SFA Drop-ins:
As you complete your orientation modules, you may begin to have questions about your financial aid. The good news is that you are not alone and, just like you, there are thousands of students going through the same process this year virtually and they have questions, too. The better news is that we are here to help you through the process and answer any questions you may have regarding financial aid and paying your tuition and fees. Typically, when working on campus we have walk-in hours all day every day, but currently due to COVID-19, we are open to phone calls, emails and Zoom meetings.

Speaking of Zoom meetings, we will have reserved times for our new incoming students to ask questions one-on-one. Students will be able to schedule a Zoom meeting or meetings to get their questions answered. Below are the dates, times, and method to schedule a meeting:

**DATES**
- JULY: 7, 8, 28, 29
- AUGUST: 4, 5

**TIME**
- 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- and 1:30-3:00 p.m.

**REGISTRATION**
Email lima-financial.aid@osu.edu to set up an appointment.

**STEP 1:**
Email lima-financial.aid@osu.edu with “Financial Aid Drop-in” in the subject line

**STEP 2:**
Tell us what day and time you would like

**STEP 3:**
Check your Ohio State email for the confirmation email from the financial aid office. If the time works, you'll get a Zoom meeting link via Ohio State email. If the time you selected has already been booked, then you will receive an email stating that and you’ll be asked to select a new day/time. When the time comes for your meeting, simply click on the link in the email.

There will also be a Family Orientation Zoom event on Tuesday July 21 at 6 p.m. We invite the parents/guardians of our incoming freshman students to join us for a virtual Family Orientation. Through this orientation, you will learn about supporting your student through their college experience and will hear from financial aid about important next steps and deadlines. Families will also have the opportunity to ask questions of the Enrollment Services team. You can register at: lima.osu.edu/rsvp and use the Code: FAMOR20

Orientation
If you have not yet done so, be sure to pay your $100 acceptance fee so that you can get your orientation information. Once you have that orientation information, you can set up your appointment with your academic advisor and create your class schedule. Just remember, the longer your wait to enroll in a class, the more chances there are that the class might be full, and you’ll have to wait for a different semester to take it.
**Aid Types:**

**GRANTS** are awarded through federal, state or university funds to students with demonstrated financial need and do not need to be repaid. Students must complete the FAFSA.
- Examples include: Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Ohio State’s President’s Affordability Grant and Buckeye Affordability Grant.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** do not need to be repaid and come in two forms: merit-based scholarships and special-eligibility scholarships.
- Examples include: Ohio State General Scholarship Awards and external scholarship awards

**FEDERAL WORK STUDY FUNDS** do need to be repaid as you are earning the funds through working on campus.
- Employment is available throughout campus in offices such as admissions, advising, facilities, and many others
- Students earn a bi-weekly paycheck for the hours that they work.

**LOANS** are borrowed funds that must be repaid. Loans are available for both students and parents. Students must complete the FAFSA.
- Examples include: Federal Subsidized (need based) Loan, Federal Unsubsidized (non-need based) Loan, Federal Parent Plus (non-need based) Loan, and private/alternative student (non-need based) loans from third party private lenders.
- Unsubsidized Loan interest rate for 2020-2021: 2.75%
- Parent Plus Loan interest rate for 2020-2021: 5.30%

**Common Financial Aid Questions:**

**Does your school bill for the entire year or per semester? Per credit hour or is there a set amount?**

The university bills per term. There is a per credit hour tuition rate from 0.5 credit hours to 11.5 credit hours (rate will vary). From 12 credit hours to 18 credit hours students are charged a flat rate (rate will vary).

**When will I know how much I owe?**

Your billing statement or Statement of Account will be on your Buckeye Link account for autumn terms typically by the last week in July. For the spring and summer terms, your billing statement or Statement of Account should be available shortly after you register for classes.

**Am I able to meet with the Financial Aid Office?**

Yes, you can call the office, email or request a virtual meeting.

**Is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) the only financial aid application that must be completed?**

At Ohio State, yes, the FAFSA is the only financial aid application that must be completed.

**Is the FAFSA mandatory?**

The FAFSA is not mandatory, but we do strongly recommend that you complete the FAFSA. Ohio State has numerous scholarships and grants that are based on financial need and the only way we can award those is by looking at the FAFSA information.

**How can my parent(s) help pay for college?**

**PAYMENT PLANS**

Ohio State offers the Tuition Opportunity Payment Plan (TOPP) Your balance is divided into four (4) monthly payments plus the $30 TOPP fee.

Example: If your autumn balance is $4,000, you would make four (4) payments: August $1,030; September $1,000; October $1,000; November $1,000.

The $30 TOPP fee is assessed every term in which you set up the plan. You have to set up the plan each term you intend to use it, it will NOT carry over to the next term or year.

**PARENT PLUS LOAN**

Parent PLUS loans have a fixed interest rate, and the borrower pays an origination fee for each loan. Parent PLUS loans are not subsidized, so interest begins to accrue on the outstanding loan balance as soon as funds are disbursed and continues to accrue even if the loan is in deferment.