester	\$1,437



► The **Bill Estimator** can help you calculate your out-of-pocket costs: financialaid.buffalostate.edu/costs

What's It Going to Cost?

While 85 percent of students receive some sort of aid, not all students have 100 percent of their costs covered by grants, scholarships, and student loans. It is very important that students and parents carefully review the aid offered in the financial aid award letter and compare that to the expected costs to determine what their out-of-pocket or net costs will be. The net costs can then be compared to other schools to determine which is the best value.

Cost Calculator by Semester

financialaid.buffalostate.edu/cost-calculator

Other Ways to Pay | When the aid offered does not cover all the charges

- ◆ Federal Parent PLUS Loans financialaid.buffalostate.edu/parent-plus
- ◆ Private Student Loans financialaid.buffalostate.edu/private-loans
- ◆ Scholarships financialaid.buffalostate.edu/scholarships
- ◆ Automatic Payment Plan studentaccounts.buffalostate.edu

Types of Aid Available

- A **Grant** is a type of aid that does not need to be repaid and often requires the student demonstrates financial need as determined by the FAFSA.
- A **Scholarship** is a type of aid that does not need to be repaid and is usually awarded based on specific criteria, such as academic excellence.
- A **Loan** is a type of aid that must be repaid with interest, typically after the student graduates or ceases half-time enrollment.
- **Work-Study** is simply a part-time job. Work-study is never applied to the bill and should not be included in determining out-of-pocket costs.

Ways the Financial Aid Office Can Help You

The Financial Aid Office (FAO) is committed to helping students and parents through the financial aid process. Whether you are a prospective student or in your final semester, we here to help you. In the last two SUNY Opinion Surveys (2015, 2012), our students ranked us as the **#1 Financial Aid Office among all SUNY Comprehensive Colleges**.

Special Circumstances

We understand the information on the FAFSA may not be an accurate representation of your typical income or ability to pay. The FAO is permitted, under federal law, to make certain adjustments to a student's FAFSA when documented conditions exist. If any of the following apply to you, please contact our office to obtain the correct forms to complete.

- A one-time lump-sum distribution that was reported in your income taxes used to complete the FAFSA (e.g., retirement distribution or gambling winnings).
- A loss in income due to employment changes, such as a layoff, retirement, or disability.
- A dependent student's parent is currently attending college.
- Your family has endured unusually high medical costs.
- A sibling is attending a private elementary or secondary school.
- The student is unable to provide parent information on the FAFSA due to unusual family circumstances.

100,000 Alumni Strong!

The FAO has a proactive approach to ensure students receive the aid for which they qualify and graduate. We provide early warnings to students via their Buffalo State email address that are in jeopardy of losing aid; remind students to complete the FAFSA each year; and outreach to students before deadlines are missed.

Contact Us

We offer year-round help via phone, email, and one-on-one in person appointments. We have over **250 years** of combined experience but understand this may be your first time through the process. No question should go unanswered; please reach out to us for assistance.

Mailing Address

Buffalo State
Financial Aid Office, Moot 230
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14222

Phone (716) 878-4902

Fax (716) 878-4903

Email finaid@buffalostate.edu

Hours Mon.- Fri. 8:30 - 5pm

Thu. 8:30 - 6pm (5pm summer)

Web financialaid.buffalostate.edu

► **Federal School Code** 002842

► **NYS School Code** 0905

Month	Tasks to Complete
Oct	<p>File the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Federal School Code: 002842 <p>File the NYS TAP Application by clicking the link at the end of the FAFSA or at www.tap.hesc.ny.gov/totw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ State School Code 0905
mid-Dec	<p>Aid Packages are created and mailed to newly accepted students.</p> <p>Requests for additional documents (e.g., tax transcripts) will be sent to selected students. Promptly submit any requested documentation.</p>
Jan to Apr	<p>Compare aid offers; Use the <i>Estimated Aid and Cost Worksheet</i> to help you. financialaid.buffalostate.edu/costs</p>
May	<p>Pay Admissions Deposit and Housing Deposit if living on-campus. Submit all required forms (e.g., immunization records, final high school transcripts) admissions.buffalostate.edu/accepted</p>
Jun	<p>Accept financial aid in Banner and complete award-specific tasks, such as loan counseling and master promissory notes. Utilize the Banner Help guides at financialaid.buffalostate.edu/banner</p>
Jul to Aug	<p>Attend Orientation (Weeks of Welcome).</p> <p>Opt out of the college's health insurance if you have your own plan.</p> <p>Review the bill online in Banner and make arrangements to pay any portion not covered by financial aid (see page 3).</p> <p>Begin Class!</p>

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the expected family contribution (EFC)?

A. This is the number used to determine a student's eligibility for federal student aid and is derived from the FAFSA. All colleges must use the EFC to determine a student's eligibility for need-based financial aid awards.

Q. What is the Cost of Attendance?

A. The Cost of Attendance (COA) represents the total amount it will cost to attend school for one year. This is not what the student's bill will be. The COA includes indirect expenses for attending college, such as transportation to and from school and personal care products. A student will only be billed for tuition, fees, room and board (if living on-campus) and health insurance (if required). Students are encouraged to compare all costs associated with each school they are considering.

Q. I received a scholarship from my school. Do I notify the FAO?

A. Yes, you must notify the FAO of any scholarships you receive as they must be included in your aid package.

Q. What is the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized loans?

A. Subsidized loans are interest-free while the student is in school at least half-time (6 credits). Unsubsidized loans accrue interest as soon as they are dis-

bursed. Students may pay the interest while in school but they are not required to do so. Unpaid interest will be capitalized onto the loan when the student enters repayment. Repayment begins after graduation or when the student is no longer enrolled half-time.

Q. How do I pay for textbooks?

A. Students that have financial aid in excess of their charges may use the excess to purchase their books at the college bookstore. This is called a book deferment and should be requested two weeks before the start of the semester online in Banner or at the FAO. Students that do not have aid in excess of their charges need to purchase their books out-of-pocket.

Q. Why did I receive more aid than my expected charges?

A. Depending on the mix of a student's aid and charges, it is possible to have more financial aid than charges. Students can use the excess aid to help with their living expenses, books, and other educational-related costs.

Q. Why do I have to submit additional documents?

A. About one-third of students are required to go through a process called verification where tax and other documents must be collected. This process is required by the federal government and does not signify a problem.

Spotlight on Scholarships

Each year, Buffalo State students receive thousands of dollars in funding through outside agencies in addition to Buffalo State. Searching for scholarships takes time and persistence. Below are tips to help students begin the process.

- **Buffalo State Campus Scholarships.** Apply for these scholarships via AcademicWorks at financialaid.buffalostate.edu/academic-works. Be sure to also check with your academic department for additional scholarship options. **TIP** Check the website often as new scholarships are regularly posted: financialaid.buffalostate.edu/campus-scholarships
- **Your high school.** Check with your guidance counselor.
- **Employers.** Check with your employer and/or your parents' employers to see if they offer scholarships. You might consider a part-time job where you know scholarships are offered.
- **Scholarship Matching Databases.** These sites match national

scholarships to a student's profile. A few reputable databases include: ◇ Fastweb.com ◇ PrincetonReview.com

- **Community Foundations (CF).** These organizations exist to help give away money (e.g. scholarships) in local communities. A few of these organizations across NYS include:
 - ◇ Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, www.cfgb.org
 - ◇ Rochester Area Community Foundation, www.racf.org
 - ◇ Central New York Community Foundation, www.cnycf.org
 - ◇ CF for the Greater Capital Region, www.cfgr.org/
 - ◇ Brooklyn CF, www.brooklyncommunityfoundation.org
- **Say Yes to Education.** The Say Yes to Education Foundation has established chapters in Buffalo, Syracuse, and NYC Harlem which provide funding to students that graduate high school from the particular region's public and charter high schools. Learn more at: www.sayyestoeducation.org.