

FINANCIAL AID PORTAL HANDBOOK (NEW)

Operational Training

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Versions

Version	Date	Author	Details
1.0	Feb. 25, 2025	Brittany Rindone	Initial document.

Disclaimer

This Knowledge Pack (KP) may contain minor variances of screen captures but the steps are the same.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this training, a Bellevue University student should be able to...

- Access the Financial Aid Portal
- Navigate the Dashboard
- View and Accept/Decline Awards
- View and Upload Documents

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Financial Aid Portal

Student Experience

As of March 3 2025, Bellevue University's new, automated financial aid system went live and here is what you can expect:

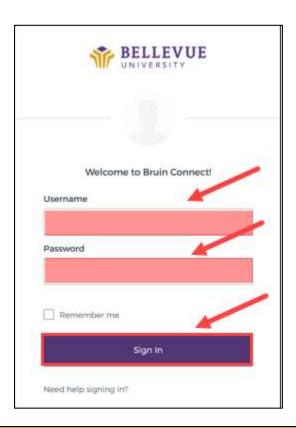
- All digital, mobile-friendly solution that lets you upload documents directly from your phone or tablet.
- Automatic, immediate verifications so you know your documents were received.
- Real-time status updates so you know where you are at in the process.
- Ability to provide e-signatures on some forms.

Accessing Financial Aid Portal

You can access the automated system, in three ways, via BRUIN Connect, the BRUIN Student Portal, or the Financial Aid Portal's URL, using your existing credentials.

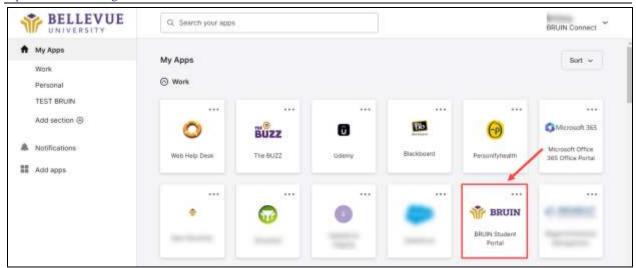
Logging into Portal

BRUIN Connect

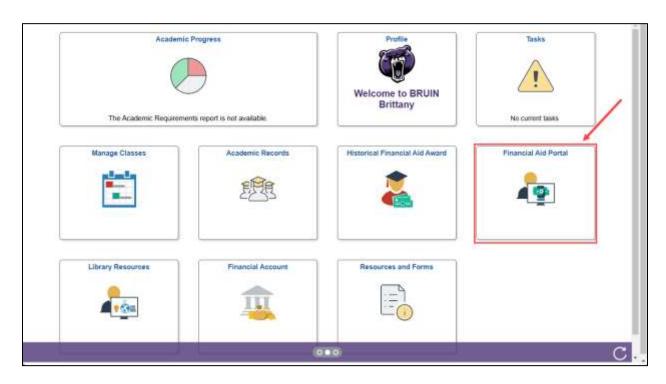


Step	Action
1.	Open a browser and go to BRUIN Connect (www.bruinconnect.bellevue.edu).
2.	Enter your Student ID # in the USERNAME field.
3.	Enter your Password in the PASSWORD field.
4.	Click on the SIGN IN button.

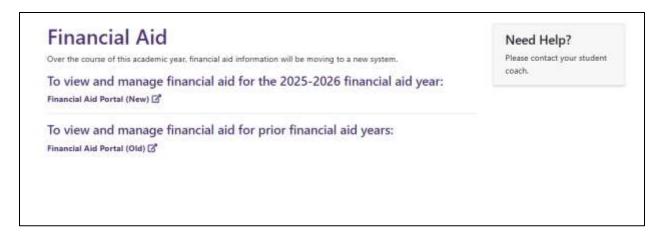
Operational Training



Step	Action
5.	Click on the BRUIN STUDENT PORTAL chicklet.



Step	Action
	The BRUIN Student Portal will display.
6.	Click on the FINANCIAL AID PORTAL tile.



Step	Action
	NOTE: The landing page will provide two links with instructions directing
	you to select either the FA PORTAL (OLD) for the 2024-2025 award year or the FA PORTAL (NEW) for the 2025-2026 (and on) award year(s).
	Select the Award Year that you are applying for to open the appropriate FA Portal. <i>This guide displays information for the "NEW" portal.</i>
7.	Click on the FINANCIAL AID PORTAL (NEW) option.

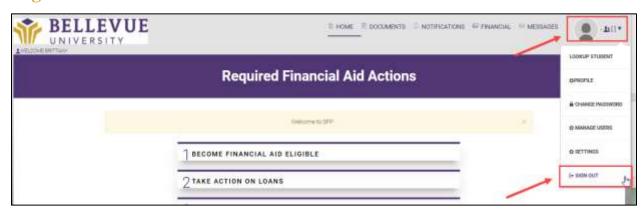


Step	Action
	NOTE: If you do select the wrong portal (one in which you do not have access to) you will see this error message.
	Before reaching out to BRUIN Support Services or your Admissions Counselor/Student Coach, please try to go back and click on the other Portal option as you may only have access to one of the options.
	If you are unable to access the appropriate, or neither of the portals, please reach out to BRUIN Support Services or your Admissions Counselor/Student Coach to further troubleshoot.



Step	Action
	The Financial Aid Portal will display will appear.
	NOTE: The Dashboard displays condensed section of the menu items.
	End of Procedure

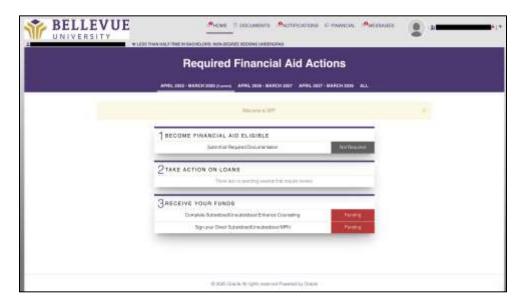
Log Out



Step	Action
1.	Click on the PROFILE icon.
2.	Click on the SIGN OUT option.
	End of Procedure

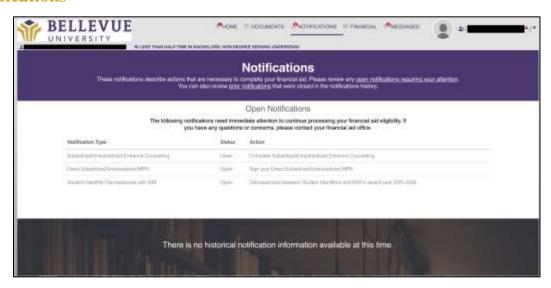
Navigating the Student Portal

Home



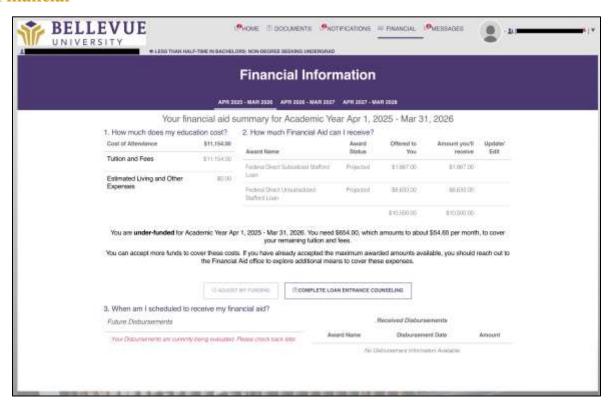
Step	Action
	The Home page will show any completed actions, or actions required for the student to become financial aid eligible, review their funds, or receive their funds.

Notifications



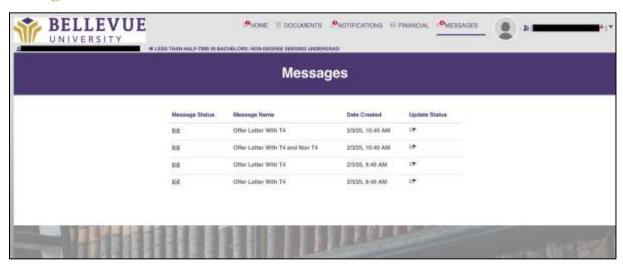
Step	Action
	The Notifications tab will show open notifications that require your attention and action. It will also display a thread of notifications history that are already completed.
	NOTE: Notifications in this tab are not email communications. These are the notification types that the system tracks and checks off (like a to-do list) for you to receive funds.

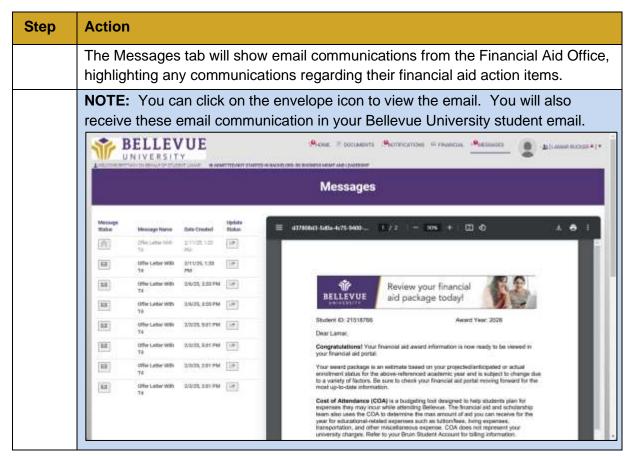
Financial



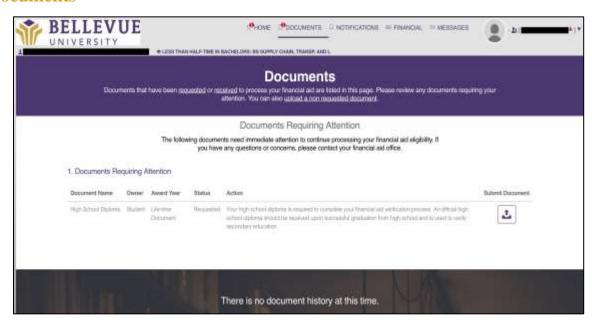
Step	Action
	The Financial tab will show your cost of attendance (COA), financial aid award package, and the disbursement schedule for available funds. To view fund specific information, click the ▼ next to the fund.

Messages



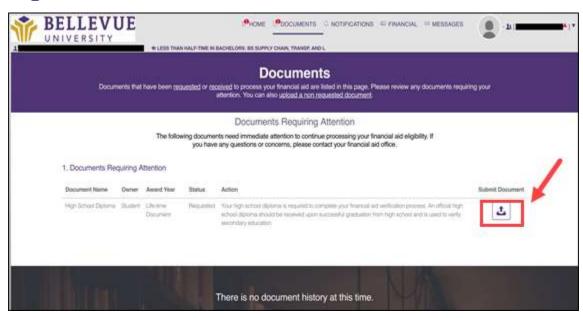


Documents

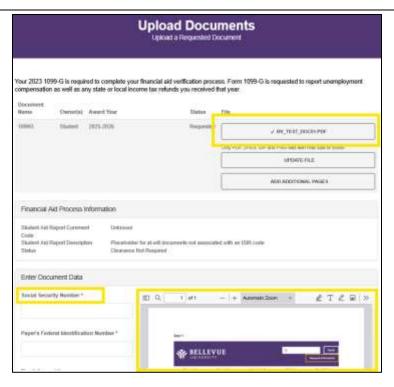


Step	Action
	The Documents tab will show documents required for you to upload to continue processing financial aid eligibility. You will be notified by the Office of Financial Aid if, when, and what documents to upload to the Financial Aid Portal.
	NOTE: The Owner column will indicate whether the information requested is yours or parent(s)/guardian(s) depending on whose information is on the FAFSA.

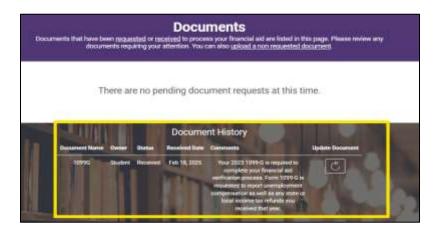
Upload Student Documents



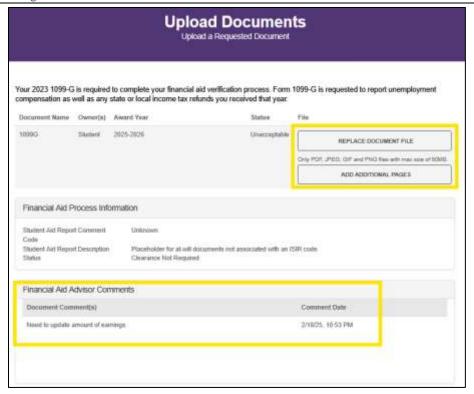
	Step	Action
-	1.	To upload a file, click the icon to upload documents to the financial aid portal.
Ī		NOTE: The file type used for uploading documents is PDF.



Step	Action
2.	Once the file is selected to upload, the file name will appear in the first box and a preview of the file will appear in the box below. Required fields will appear to the left of the document.
	NOTE: A confirmation of submission pop-up will appear. Click OK and be redirected back to the Documents tab.



Step	Action
	The document submitted will then appear in the Documents History section of the Documents tab.



Step	Action
	If you need to re-submit a document, the document request will appear in the Documents Requiring Attention section and you can upload a document to replace the one previously uploaded.
	NOTE: If there are additional instructions, those will appear in the Financial Aid Advisor Comments section. This can occur when the reviewer has deemed the document as unacceptable or has set it to rejected status.
	End of Procedure

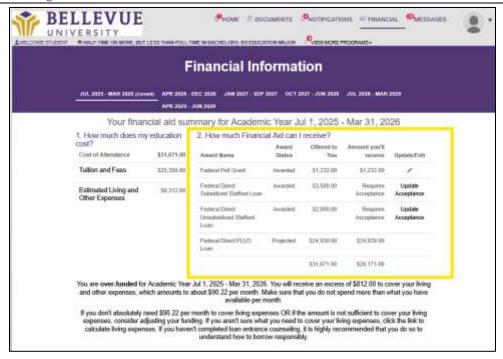
Viewing Financial Aid Awards



Step	Action
1.	Click on the FINANCIAL tab.



Step	Action
2.	Item 1 will show estimated cost of attendance calculated by your selection of
	campus, housing preference, textbooks, as well as additional fees.



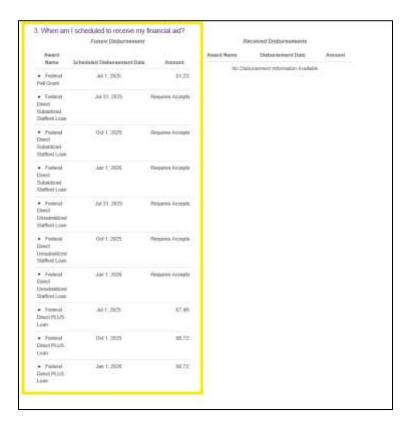
Step	Action
3.	Item 2 will show financial aid awards. These awards can include federal loans and grants, state and institutional grants, merit scholarships, and federal work study if applicable. It will also indicate if you will owe anything additional beyond what is included in their financial aid package.
	 Award information is estimated based on currently available data. These amounts, dates and acceptance criteria may change in the future based on updated data. You will be notified of any changes via email. Grants and scholarships can be awarded based on need and/or academic merit. They do not need to be repaid but are subject to specific renewal and eligibility criteria from year to year. If you received a merit-based scholarship, it is your obligation to review, understand, and meet the renewal and eligibility criteria standards associated with the merit-based scholarship awards.

You are **over-funded** for Academic Year Jul 1, 2025 - Mar 31, 2026. You will receive an excess of \$812.00 to cover your living and other expenses, which amounts to about \$90.22 per month. Make sure that you do not spend more than what you have available per month.

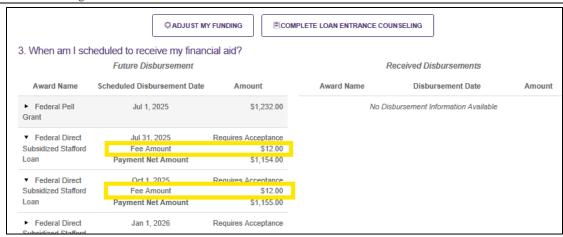
If you don't absolutely need \$90.22 per month to cover living expenses OR if the amount is not sufficient to cover your living expenses, consider adjusting your funding. If you aren't sure what you need to cover your living expenses, click the link to calculate living expenses. If you haven't completed loan entrance counseling, it is highly recommended that you do so to understand how to borrow responsibly.



Step	Action
4.	The buttons in the center of the screen will allow students to accept/adjust/reject items in your financial aid package, calculate their living expenses, and complete loan entrance counseling with the US Department of Education.



Step	Action
5.	Item 3 will show the disbursement schedule of funds. <i>Disbursement dates are traditionally the beginning of the term.</i>



Step	Action
6.	To view net amounts and loan fees associated with each fund, click the ▶ next to the fund in Item 3.
	End of Procedure

Accepting/Rejecting Loans

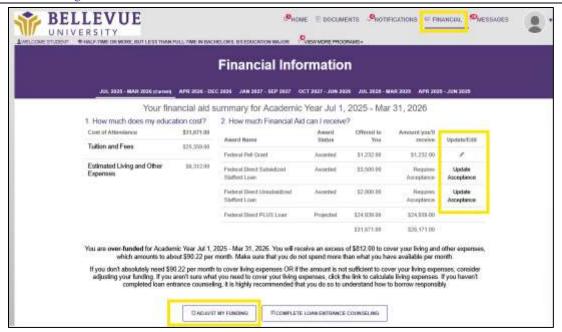
Accepting awards is only for Federal loans in the financial aid package. If these awards display in a 'projected' status in the financial tab, you should not go through the loan acceptance process. The awards should be accepted once they are in an 'awarded' status.



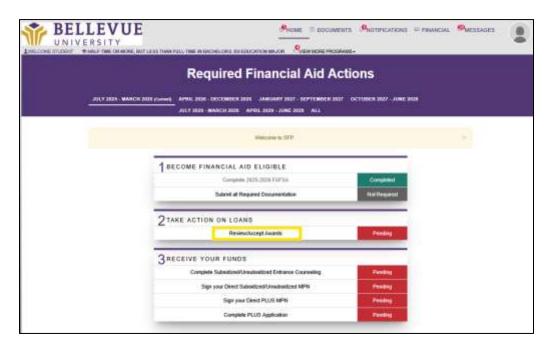
	Step	Action
Ī	1.	Once in the financial aid portal, open the FINANCIAL tab.



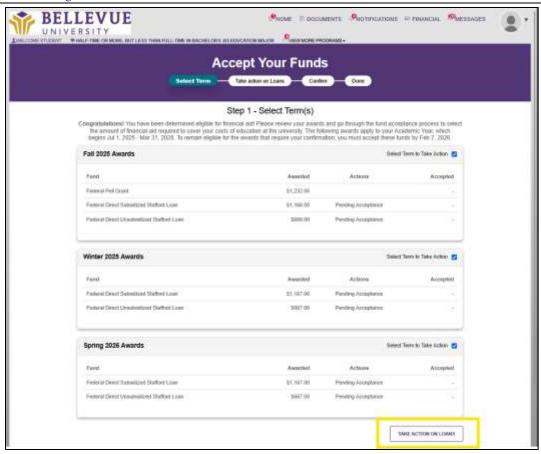
Step	Action
2.	Check the award status column to verify that the awards are in an 'awarded' status.



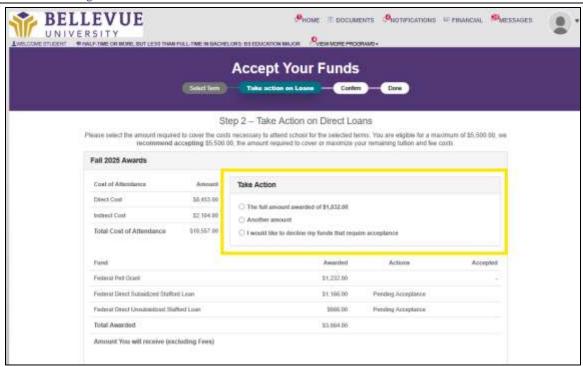
Step	Action
3.	To begin the award acceptance process, click 'Update Acceptance' or 'Adjust my Funding.'



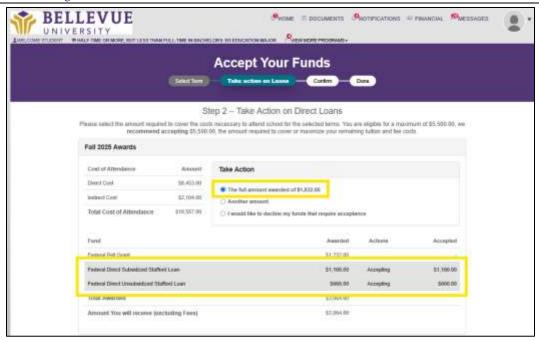
Step	Action
	This can also be initiated from the Home page by clicking 'Review/Accept Awards' under the TAKE ACTION ON LOANS section.



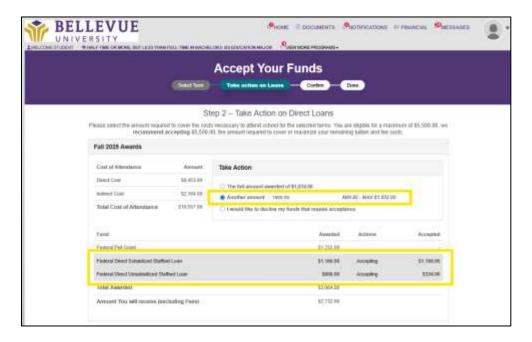
Step	Action
4.	Once in the Accept Your Funds Page, click on the 'Take Action on Loans' button.



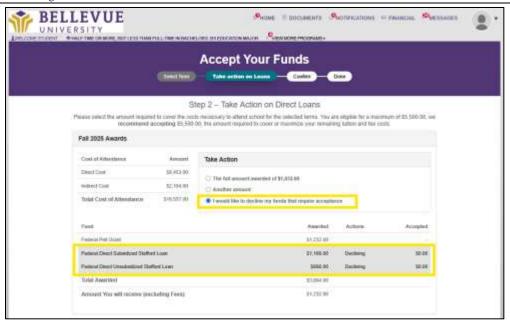
Step	Action
5.	You can then review the amounts of each loan and decide what option would be best.



Option 1- You will see a suggested amount that may be sufficient to cover their budgeted tuition and fees. This may not reflect actual charges, or other outstanding balances, such as housing and transportation.



Step	Action
	Option 2- Allows you to adjust the specific amount of the loan you receive. Enter the preferred amount, up to the full amount of the loan, and then click 'Continue'.



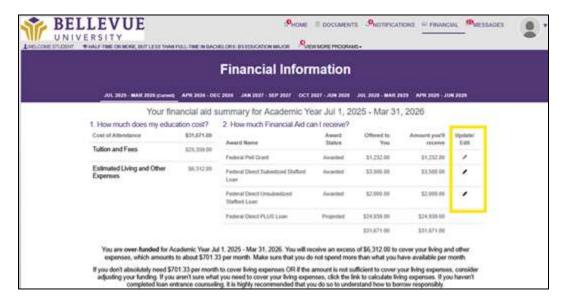
Step	Action
	Option 3- You can decline your loans, then click 'Continue'.
6.	You will then need to confirm the loan/award amounts in their package. To adjust the funding further (the amounts per term), you will select the pencil icon to make these adjustments.
	 NOTE: The totals must add up to the total award amount that was indicated. For example, if they accepted \$3,000 in a loan, the term amounts should add up to \$3,000. Once these terms totals have been adjusted, just click 'continue'. If you would like to make any adjustments to the amounts you have accepted/declined up to this point; you can navigate to Option 2 'Accept Loans' at the top of the screen.



Step	Action
7.	Once you have selected the loan action, you will be moved on to the E-signature page. You need to read through the Electronic Signature Consent message and click 'I Accept'. You will enter your Student ID and last name to sign. Finally, click 'Sign and Finish'.
	NOTE: The 'Sign and Finish' button will remain ghosted until the 'I Accept' button is clicked and the required information is entered.



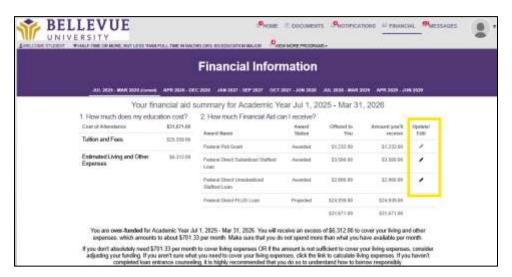
Step	Action
8.	Once you click 'Sign & Finish', you'll be shown a confirmation message that indicates they've successfully accepted/adjusted/declined awards for the academic year. Click 'OK' to be redirected back to the Financial Tab.



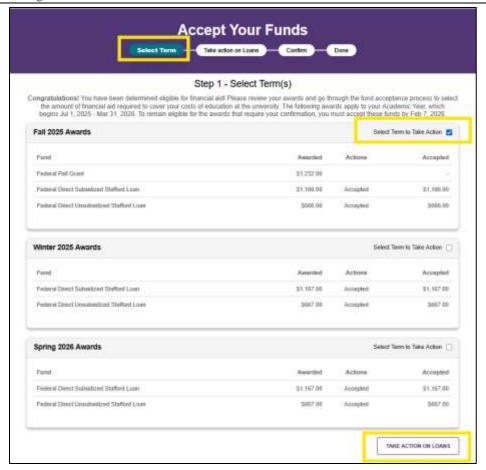
Step	Action
9.	Once back in the Financial Tab, you'll be able to view your adjusted funds.
	End of Procedure

Adjusting Loans

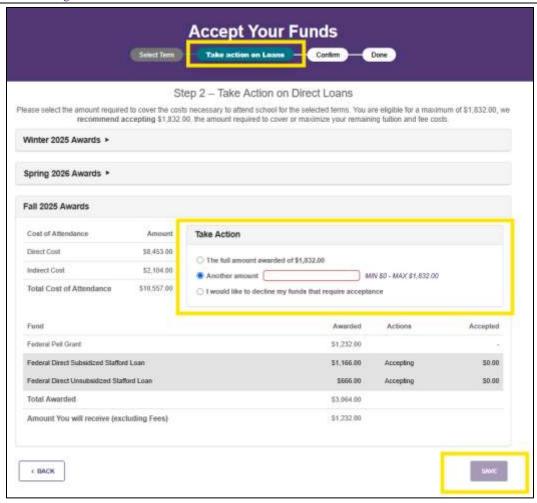
After you have accepted the Federal loans in your financial aid package, you can adjust them up to the date of their second disbursement (meaning their second term's disbursement).



Step	Action
1.	Once in the financial aid portal, open the FINANCIAL tab.
2.	You will then click the pencil icon next to the fund they wish to adjust.

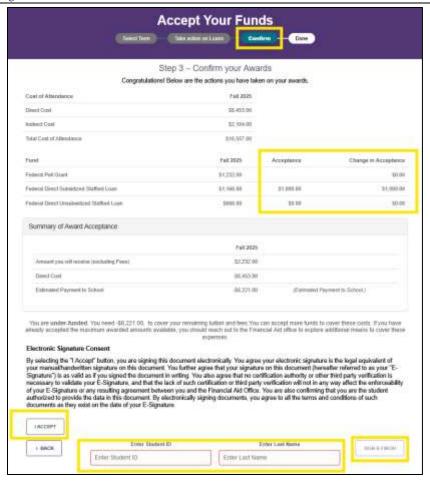


Step	Action
3.	Once in the Accept Your Funds page, you should click 'Select Term to Take Action ' to begin.
	NOTE: The amount you previously selected will appear in the accepted amount column on the initial page only. Going forward, you will only see the full amount of the award you are eligible for. If you need to accept more or less than what you previously accepted, you should double check the amount previously accepted and make a mental note for adjustments going forward.

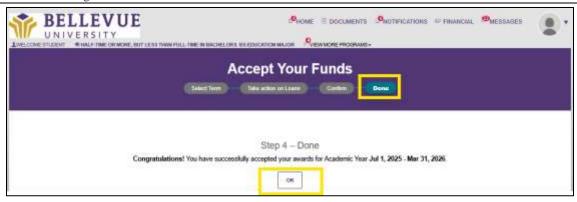


Step	Action
4.	On Step 2 (Accept Loans), you can either accept the full amount offered, accept a lower amount, or decline loans altogether.

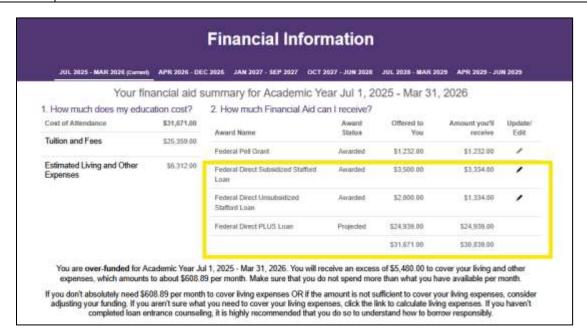
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Step	Action			
	 If you'd like to accept the full amount of the award, you're eligible for, you should select the first option, and then click "Save." If you'd like to make an adjustment to the award (adding or reducing the amount previously accepted), you should select the second option. Then, enter the total amount you'd prefer, up to the full amount of both loans, and finally click, "Save." Example A: You were awarded \$20,500 in Loan A and \$26,667 in Loan B. If you previously accepted the full \$20,500 for Loan A and \$20,000 for Loan B, but want to increase Loan B by \$5,000, you should enter \$45,500. Then you should double check their loan amounts are correct and click 'continue.' Example B: You were awarded \$20,500 in Loan A and \$26,667 in Loan B. If you previously accepted the full \$20,500 for Loan A and \$20,000 for Loan B, but want to decrease Loan B by \$5,000, you should enter \$35,500. Then you should double check their loan amounts are correct and click 'continue.' If you would like to decline the loans entirely, you should select the third option, and then click 'continue.' 			
5.	·			



Step	Action
6.	You'll then be prompted to read through the Electronic Signature Consent message and click 'I Accept.' Then you should enter their Student ID and last name to sign. Finally, they can click 'Sign & Finish' to complete.
	NOTE: The 'Sign & Finish' button will remain ghosted until you've clicked 'I Accept' and entered the required information.



Step	Action
7.	Once you click 'Sign & Finish,' you'll be shown a confirmation message that indicates you've successfully completed the adjustment process for the academic year. You can click 'OK.'



Step	Action		
8.	You'll then be brought back to the Financial Tab which will show the accepted, adjusted, or rejected awards in their package.		
9.	After accepting/adjusting/rejecting loans, you can make further adjustments to the funds up to the date of the second disbursement by clicking the pencil icon next to the fund you wish to adjust. This will take you through the acceptance process all over again.		
	NOTE: After the date of their second disbursement, the pencil icon will be greyed out. You will need to contact an Office of the Financial Aid administrator to adjust beyond this point.		
	End of Procedure		

Accepting/Adjusting PLUS Loans

For students with PLUS loans, you can accept a lower the amount offered. But before the PLUS loan can be process, you will need to complete the PLUS loan application process via the US Department of Education Federal Student Aid page.

NOTE: Parents cannot adjust loans in the student portal per FERPA guidelines; however, students can grant parent/guardian proxy access. Here is how to grant proxy access.

Parent PLUS Loans

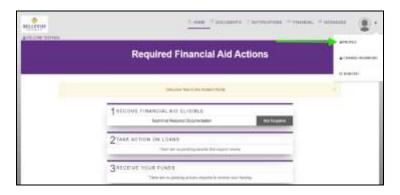
- 1. Click the pencil icon next to the PLUS loan.
- 2. A verification pop-up will appear requesting the last 4 digits of SSN and Date of Birth of the borrower (parent). Enter the requested information and click *validate*.
- 3. Enter the total amounts per term you would like to accept in the boxes provided.
- 4. Read through the *Electronic Signature Consent Message* and click 'I Accept.' Enter your Student ID and last name to sign. Finally, click 'Sign & Finish.'
 - a. The 'Sign & Finish' button will remain ghosted until you've clicked 'I Accept' and entered the required information.
- 5. The adjusted amount will reflect in the financial tab after completing adjustments.

Graduate PLUS Loans

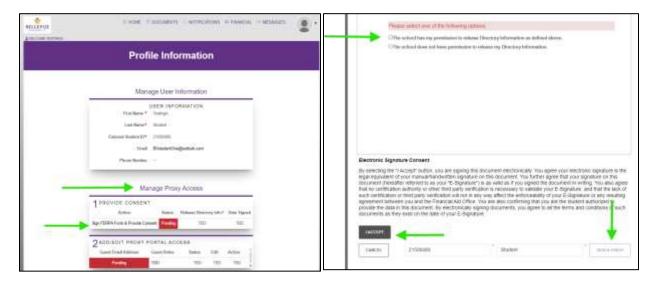
- 1. Open the Financial tab & click the pencil icon next to the PLUS loan.
- 2. Enter 50% of the total loan amount they wish to accept per term. For example, if they decided to accept \$20,000, they would enter \$10,000 per term. Then they would read/accept the electronic signature consent message, enter their Student ID & last name to sign, and then click 'sign & finish.'
- 3. The updated amount will reflect in the student portal and the admin portal on the packaging page.

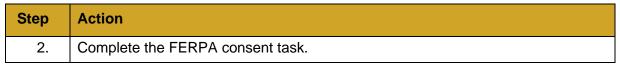
Granting Parent/Guest Access

Students can grant access to parents and guests. Only students can grant access to parents/guests. The parent/guest will need to have a valid email address where they will receive the email link once the access has been granted.



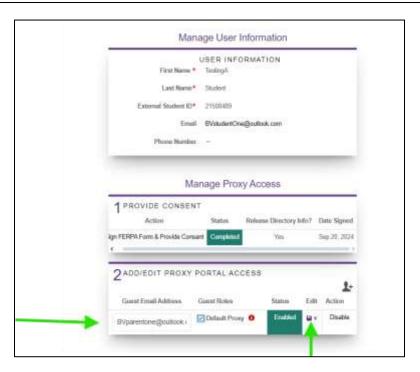
Step	Action
1.	Click on the Profile link in the dropdown menu.





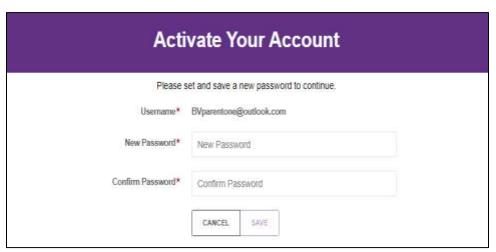


Step	Action
3.	To grant delegated access, click the ADD USER link in section 2, ADD/EDIT PROXY PORTAL ACCESS .

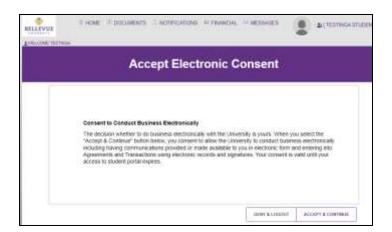


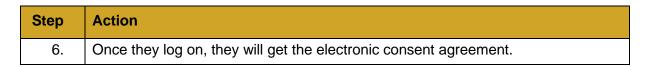
Step	Action
4.	Enter the parent/guest email and select the role, then click Save.





Step	Action
5.	Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will receive link to set password.







Step	Action
7.	The Parent/Guest portal page has less action items and is limited on what they can view based on the security role that has been assigned.
	End of Procedure

Stakeholders/Owners

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	Academic Affairs	
	 Administration Buildings & Grounds Regulatory Compliance Safety 	⊠ Brittany Rindone
	Advancement	☐ Mike Cizek
	Colleges/Institutions	
	 CAS COB CPE CST Faculty 	
	Finance	
	Student AccountsVeteran AffairsFinancial Aid	
	IT	
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	Strategic iriitatives	ELLEVUE UNIVERSITY

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☐ ☐ Other <u>Ashlea Buntin & Sam Stepanek</u>