

Financial Literacy Requirement

- These step-by-step instructions are for incoming first-year students who are required to complete financial literacy education components using the GradReady financial literacy software.
- If you have questions or need assistance while completing the required GradReady paths please reach out to the First Year Experience office, 412-648-2172 or email us at fye@pitt.edu. Students can also post questions in the Pitt Class of 2021! Facebook page.

GradReady Requirement At-A-Glance

- 1. Create a GradReady Account**
- 2. Complete Path 1 – Paying for College**
 - a. Pre-Course Assessment
 - b. Watch/rate all videos and complete all 5 quizzes for Path 1
- 3. Complete Path 2 – Money Management**
 - a. Pre-Course Assessment
 - b. Watch/rate all videos and complete all 6 quizzes for Path 2

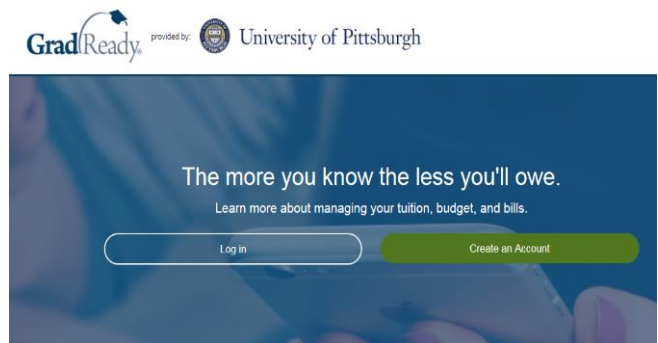
Optional Features

- Complete Path 3 – Real World Finances
- Visit the Helpful Resources & Frequently Asked Questions link on each video
- The Financing Plan, Debt-O-Meter, and Budget are all tools within GradReady that will add to your financial knowledge and skills

Step-by-step Instructions

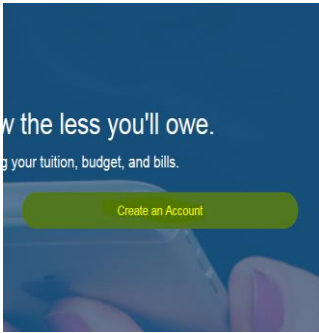
Create an Account and Login to GradReady

Step 1: Go to <https://oafa.pitt.edu/financialaid/financial-literacy>. The link to GradReady is posted in the first description. It will direct you to The University of Pittsburgh's GradReady site.



Create an Account and Login to GradReady (continued)

Step 2: Click “Create an Account.”



Step 3: Fill out *all* boxes as indicated below and click “I agree.” **Pitt People Soft ID (XXXXXXX) is required.**

Create Account

Please complete the following information to create a secure log in.

Account Information

Email <input type="text" value="Use PITT email"/> <small>Email does not appear to be valid</small>	Confirm Email <input type="text" value="Use PITT email"/> <small>Email confirmation does not match</small>
Password <input type="text"/>	Confirm Password <input type="text"/>

Profile Information

First Name <input type="text"/>	Last Name <input type="text"/>
Enrollment Status Select Enrollment Status	Student ID (Optional) <input type="text"/>

By creating an account I agree to the [Terms of Use and Privacy Policy](#)

Step 4: Enter your PITT email and password and click “Login.”

Log in

Email

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

Need an account? [Get started here.](#)

How to Complete GradReady Path 1 Videos

Step 1: Complete the “Pre-Course Assessment 1” as soon as you login.

Paying for College

Path 1 Pre-Course Assessment - Knowledge 1 of 7

Correct

1. What information is included in an award letter?

- The types of financial aid a student is eligible to receive including grants, tuition waivers, scholarships, work study programs, and loans
- Two types of financial aid: gift aid and aid which must be paid back
- The school's estimated cost of attendance
- All answers are correct

How to Complete GradReady Path 1 Videos (continued)

Step 2: Click “Path 1: Paying for College.”

PATH 1

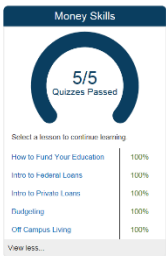
Important financial decisions are on the horizon.
Learn how to make the right choices to protect
your future.

Paying for College

Step 3: Watch the videos provided. Please rate each video when finished.

1. Learn

Get started by watching the Money Skills videos.



Money Skills

5/5 Quizzes Passed

Select a lesson to continue learning

How to Fund Your Education	100%
Intro to Federal Loans	100%
Intro to Private Loans	100%
Budgeting	100%
Off Campus Living	100%

View less...

Step 4: After watching each set of videos, take the quiz on the right.

Earn your badge!

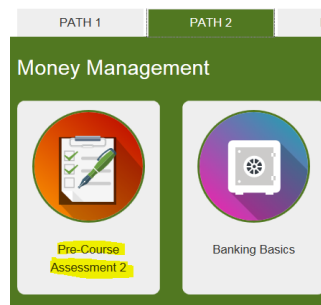
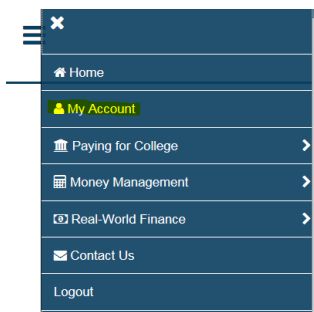


Mortgages & More

Take Quiz

How to Complete GradReady Path 2 Videos

Step 1: Complete the “Pre-Course Assessment 2” for Path 2 under the “My Account” drop-down menu option.



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How to Complete GradReady Path 2 Videos (continued)

Step 2: Watch the videos provided. Please rate each video when finished.

1. Learn
Get started by watching the Money Skills videos.

Money Skills

6/6
Quizzes Passed

Select a lesson to continue learning.

Banking Basics	100%
Credit Basics	100%
Manage Your Debt	100%
Identity Theft	70%
Credit Review	100%
Slay The Course	100%

View less.

Step 3: After watching each set of videos, take the quiz on the right.

Earn your badge!



Mortgages & More

Take Quiz

Additional Information

Please note: There are other helpful tools within GradReady. These are optional, but students are encouraged to review them.

1. **Helpful Resources and Frequently Asked Questions:** On each video screen, there is a “Helpful Resources” section and a “Frequently Asked Questions” link which include beneficial worksheets for further study.

Helpful Resources

- Understanding Your Bank Statement
- Choosing a Bank and Bank Account
- Banking Basics FAQ

Resource:

Ladder of Smart Borrowing: For Undergrad Students 2016 - 2017 Academic Year

When it comes to paying for school, you have a lot of options. If grants and scholarships don't cover the cost, you may need to consider student loans.

Depending on your situation, some options make more sense than others.

Think of it like a ladder: Start with options that cost the least, then work your way up.



Example:

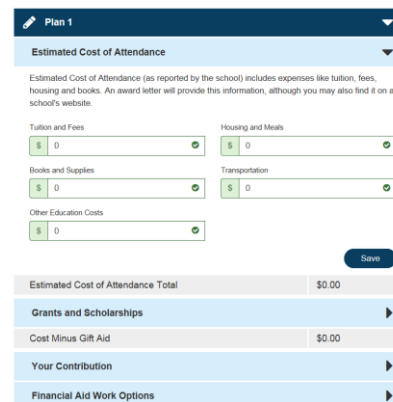
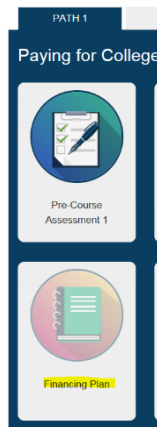
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How to Fund your Education FAQ

- 1. What is FAFSA?**
FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It's a federal form that students – and parents of dependent undergrads – must complete in order to be eligible for federal student aid for the upcoming school year. The information submitted is used to determine what the EFC (expected family contribution) is and what specific federal grants and loans you qualify for. It must be renewed for each academic year.
- 2. Where do I get a copy of the FAFSA?**
The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If you prefer to complete it by hand, you can download a printable copy [here](#).
- 3. What is cost of attendance (COA)?**
Cost of attendance is the total cost to attend a school for an academic year. This amount includes not only your tuition cost but also estimated living expenses such as rent, food and transportation. You are legally allowed to receive financial aid up to the COA amount your school has established.
- 4. Do I have to reapply for financial aid every year?**
Yes. In order to receive federal student aid throughout your time in school, you are required to reapply using the FAFSA each academic year. The first time you fill out the FAFSA will likely take a while, but each year after that should be easier because you are able to simply renew your application – meaning a lot of the information will be pre-populated.
Private loans also require you to reapply annually. Contact your private loan lender for specific requirements.
- 5. What's the difference between unsubsidized and subsidized loans?**
A subsidized loan is a loan for which you are not responsible for the daily interest accrual during authorized periods. A common example of this is the Perkins loan, which does not accrue interest when you are in school at least half-time, grace period and deferment. An unsubsidized loan, on the other hand, begins accruing interest from the day it is disbursed, and you are responsible to pay all of the interest that accrues on it.

Additional Information (continued)

- 2. Financing Plan:** Use this tool to plan ahead for the costs associated with higher education by inputting costs as well as financial aid award numbers, etc. Available in Path 1.



The image shows a web form titled 'Plan 1' with a dropdown menu for 'Estimated Cost of Attendance'. Below the title is a paragraph explaining that the Estimated Cost of Attendance (as reported by the school) includes expenses like tuition, fees, housing and books. An award letter will provide this information, although you may also find it on a school's website.

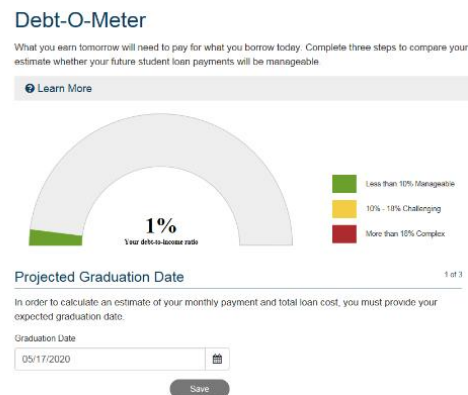
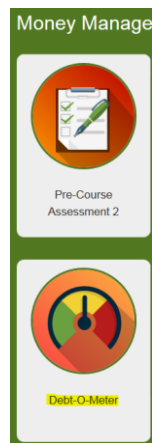
The form has several input fields for costs, each with a '\$' icon and a '0' value:

- Tuition and Fees: \$ 0
- Housing and Meals: \$ 0
- Books and Supplies: \$ 0
- Transportation: \$ 0
- Other Education Costs: \$ 0

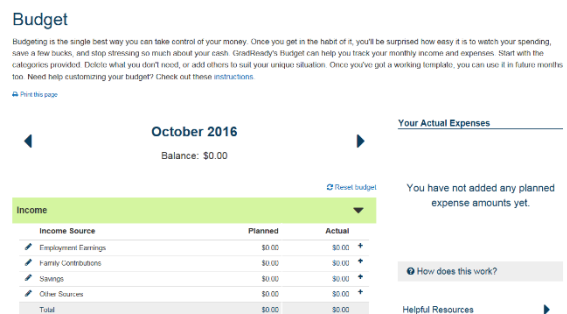
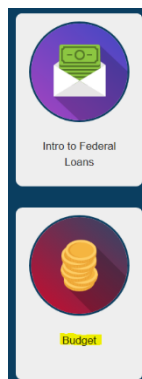
A 'Save' button is located to the right of the input fields. Below the input fields, there is a summary section:

Estimated Cost of Attendance Total	\$0.00
Grants and Scholarships	
Cost Minus Gift Aid	\$0.00
Your Contribution	
Financial Aid Work Options	

- 3. Debt-O-Meter:** Use this tool to track debt to future income throughout a student's academic career. Available in Path 2.



- 4. Budget:** Use this tool to setup a budget for student finances. Available in Path 1.



The image shows the 'Budget' tool. It features a header for 'October 2016' with a 'Balance: \$0.00' and a 'Reset budget' link. Below the header is a table with columns for 'Income Source', 'Planned', and 'Actual'.

Income Source	Planned	Actual
Employment Earnings	\$0.00	\$0.00
Family Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Savings	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Sources	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00	\$0.00

To the right of the table is a section titled 'Your Actual Expenses' with a message: 'You have not added any planned expense amounts yet.' Below this is a 'How does this work?' link and a 'Helpful Resources' link.