Financial Aid Checklist

- File 2015-16 FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov
- Review Student Aid Report
- Submit all requested documentation. Verification documents must be received by August 1.
- Apply for scholarships at: (www.thewashboard.org)
- Complete the 2015-16 Payment Contract on Banner Web.
- Accept your award on-line on Banner Web after April 24. Take note of any Active Messages or Unsatisfied Requirements.
- Update your FAFSA with actual tax return information.
- All NEW Direct Loan Borrowers, sign Master Promissory Note and complete Entrance Counseling. (Go to www.studentloans.gov)
- If borrowing the Parent PLUS Loan, apply at www.studentloans.gov. Parents must login with their own SSN and PIN.
- If awarded and accepting the Federal Perkins or Nursing loans, complete Perkins and/or Nursing Loan requirements.
- If you are a first time State Need Grant recipient, complete the Student Directive for State Aid Form.
- Search for jobs: www.plu.edu/studentemployment.
- Check your PLU e-mail for correspondence from PLU.
- Check our Facebook for updates, late breaking news, or important dates.

2015-16 FAFSA DEADLINE IS MARCH 13

The FAFSA filing deadline to receive priority funding for continuing PLU students will be Friday, March 13, 2015. Do NOT wait until you file your taxes to do your FAFSA – use estimated information and use the “will file” tax filing status on your FAFSA to get it filed on time. Update your FAFSA with the actual income tax information once the tax returns have been filed. When submitting your FAFSA on-line and using PINs to sign, it will take approximately 3 – 5 days to get your FAFSA to PLU. We recommend February 15 as your target date in case there are any unforeseen processing delays.

FAFSA PINS TO BE REPLACED APRIL, 2015

Beginning April, 2015, the U.S. Department of Education will discontinue the use of the PIN (Personal Identification Number) currently required when signing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The first time you attempt to login after the April conversion date with your PIN, you will be asked to create a user ID and password. The PIN will be deactivated thereafter.

The PIN also gives you access to the application process on www.studentloans.gov website, where first time borrowers of the Federal Direct Loans sign their promissory note with their PIN. After the April launch of this new login protocol, applying for the Direct loans (Parent or Grad PLUS, and Subsidized or Unsubsidized Direct) will require you to use the user ID and password process.

Lastly, your PIN also gives you access to your federal student loan portfolio at www.nslds.ed.gov. This site, along with the FAFSA.gov and studentloans.gov websites will require your new user ID and password in order to login.

The U.S. Department of Education is expecting to notify all applicants who have accessed these sites in the last academic year of this change prior to the launch of the user ID and password change.

Updated information about this pending change will be posted on our facebook page as information is received.

LOOKING FOR WORK?

2014 -15 State Work Study funds are still available. If you are a WA resident with CWSP or SWSP eligibility, off-campus state work study employers are still looking for part time help. Click on the “Career Connections” logo on the Student Employment Center website for a listing of available positions.

If you are already working off-campus with an employer whose work is not religious or political in nature, check out if your employer qualifies for a partial reimbursement of your wages with SWS funds at www.wsac.wa.gov.

Positions with a state work study employer can be a great opportunity in your career or academic interest area. Positions are available in private business, local & state government, and non-profits. For assistance, contact the Student Employment Center at stuemp@plu.edu or 253-535-7459.

Inside Stories

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- Financial Aid Updates pg 3
- More Scholarships pg 3
- Financial “Holds” pg 3
- Contact Information pg 4

Stay informed with the FAO Facebook!
**FAFSA FILING TIPS**

1. **Print a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet.** Use this form to get all of the necessary information together so time spent on the computer is minimized.

2. **Submit your FAFSA on-line at** [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) **as soon as possible.** When you submit your FAFSA on-line and use PINs to sign it, your application will be processed within 72 hours.

3. Once you have provided your name, date of birth and Social Security Number, the Department of Education will check its records and if you completed the 2014-15 FAFSA you will be given the option to complete the FAFSA Renewal application which will include your 2014-15 FAFSA demographic information.

4. **List PLU’s School Code (003785) on your FASFA.** It will not be pre-filled on your FAFSA Renewal application.

5. If you save a partially completed FAFSA, you have 45 days to return to the website and complete it. If you do not return to the FAFSA website within a week of saving the application, the Department of Education will send you an e-mail or paper reminder that your FAFSA has not been submitted. In order to gain access to your partially saved application, you will need to input the password you created when you initially began the application. If you forget the password you created, you can now reset it on-line.

6. **Use the IRS data retrieval tool** to ensure the accuracy of your income tax information on your FAFSA if your taxes have already been completed. You can use this function, beginning February 3, 2015.

7. If you or your parent need a PIN or don’t remember your PIN, you can go to the [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) website and apply for or request a duplicate PIN, and then return immediately to the FAFSA website and use your PIN to sign your application. NOTE: PIN process will terminate in April, 2015. See related article on front page for more information.

8. **Print your Student Aid Report.** Once your FAFSA is processed, you will receive an e-mail with a link to your Student Aid Report. If you do not provide an e-mail address or the e-mail is undeliverable, a paper Student Aid Report will be mailed to you. If you do not receive your Student Aid Report, your FAFSA has not been processed.

9. **Update your FAFSA on-line at** [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) **after you and your parents have filed your taxes.** You will receive e-mails from the Department of Education and from PLU’s Financial Aid Office reminding you to update your FAFSA after April 15.

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**FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN TO END AFTER 2015-2016**

As of this writing, the Federal Perkins Loan program is scheduled to end after loans are disbursed spring semester, 2016. The Federal program was terminated by the federal government as part of its budget reconciliation process. Students awarded a Federal Perkins Loan for 2015-16 must complete all necessary paperwork to have the loan disburse by October 1, 2015. If a loan is not disbursed by this date (the end of the federal fiscal year), it will no longer be funded and will be canceled.

Because of this, students awarded a Federal Perkins Loan who do not wish to borrow the loan should decline it immediately so it can be re-awarded to another otherwise eligible student and disbursed prior to the termination of its funding on October 1.

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**ATTENTION SENIORS:**

Will you have 128 cumulative credits soon? You may need to change your graduation plans!

Students receiving federal and state of Washington grant funding who have completed the requisite credits to graduate from PLU will lose eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, the Washington State Need Grant, & College Bound Scholarship—even if you do not apply for graduation or wish to attend another semester to complete additional credits for a second major or minor. Grant funding is made available only for completion of a first bachelor’s degree and that limitation does not fund a second major and minors if coursework for your first major has been satisfied.

Please plan your course schedule accordingly if your academic plans are contingent upon sufficient financial aid funding that could be affected by this regulation.

Students have had their government grants terminated this year for not being aware of this regulation and planning accordingly.
FINANCIAL AID UPDATES

Undergraduate Federal Direct Loan Changes

July 1, 2015: Interest rates on the Federal Direct Loan programs will see its 2015-16 interest rate adjusted based on the 10 year Treasury Bill rate, plus 2.5%. Last year, this resulted in an interest rate increase from 3.86% to 4.66%. When the rate has been established by the U.S. Department of Education, we will post the new rate on our website and on our facebook page.

Oct 1, 2015: Unless Congress acts to discontinue sequestration, the origination fee on the Federal Direct Loan programs will see a slight increase on all loans originated after Sept 30, 2015. Last year the fee went up from 1.072% to 1.073%. Unlike the interest rate change, a similar increase in your origination fee will only equate to a few more pennies taken from your loan before disbursement. On the other hand, if Congress actually passes a federal budget, they could pass legislation that sets a permanent origination fee that could be higher than its current rate or the rate established by sequestration.

Check the PLU Financial Aid homepage or facebook to keep abreast of any changes that may affect funding, availability or your eligibility for financial aid.

Are you on a Financial “HOLD”?

If your student account with the university is past due, it will be placed on a "financial hold" by the university’s Business Office. Basic university privileges will be denied until the account is settled, including the right to register, receive copies of official and unofficial transcripts, cash checks, or receive your diploma. Financial Hold may be placed on your account because:

- Your offer of Financial Aid has not been accepted (and therefore, aid cannot disburse)
- Tuition Management Systems Payment Plan Delinquent (no payment or late payments, etc.)
- Student Account Delinquent (no payment, late payments, etc.)
- Loans have not disbursed because Master Promissory Note or entrance counseling has not be satisfied.
- Need-based aid has not disbursed because verification has not yet been completed.
- Private loan funds not received because loan application is incomplete or not returned to lender.
- Financial aid based on full time enrollment and you are under-enrolled.

If you have a financial hold on your account, contact the Student Services Center to find out how you can satisfy the requirements necessary to remove the hold.

2015-16 Scholarship Opportunities with a Record of Success at PLU

Washington residents enrolled in a “STEMS” major (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, health professions) should check into a potential $2,500 to $7,500 per year WA State Opportunity Scholarship. Information and the on-line application can be found at www.waopportunityscholarship.org. Application requires filing a FAFSA and the scholarship application deadline is Feb 24, 2015. Almost 150 PLU students received this scholarship this year, so this is definitely worth the effort to apply.

Each year the Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW) offers scholarships to students attending an ICW member school. Represent PLU as you compete against students from other independent colleges in the state of Washington! To see if you fit the criteria for one of their eight scholarships, go to: http://www.icwashington.org/scholarships/details.html. If you meet eligibility criteria, download and submit an application before the March 16 deadline.

Full Time Summer Employment Available

Looking for full time summer employment? The State Work Study program provides an opportunity to work a maximum of 40 hours a week if you are returning to PLU for the 2015 -16 academic year. To be eligible, you must be a WA resident and demonstrate financial need by filing a 2015 -16 FAFSA. Contact Student Employment or the Financial Aid Office for information or assistance.
USEFUL WEBSITES

Financial Aid: www.plu.edu/financial-aid/
Student Employment: www.plu.edu/studentemployment/
Student Services: http://www.plu.edu/student-services/
FAFSA on the Web: www.fafsa.gov/
Federal PIN Website: www.pin.ed.gov/
Banner Web: https://banweb.plu.edu/
Washington Student Achievement Council: www.wsac.wa.gov/
U.S. Department of Education: www.studentaid.gov/
Outside Scholarships Search: www.thewashboard.org/
Independent Colleges of Washington: www.icw.org
National Student Loan Data System: www.nslds.ed.gov/
Perkins & Nursing Loan Entrance Counseling: https://ipromise.campuspartners.com/
Perkins & Nursing Loan Exit Counseling: www.mycampusloan.com/
Federal Stafford/Direct Loan: www.studentloans.gov/

CONTACT INFORMATION

FINANCIAL AID
Monday - Friday 9AM to 5PM  Hauge 130
Phone Numbers (800) 678-3243
(253) 535-7134
FAX Number (253) 535-8406
E-mail finaid@plu.edu

STUDENT SERVICES
Monday - Friday 9AM to 5PM  Hauge 102
Phone Numbers (800) 678-3243
(253) 535-7161
FAX Number (253) 538-2545
E-mail ssvc@plu.edu

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
Monday - Friday 9AM to 5PM  Ramstad 112
Phone Number (253) 535-7459
E-mail stuemp@plu.edu

“Apply for scholarships available only to students attending Washington schools on the E-Harmony of Scholarship Search engines – www.thewashboard.org”