



# THE LEDGER

A Communique from Student Financial Services

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## Required Annual Notifications

The Higher Education Opportunity Act requires that all enrolled students receive specific consumer information from the university on an annual basis. Below is the list of reports necessary to satisfy this requirement. Some reports were already emailed to students previously or will be coming to you directly from the responsible university office. All reports (or links) can be found on the PLU Financial Aid website under the "Consumer Info" tab, or by clicking on the report name below. Upon request, you may receive a paper copy of any report.

- \* [Available Financial Aid](#)
- \* [Equity in Athletics](#)
- \* [Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program](#)
- \* [FERPA](#)
- \* [Fire Safety Report](#)
- \* [Security Report](#)
- \* [Crime Statistics/Log](#)
- \* [Timely Warnings](#)
- \* [Emergency Notifications](#)
- \* [Emergency Response & Evacuation Procedures](#)
- \* [Missing Persons Notification Policy](#)
- \* [Retention Rate](#)
- \* [Graduation Rate](#)
- \* [Placement Rate](#)

## 2018-19 FAFSA Now Available

It is time to submit your FAFSA for the 2018-19 year. The FAFSA priority filing date for continuing students is December 1, 2017.

The income tax information to be submitted on this year's FAFSA will be from the 2016 calendar year. Unless you filed an amended tax return or as "married, filing separately", you should be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA website. You are

strongly encouraged to utilize the DRT to ensure the accuracy of your information and reduce the likelihood of being selected for the verification process, which will add more paperwork to your application process. 2018-19 Financial aid awards are expected to be released in mid February after Jterm grades have been posted.



## Financial Aid Office and Student Services Center Consolidated into the Office of Student Financial Services

If you've not had any reason to be in contact with the Student Services Center or Financial Aid since July, you may not know that these two offices have been consolidated into the Office of Student Financial Services. The financial aid staff has moved across the hall to room 102, while the Registrar's Office has moved into room 130. Office hours are 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, with appointments available Tuesday through Thursday.

Other than actually collecting or receiving payments (which is done on-line or in the Business Office), the Student Financial Services will provide all the tools and services associated with helping students and families to secure and process financial aid, assist in finding alternative options to pay on their PLU bill, and provide financial education to help equip students with resources to take charge of their personal finances.

All the student records and academic services and transactions previously handled by the Student Services Center can be handled 24/7 on line via your Banner Web Self Service, or by seeking assistance from the Registrar's Office.

### Direct Loan Origination Fee Update

Each Oct. 1 the U.S. Department of Education sets the origination fee deduction from the Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans, as required by sequestration written into the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Loans disbursed after Oct 1 will have a fee of 1.066% deducted from for the Direct Loan programs, and a 4.264% deduction for the Federal Parent PLUS or Graduate PLUS loans. Both rates are a slight reduction from the prior year.

### Inside Stories

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Stay on top of your finances with the SFS Facebook!



## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students receiving federal, state or PLU financial assistance are required to maintain satisfactory progress toward the completion on a degree program. At a minimum, undergraduate students must complete at least 67% of attempted credit load with a 2.0 semester AND cumulative GPA. Two consecutive semesters with a GPA below 2.0 or completing less than 67% of attempted credits will result in the loss of financial aid eligibility. Loss of aid eligibility may be appealed if extraordinary circumstances (e.g. significant health issues or family issues) impacted your academic performance. Please note that a grade of C-, because its GPA equivalent is 1.67, will only help you to attain the 67% completion rate, but may hurt you because it is below 2.0 on the GPA scale. For a full summary of the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, see our financial aid homepage under “[Quick Links](#)”. See accompanying article below on the academic support services at the Center for Student Success.

### Center for Student Success

PLU’s new Center for Student Success (CSS) encompasses a network of units campus-wide that are dedicated to helping students succeed. The main hub of the CSS is on the first floor of the Mortvedt Library building. There you will find the renovated Academic Assistance space and the Campus Coordinator for Student Success, Aviance Taylor Kamau in Room 100.



Stop by to visit, explore the CSS website ([www.plu.edu/student-success](http://www.plu.edu/student-success)), or use the online scheduling tool to make an appointment with a tutor, consultant, advisor, or librarian.

### ATTENTION: Students near 128 Credits

Students receiving federal and Washington State grant funding who have completed the requisite credits to graduate from PLU will lose eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG and Washington State Need Grant, Washington College Bound Scholarship, and the Washington Opportunity Scholarship—even if you do not apply for graduation or wish to attend another semester to complete 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 minor if coursework for your first major has been satisfied.

Therefore, if your academic plans are contingent upon sufficient financial aid funding, plan your course schedule accordingly, lest you run out of grant aid eligibility prematurely.

## Employers May be Looking to Hire You!

2017-18 State Work Study funds are still available. If you are a WA resident with CWSP or SWSP eligibility, off-campus employers in the state work study program are still looking for part time help. Click on the “[Career Connections](#)” logo on the student employment center website for a listing of current positions. Positions with a state work study employer can be a great opportunity in your career or academic interest area. Positions are available in private, for-profit businesses, local & state government, and non-profits. For assistance, contact the Student Employment Center.

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 the wages they pay you with SWS funds at [www.wsac.wa.gov](http://www.wsac.wa.gov).

### It’s YOUR Money

The Office of Student Financial Services can help you develop your personal financial literacy toolbox. Financial literacy is a basic understanding of finance and a skillset to help you make informed decisions about your personal finances.

We can help you plan for student loan repayment, evaluate repayment options, and plan to utilize Public Service Loan Forgiveness. If you have questions about your Federal Direct Loan Entrance Counseling, Master Promissory Note (MPN) or Exit Counseling we can help you with that. If you want to know how to keep your student loans from capitalizing, or if you want to know what it means when a loan “capitalizes” we can help with that too. There is no question too simple to ask!

If you want help developing a budget that works with your unique circumstances, we can help you with that.

If you feel like you are starting from scratch with financial literacy, you are not alone! Many students arrive at college having little to no experience with financial literacy; but now is the perfect time to start planning for your financial future.

Ready to start building your financial literacy toolbox? Contact Kelly Lauderdale in the Office of Student Financial Services: [lauderkd@plu.edu](mailto:lauderkd@plu.edu)



# FINANCIAL AID UPDATES



## 2018-19 FAFSA FILING TIPS

1. **Submit your FAFSA online** at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
2. **Print a FAFSA on the Web Worksheet** so you know what information you will need to complete the FAFSA.
3. Once you have entered your name, date of birth and Social Security Number, the Department of Education will check its records and if you completed the 2017-18 FAFSA you will be given the option to complete the FAFSA Renewal application, which will include your demographic information provided on your 2017-18 FAFSA.
4. **List PLU's School Code (003785)** on your FAFSA. It will not be pre-filled for you.
5. If you don't complete your FAFSA in one sitting, you can save your incomplete FAFSA for up to 45 days. In order to gain access to your saved application, you will need to input the key word you created when you initially began the application. If you forget the key word you created, you can reset it online.
6. **Use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT)** to ensure the accuracy of your income tax information on your FAFSA. Since 2016 is the tax year asked for on the 2018-19 FAFSA, most tax returns will have already filed so the DRT will be available to most applicants.
7. **Strive for a complete and accurate FAFSA on your initial submission.** Corrections made to an already filed FAFSA may result in your application being selected for verification, requiring more paperwork on your part and a possible delay in getting your aid award finalized or disbursed. The priority filing deadline for continuing students is not until December 1, so you have time to get it right on your initial application.
8. **Review your Student Aid Report.** Once your FAFSA is processed, you will receive an email with a link to your Student Aid Report (SAR). If you do not provide

an e-mail address or the email is undeliverable, a paper SAR will be mailed to you. If you do not receive your SAR, your FAFSA may not have been processed, so login again and check the status of your application.

9. **Correct errors on your FAFSA** by clicking on the "Make Corrections" tab at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
  - Asset information should NOT be changed unless they were initially filed incorrectly (e.g. value of family residence or cash value of retirement accounts were reported).
  - Income and tax information should not be corrected if the DRT was used unless parents are separated/divorced, but filed "married, filed jointly", or if the wrong parent completed the FAFSA.
  - Household size and number in college should reflect its status on the date of the FAFSA filing and should NOT be updated due to a change occurring after the FAFSA is filed. It can be corrected only if it is initially filed information was incorrect at that time, or if you are selected for the verification process.
  - For Washington residents who are undocumented students only: **Submit your WASFA online** as soon as possible at [www.readysetgrad.org](http://www.readysetgrad.org). Login as a "Returning User" or click on "Start a New WASFA" if 2018-19 is your first application.

## Are you subject to a

## "Financial HOLD"?

If your student account is past due, it will be placed on a "financial hold." Basic university privileges will be denied until the account is settled, including the right to register, receive copies of official **and** unofficial transcripts or diploma, or cash checks. Reasons for a Financial Hold may include the following:

- Offer of Financial Aid has not been accepted.
- Financial Aid has not been credited to your account.
- Tuition Management Systems Payment Plan Delinquent (no payment or late payments, etc.)
- Student Account Delinquent (no payment, late payments, etc.)
- Master Promissory Note or entrance counseling not completed for loan program(s).
- Verification not completed.
- Private loan application incomplete or not returned to lender.
- Financial aid based on full time enrollment and you are under-enrolled.

There are over twenty other types of Student Holds that are placed on PLU student accounts and records for reasons other than those pertaining to financial aid listed above. All of them have consequences. For a complete list of Student Holds, the responsible office and their contact information, see the [Student Financial Services website](#).

## USEFUL WEBSITES



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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Monday - Friday	8AM to 5PM	Hauge 102
Phone Numbers	(800) 678-3243	
	(253) 535-7161	
E-mail	sfs@plu.edu	
FAX Number	(253) 535-8406	

#### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

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



the **WashBoard.org**  
Smarter Scholarship Matches

“Apply for scholarships available only to students attending Washington schools on the E-Harmony of Scholarship Search engines – [www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org)”



Each year the **Independent College 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! [ICW scholarship applications will be available some time in February, 2018.](#)