



Congrats on Your Decision!

You have just made one of the toughest decisions of your life. Choosing a college is never an easy task. In addition, award letters and funding options can quickly become stressful stuff. Give yourself credit. You made it through the admissions and financial aid processes and are now on your way to college in the fall!

I've submitted my tuition deposit, now what do I do?

Essentially, most of your work regarding the process is complete. There are a few things to keep in mind before you head off to school.

➔ **Summer Orientation:**

- Make plans to attend this important event.
- Freshman may be asked to choose their courses during this time.
- Inquire about potential federal work-study/part-time, on-campus positions.

➔ **Look for a mailing from the college detailing your housing location and roommate contact information for the fall.**

- Some colleges may require an additional housing deposit.
- Complete a health form or schedule a physical exam if required.

➔ **Do I need the college's health insurance plan?**

- If you are still covered under your parents' health plan, notify the school that you do not need this coverage. It may reduce your bill.

Center for College Planning at the NHHEAF Network Organizations

The Center for College Planning at the **NHHEAF Network Organizations** is dedicated to providing students and families with valuable information about the college planning process--from savings options and college admissions requirements, to applying for financial aid and scholarships. We serve all student populations: traditional, continuing education, graduate and adult learner. We offer college planning materials and coordinate speakers for schools, businesses and community organizations free of charge. We provide dynamic small group workshops in our Concord, New Hampshire office. We also provide a toll free college planning hotline and comprehensive Web site. Our goal is to promote higher education as the means to achieving personal, career and life goals.

The NHHEAF Network Organizations

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four independent nonprofit organizations dedicated to streamlining the student loan process:

New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) guarantees, originates and disburses your loan.

New Hampshire Higher Education Loan Corporation (NHHELCO) funds your loan.

Granite State Management & Resources (GSM&R) services your loan.

NHHEAF Network Educational Foundation (NNEF) administers charitable giving.



The NHHEAF Network Organizations
Center for College Planning
1.888.7.GRADUATE x119
collegeplanning@nhheaf.org



This product has been granted the Seal of Approval from the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

➔ **Will the college send me any other loan information?**

- The college will provide Stafford and Perkins Loan information to you if you have accepted them on your Award Letter.

➔ **How do I choose a lender for my federal Stafford and PLUS Loans?**

- There are two different types of federal loans: Direct Loans and FFELP (Family Federal Education Loan Program) loans. Direct Loans are funded directly through the Department of Education whereas FFELP loans, though still federally backed, are funded through approved financial institutions such as, banks, consumer finance companies and credit unions. Your school will determine whether you take out a FFELP or Direct loan. If the school participates in the Direct Loan program, you will need to approach the school to start the loan process. If the school participates in the FFELP loan program, you will have the option of choosing your own lender. When choosing, remember that federal interest rates will be consistent from lender to lender, but fees and borrower benefits may vary. Borrower benefits are designed to help reduce the cost of repaying the loan. Benefits range from the payment of origination and/or guarantee fees to interest rate or principal balance reductions for on-time payments or automatic payments. Customer service is also an important factor in choosing a lender. The repayment period can range from 10-25 years. You may have a long-term relationship with the lender you choose, so make sure they will work with you effectively when it comes time to repay your loan.

➔ **Even with my Award Package, there is still a gap to be filled for books, supplies and living expenses. What do I do?**

- If you find yourself with a funding gap, you have several options:
 - 1) Tuition Payment Plan- This plan provides families with the ability to make monthly payments directly to the college, interest-free. This option is helpful to students and families who are able to manage additional monthly costs and would like to spread these costs throughout the year.
 - 2) Federal Parent Plus Loan-This loan is in the parent's name for the benefit of the student. A parent can apply for the amount needed to cover the gap between the cost of attendance and any financial aid awarded. Parents now have the option of deferring payment on PLUS loans until 6 months after the student ceases to be enrolled in school at least half-time.
 - 3) Private or Alternative Loans- Private banks and companies offer these loans to student. Because this loan is made in the student's name it usually offers the benefit of deferred payment while the student is in school. Parents and students should know that because of current economic conditions private loans might be more difficult to find and may have stricter underwriting guidelines. Consider visiting www.simpletuition.com or asking your Financial Aid Office to identify private loan options. When evaluating these loans, here are some features to consider:
 - Fees
 - Repayment Options (When does repayment begin? Does interest accrue while the student is in-school or are they required to pay it?)
 - Interest Rate (Fixed or Variable? Which financial index is it tied to - LIBOR, Prime?)
 - Annual Limits (How do they determine the amount you can borrow?)
 - Co-Borrower (Is a Co-Borrower required? Do they evaluate the Co-Borrower based on debt-to-income ratio or credit history?)



➔ ***I expect to receive a few outside scholarships or grants. Will this reduce my overall bill from the college?***

- Colleges handle outside scholarships differently. Your school's financial aid office will be able to answer this most accurately. The question to ask is: "What is your policy on the treatment of outside scholarships?" But typically outside scholarships are sent directly to the college and in most instances reduce your overall bill.

➔ ***Should I work this summer?***

- The more you can save this summer, the more it will help with the miscellaneous expenses such as books, phone and cable setup charges, and spending money. The more you save now, the less you borrow later.

News Around the Nation

New Study Challenges Facebook Claim

Last month, a doctoral student's unpublished study linking extensive Facebook use to lower grades received major attention. A **new study**, published in the journal *First Monday*, refutes the claim. The current study finds no connection between grade point average and use of the social networking tool. The study was conducted by Eszter Hargittai, associate professor of communication studies at Northwestern University; Josh Pasek, a doctoral student at Stanford University; and Eian More of the University of Pennsylvania's Adolescent Risk Communication Institute. According to Hargittai, "We found no evidence of Facebook use correlating with lower academic achievement." (Inside Higher ED)

Did you Know?

Campus Highlight

PSU'S Green Light

Plymouth State University's newest building, Langdon Woods, is the state's first building, and one of the nation's largest residence halls, to earn gold-level certification by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership-Energy-Environmental Design (LEED) program. At a May 15 press conference, PSU President Sara Jayne Steen announced the Langdon Woods LEED gold certification was the capstone of the University's comprehensive environmental sustainability program. PSU is helping to lead the way to greener campuses across the country.

Joe College Blog

Don't forget to stop by Ask Joe College and see what Rich and Lauryn-the-intern are blogging about. This month, Rich offers an unusual alternative to buying expensive college textbooks. Curious? Check it out at joecollegeblog.com.



Coming Soon: Friend NHHEAF on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and check out our podcasts on Ask Joe College at joecollegeblog.com!



Upcoming:

June – Money management and budgeting techniques for college students

Your next CCP E-News will be sent in June. We will discuss ways students can better manage and budget their money while in college. We will talk about credit card use and ways to plan for miscellaneous expenses when you arrive on campus.

The NHHEAF Network Organizations are comprised of four 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that provide students and families with the resources and funding to pursue higher education aspirations. Funds generated by the Organizations make their charitable mission possible as student loan earnings are reinvested in programs and services that benefit citizens of New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.nhheaf.org.