


FINANCIAL

Your financial aid and scholarship planning guide

connects





The financial aid process doesn't have to be difficult, complicated, scary, or stressful. The Saint Leo University Student Financial Services Office is here to help you plan for and navigate through the financial aid application process. Your college education is the best investment you will ever make, and if SLU is where you want to be, we want you to be here, too.

Financial Aid – It's worth your time

You've pored through the materials sent by the various colleges you're considering, visited websites and campuses, applied and been admitted. You can picture yourself in classes, walking the campus, having fun with new friends you'll meet from around the world. You've narrowed your college choices by considering academic programs, size, location, co-curricular opportunities, and where you feel like you belong. Now it's time to figure out the bottom line: how you're going to pay for four of the most special years of your life.

The financial aid process doesn't have to be difficult, complicated, scary, or stressful. This guidebook is designed to assist you as you plan for and navigate through the financial aid application process. Above all, please know that the Saint Leo Student Financial Services Office is here to help you. We want you to ask questions and seek our advice, and we want you to feel like you're getting the answers you need. After all, your college education is the best investment you will ever make, and if Saint Leo is where you want to be, we want you to be here, too.

Contact Us

By mail:

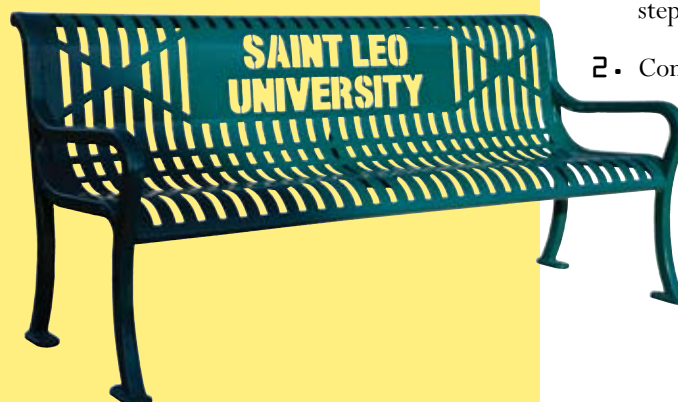
Saint Leo University
Student Financial Services Office
MC2228, P.O. Box 6665
Saint Leo, FL 33574-6665

By phone:

Local: (352) 588-7403
Toll-free: (800) 240-7658

Fax: (866) 708-7770

By e-mail: finaid@saintleo.edu



How Financial Aid is Awarded

Each college or university will determine its own policies for packaging (putting together an award from various sources) and awarding financial aid, based upon federal, state and institutional guidelines.

Merit awards are packaged with need-based financial aid, work-study and loans on your award letter, if you are eligible to receive these funds. Merit-based scholarships and grants are usually awarded for recognition of academic achievement or specific talents, without regard to your financial need. In some cases, a merit award may reduce need-based aid rather than be added to your package. Unless otherwise noted, most merit and non-need-based scholarships at SLU are awarded for a maximum of four full years of study for entering freshmen, based on certain restrictions.

Before an award program can be packaged for you, you must:

1. Be admitted as a degree-seeking student, who will be enrolled at least half-time so be sure to complete all of the necessary steps for admission to Saint Leo; and
2. Comply with the requests for additional documentation by the Student Financial Services Office, if applicable.

Saint Leo FAQs:

Q: Does my family have to apply for financial aid?

A: Yes. If you would like to be considered for federal aid, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). In addition, many other scholarships and grants are based upon the results from the FAFSA. About 97% of University College students receive some form of financial aid. **Remember, in order to send your FAFSA results to Saint Leo University, you must include the SLU federal school code which is 001526.**

Q: Why should I apply for financial aid?

A: There are many scholarships and grants that are contingent upon knowing your family's Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and need – terms we'll define later for you in this brochure – and you can't receive state aid, federal aid, loans or work-study unless you apply for financial aid on the appropriate forms. In short, applying for financial aid ensures that your family has explored every avenue of keeping your out-of-pocket costs for college fair and as minimal as they can be.

Q: When do I need to re-apply for financial aid?

A: The application is available online each year on January 1st. To apply online, go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. There is no fee to complete this application, so be sure that you are using the correct website. Apply as early as possible – some grant funds are limited and are exhausted early in the year.

Q: Will my financial aid be the same at every school to which I'm applying?

A: No. You will see in this brochure what the application process determines, and how that information helps colleges arrive at their best financial aid offers.

Q: What information will I need to know so that I can complete the FAFSA?

A: Estimated Family Contributions are determined by a family's income and assets as indicated on the tax returns for the year prior to the student's term of enrollment. For example, your financial aid for the fall of 2012 will be based on your 2011 tax information. **We strongly recommend that you take advantage of the option provided on the FAFSA application to estimate your tax information in order to be among the earliest filers.** You will have the opportunity to make adjustments to your tax figures later in the process. Talk to a Saint Leo University financial aid representative if you have any questions about estimating.

Saint Leo Tuition and Fees for 2011-12*

UNDERGRADUATE EXPENSES

Full-time on university campus.

	Per Semester	Per Year
Tuition	\$9,100	\$18,200

TUITION RATES

Credits	Charge
12-18	\$9,100
1-11	\$480 per credit hour
19 & Above	\$250 per credit hour

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS ROOM AND BOARD

Students in Alumni, Roderick, Henderson, Benoit, Marmion, and Snyder housing are required to participate in the unlimited meal plan at \$2,200 per semester. Students in other housing may elect other meal plan options.

	Per Semester
Room	\$1,730 - \$4,230
Board	\$740 - \$2,200

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS FEES

	Per Semester	Per Year
Student Health Plan**	–	\$675**
Student Activity Fee	\$185	\$370
Orientation Fee***	–	\$300
Tuition Deposit (non-refundable)	–	\$500

* Tuition increases annually

** May be waived with appropriate proof of family or individual insurance

*** Applied to full charges in your first semester of attendance only



What You Should Know About Financial Aid

There are a number of caveats to financial aid awards of which you should be aware. Here are a few:

- The renewal of most merit-based scholarships is based upon fulfillment of determined criteria, such as maintaining a certain grade point average, completing required credit hours, participating in an activity or sport, or living in a certain area. Some awards may not be renewable – check the award criteria to be sure.
- Financial aid and scholarship awards are often contingent upon maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward your degree. Each college's catalog will include information about how that institution defines satisfactory academic progress.
- There are federal, state, and university regulations that must be met in order to receive and continue receiving financial aid. Entrance and exit interviews and completion of the Master Promissory Note are required for the purpose of explaining these regulations on federal loans.
- Your financial aid package will be based upon full-time enrollment. If you enroll for fewer than 12 credit hours in any given semester, you may not be eligible to receive some or all of the financial aid in your package. In some cases, enrolling for the minimum full-time hours will not be enough to maintain a satisfactory Standard of Academic Progress. Please visit www.saintleo.edu/finaid for detailed information on the Standards of Academic Progress (SAP) policy.
- Each year, approximately one in three students' Student Aid Reports is randomly selected for verification, which means that the information you have submitted on your FAFSA must be verified by the Student Financial Services Office. You will be asked to submit signed copies of your income tax and other similar information in order to comply with this regulation. Being selected does not mean that the federal government questions your information – it is simply a system of checks and balances that the government uses to be sure each applicant is being truthful.
- Student athletes participating in intercollegiate sports are governed by NCAA By-laws based on division. Saint Leo University is a Division II institution.



How to Apply for Financial Aid

To begin the financial aid process at Saint Leo, you will file the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. This form is filed electronically and can be done right from your home; the Web address is www.fafsa.ed.gov. Be sure you complete the form for the correct academic year. **The Saint Leo federal school code is 001526.**

Questions on the FAFSA will determine whether you are considered to be a **dependent or independent student**. In general, if you are under 24 years of age, you are a dependent student. Independent students are 24 years of age or older, active duty military or veterans, married, or graduate students.

You should complete the FAFSA in the months of January, February, or March or as soon as possible thereafter. Many aid programs are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

How Your Need-Based Aid Eligibility is Determined

Your eligibility to receive need-based aid is determined by the following process:

- ① From the information you provide on the FAFSA, the federal processing center will calculate a figure known as the **Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)**, which is the amount your family is expected to contribute toward the cost of your education. The EFC is constant, no matter which college you choose. Your EFC will be sent automatically to the colleges whose codes you included on your FAFSA on a form known as the **Student Aid Report (SAR)**.
- ② When the colleges receive your SAR, your **need** will be calculated by subtracting your EFC from the **Cost of Attendance**, or budget, at each institution. The Cost of Attendance includes tuition, fees, room, board, books, transportation, and other required costs. Because the Cost of Attendance at each institution varies widely, your need and your financial aid award can vary widely as well. In short, you should never determine (at face value) that you cannot afford to attend a particular institution. Wait until you know the results of the financial aid application and award processes.
- ③ After your need is calculated, each college will send you a financial aid award letter, or "**package**." You'll be able to accept or reject different components in the package, or the award letter as a whole.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS



Types and Sources of Financial Assistance

There are many options to help you and your family afford the college you want to attend. Some awards are **need-based**, meaning your eligibility to receive them is based on your family's income, assets, and the resulting need at the colleges to which you have applied, as described below. Need-based awards can include **grants, loans, or work-study**. **When the Saint Leo Student Financial Services Office “packages” your financial aid, we will consider all of the aid types and sources for which you qualify and/or for which you have applied.** There are three types of financial assistance:

① GIFT AID

Scholarships and grants that have no repayment or work obligation. This includes institutional grants, as well as Federal grants such as the Pell and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity (FSEOG) Grants. It also includes Florida state grants, such as the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG), the Florida Student Access Grant (FSAG), and the Bright Futures grants. **Merit-based** awards, which are given on the basis of your merit or accomplishment or personal circumstances that fit an award's criteria, are generally awarded in the form of **scholarships**.

② LOANS

Repayment is required, but terms vary based on the type of loan.

③ WORK-STUDY

Awards that have a work obligation, allowing students to earn money to help pay for college expenses. For more information about work-study, visit www.saintleo.edu/finaid.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid programs (scholarships and grants) do not require repayment or a work obligation.

SAINT LEO SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Saint Leo University Merit Scholarship

If you are an incoming freshman or transfer student, and are enrolled as a full time undergraduate at the University Campus, you are considered for a Saint Leo University Merit Scholarship, which is based on your academic history and accomplishments. Financial need is not a factor.

The Office of Admission evaluates eligibility and awards funds based on academic achievement. Award amounts vary, but do not exceed the cost of tuition. You may renew the award by maintaining at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA and earning 24 credit hours at Saint Leo during the academic year.

Saint Leo University Grants

As a full time undergraduate student at the University Campus, you are considered for Saint Leo University Grant funds. These awards are made on the basis of financial need and fund availability.

FEDERAL GRANTS

Federal Pell Grant

Another possible aid option for you is the Federal Pell Grant. The Federal Pell Grant is an entitlement program for undergraduate students who have not received a bachelor's degree and who are enrolled in an undergraduate degree or certificate program. The federal government determines eligibility at the same time your EFC is calculated based upon the information you provide on the FAFSA. Awards may range from \$1,176 to \$5,550.

Federal SEOG (SEOG)

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) is awarded by Saint Leo University to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need, who are enrolled as undergraduates, and who have not earned bachelor's degrees. Funds are very limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to students who are eligible to receive a Pell Grant. SEOG annual award amounts may range from \$500 to \$1,000.

STATE OF FLORIDA SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program*

Florida Bright Futures is an umbrella program that is comprised of three merit-based scholarships that are funded by the State of Florida. The three scholarships are:

- Florida Academic Scholars Award is \$101 per credit hour.
- Florida Medallion Scholars Award is \$76 per credit hour.
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award is valued at up to \$76 per credit hour.

* *The amount of each of these awards may change each year. Please visit www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org for updates and eligibility requirements.*

A student may only receive one of the three scholarships and must apply while still a high school senior. Please see your high school guidance counselor for application information. **To be eligible for an award under the Bright Futures Program you must:**

- Be a Florida resident
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Earn a standard Florida high school diploma or complete a state-approved home education program
- Be accepted by and enrolled in an eligible Florida public or private university
- Be enrolled for at least 6 hours per semester (part-time)
- Not have been found guilty of or pled nolo contendere to a felony charge
- Apply during your last semester before high school graduation

To apply for these awards go to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org, click: **state grants, scholarships and applications**, click: **apply here**, click: **Initial Student Application**. The Bright Futures Hotline is 1-888-827-2004.

Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG)*

The State of Florida provides assistance to Florida residents who are undergraduate students and who attend private colleges within the state of Florida. The Florida Resident Access Grant award for the 2011-2012 academic year is \$2,149. Although it is not based on financial need, the FAFSA application is required to be considered for the FRAG.

Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG)*

Saint Leo University awards the Florida Student Assistance Grant to undergraduate full-time students based on fund availability and financial need. Funds are limited, so act quickly. You may receive an award up to \$1,808 per academic year. Application is made through the FAFSA.

**The FRAG and FSAG renewal eligibility consists of completing 24 new credit hours and maintaining a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.*

STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

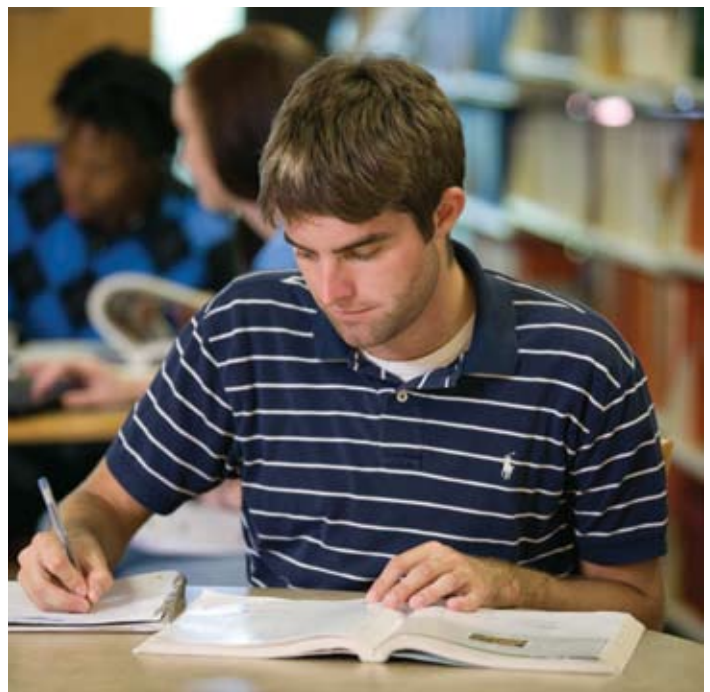
Some state scholarship agencies allow out-of-state students to use state scholarship funds while attending Saint Leo University. Residents of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont should contact the state scholarship office for the appropriate application. Check with your state to see if you are eligible for state aid.

OTHER GIFT AID SOURCES

You may have been contacted by individuals or firms who claim to be able to find scholarships for you – for a modest fee. We do not recommend that anyone pay for a service of this type. Here are a few free internet scholarship search engines we recommend for finding additional sources for scholarship dollars.

- www.collegeboard.org
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarshipexperts.com
- www.wiredscholar.com

For more information about sources of financial aid, visit Student Financial Services on campus or go online to www.saintleo.edu/finaid.



Loans

FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM

Dependent students are eligible for the amounts of loans as follow:

Freshmen	\$5,500
Sophomores	\$6,500
Juniors/Seniors	\$7,500

The federal government also regulates the aggregate, or total, amount of loan funds allowed. Dependent undergraduate students may borrow up to \$31,000 in combined subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford Loans.

FEDERAL STAFFORD LOAN PROGRAM

The Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan Program

The Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan Program is a cooperative effort between the federal government and schools that provides you with low interest, long-term loans to help you meet your educational costs. Saint Leo University determines the maximum amount of your loan eligibility, which is based on your financial need and class standing. Students who choose to accept a subsidized Stafford Loan must complete a promissory note before the funds can be disbursed.

The federal government pays the interest rate, which currently is a fixed rate of 3.4%, when you are enrolled in an approved program and during eligible deferment periods. There is no penalty for prepayment.

The Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program

The Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program is a companion to the Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan Program. The interest rate is 6.8%. Eligibility for the Unsubsidized Stafford Loan is not

based on financial need. Since this is not a need-based loan, interest begins immediately on the loan amount borrowed.

You can elect to either pay the interest while attending school or to capitalize the interest while attending school. When interest is capitalized, the accrued interest is added to the principal outstanding.

For both the Subsidized Stafford Loan and Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, at the time of loan disbursement, an origination fee of up to 3%, as well as an insurance fee of up to 1%, is deducted from the loan proceeds. For more information go to www.studentloans.gov. At any time, you may view your consolidated loan information on the National Student Loan Database system available online at www.nsls.ed.gov.

Federal Stafford Loan Limits: The annual amount you can borrow from the Federal Stafford Loan Program is determined on the basis of your dependency status and class standing.

FEDERAL PLUS LOAN PROGRAM

If you are a dependent student and the financial aid awarded to you is not sufficient to meet your educational costs, your parent may apply for the Federal PLUS Loan Program. Parents may borrow up to the cost of education less any anticipated financial aid. The interest rate on this loan is 7.9%. Eligibility for this loan is not based on financial need. Unless your parent qualifies for a deferment, repayment begins after the 2nd disbursement of the loan.

Work-Study

FEDERAL COLLEGE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

The Federal College Work-Study Program is awarded to students who have exceptional financial need and is based on fund availability. Work-study eligible students may apply for approved work-study positions. Upon hiring, students are then paid for the hours they work. For more information, visit www.saintleo.edu/finaid.



When You Receive Your Financial Aid Package

When you receive your award letter from Saint Leo Student Financial Services, it will list the various forms of aid for which you qualify, like this:

SAMPLE AWARD LETTER*

Scholarship.	\$5,000
Federal Grant.	\$2,000
Federal Grant.	\$1,000
State Grant.	\$4,300
Travel Grant	\$2,000
Student Loan.	\$5,500
Work-study	\$3,500
Total Package.	\$23,300

**Note that all of the above are based upon your eligibility with regard to need or scholarship award criteria.*

Analyze your award letter carefully. To determine what your out-of-pocket cost will be each year, subtract your financial aid award for the year from the cost of attendance. The Federal Work Study award amount represents potential student employment earnings and are not counted towards reducing tuition. If your college decision depends upon the most affordable option, remember that tuition, fees, financial aid packages, and resulting expenses will vary widely from school to school. Costs are easy to compare, but the experience you will gain at Saint Leo is unlike any other college. Your Admission Counselor or the Student Financial Services Office will consider your award with you and will explain every aspect, step by step, to be sure you understand.

PARENT PLUS LOANS, PRIVATE LOANS, AND ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT PLANS

Students and parents may be eligible to supplement their financial aid package with either a parent loan or an alternative loan. In addition, payment options are available. Contact the Student Financial Services Office to learn more at:

Phone: (352) 588-7403 or (800) 240-7658

Fax: (866) 708-7770

Email: finaid@saintleo.edu

Your Financial Aid Planner

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

- Research financial aid and scholarship resources
- Attend any financial aid workshops offered in your area
- Ask for information about other forms of financial aid
- Complete the process of applying for admission

JANUARY-MARCH

- Complete and file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Saint Leo University's federal school code for the FAFSA is **001526**
- Receive your letter of admission and financial aid Student Aid Report (SAR)

MARCH-APRIL

- Review your financial aid information and contact the Student Financial Services Office with any questions
- You will need to accept and/or decline your award letter online at <https://elion.saintleo.edu>
- Contact the Office of Admission to make your tuition deposit to secure your place in classes and to secure your financial aid package

MAY-JUNE

- If you are applying for a loan, review loan options and instructions on our website at www.saintleo.edu.
- Contact the Student Financial Services office to review your financial aid and expenses. Other financial aid and payment plans are available.

JULY-AUGUST

- Make sure all school fees and expenses are paid and/or a tuition payment plan agreement has been filed prior to the first day of classes

For more information on types and sources of financial aid assistance, determining need and how aid is awarded, download our helpful guide at: www.saintleo.edu/finaid/guide

Find answers to frequently asked questions at: www.saintleo.edu/finaid

In the end, only you and your family can decide the best educational experience for you. As much as cost may be a factor in your decision, it shouldn't determine your future. This book has been planned to answer your questions and to guide you through the financial aid process so that you and your family can explore every financial option. We know the experience you'll have here is priceless, and we want you to be a part of Saint Leo University.

SLU Financial Aid Checklist

HELPFUL HINTS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

- **Do your taxes early** – prior to receiving your W2 forms – in order to have the information necessary to complete the financial aid process. We strongly recommend that you estimate your tax information in order to file early. If necessary, you can correct the figures later in the filing process.
- **Keep a calendar** with dates and deadlines on which you note deadlines for submitting scholarship, grant, and financial aid applications for the schools you are considering.
- **Keep a file on each school** to which you have applied, and keep in that file the information and correspondence you receive from the school, as well as copies of all correspondence and forms you send to the school, noting the dates the correspondence was sent.
- **Be consistent** with information you provide and use the same information when filling out different documents – discrepancies will raise questions and slow the process.
- **Always call to follow-up** and make sure applications and supporting documents are received.
- **Don't wait until the last minute** – apply early! Many scholarships and grants have a February 1st priority deadline. Estimate your taxes and file your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st. (Saint Leo University's institutional number for the FAFSA is 001526).
- **Apply online** if possible at: www.fafsa.ed.gov



Contact Us

By mail:

Saint Leo University
Student Financial Services Office
MC2228, P.O. Box 6665
Saint Leo, FL 33574-6665

By phone:

Local: (352) 588-7403
Toll-free: (800) 240-7658

Fax: (866) 708-7770

By e-mail: finaid@saintleo.edu

We're Here to Help

Whenever we can be helpful to you, the Saint Leo University Student Financial Services Office is available. Please contact us.

For more information on types and sources of financial aid assistance, determining need and how aid is awarded, download our helpful guide at: www.saintleo.edu/finaid/guide

Find answers to frequently asked questions at: www.saintleo.edu/finaid

Saint Leo University is committed to policies which assure that there shall be no discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, color, creed, religion, national origin or disability.

The information contained in this booklet is current at the time of publication but is subject to change without notice.