



# **Federal Student Aid Boot Camp**

**JULY 10–11, 2025  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

# Boot Camp Overview

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Thursday–Friday, July 10–11

Pew Charitable Trusts  
901 E Street NW  
Washington, D.C.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**Boot camp participants will increase their understanding of:**

- The current cost of college and trends over time
- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Student Aid Index (SAI)
- The Federal Pell Grant Program
- Federal student loans and the demographics of student borrowers
- Student debt and default
- Federal student aid repayment programs

## MODERATORS

**MaryEllen McGuire**

President & Founder, PNPI

**Betsy Prueter**

Senior Director of Programming & Chief of Staff, PNPI

# Thursday, July 10

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(All times EDT)

9:30–10:00 AM

## Breakfast & Registration

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10:00–11:00 AM

## Welcome & Overview of College Cost/Cost of Attendance

Speakers: MaryEllen McGuire, PNPI; Eddy Conroy, New America

*This session will review recent trends in college costs, sticker price, net price, and cost of attendance.*

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11:00–11:15 AM

## Break

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11:15 AM–12:45 PM

## Applying for Financial Aid/Student Aid Index Panel & Simulation

Speaker: Nalia Medina, NAFSAA

*This session will explain what the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is, review why it is important, and discuss recent changes to the federal methodology. It will also provide participants an opportunity to experience a simulation related to the SAI formula and how it is calculated.*

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12:45–1:30 PM

## Lunch

# Thursday, July 10 (cont.)

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(All times EDT)

1:30–2:45 PM

## **The Federal Pell Grant Program/Federal Student Loan Programs**

Speakers: Raj Darolia, University of Kentucky

*This session will provide an overview of the Federal Pell Grant Program, including how Pell Grants are structured and calculated; what the characteristics of Pell Grant recipients are by income, race, gender and institution; recent changes to the program; and the impact of these changes on recipients.*

*This session will also review the types of federal student loans that are available, the eligibility requirements for each type of loan, and the demographics of student loan borrowers. It will also provide an overview of the campus-based federal aid programs.*

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2:45–3:00 PM

## **Break**

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3:00–4:15 PM

## **Leg 101: The Legislative Process**

Speakers: MaryEllen McGuire, PNPI; Kathleen Smith, Strada Education Foundation

*During this session, the legislative process will be presented through the eyes of former congressional staff.*

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4:15–4:30 PM

## **Wrap Up**

# Friday, July 11

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(All times EDT)

9:30–10:00 AM

## **Breakfast & Registration**

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10:00–10:15 AM

## **Welcome**

Speaker: Betsy Prueter, PNPI

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10:15–11:30 AM

## **Student Loan Debt & Default**

Speakers: Mark Huelsman, Hope Center; Jinann Bitar, EdTrust

*This panel will provide an overview of student debt, including information on how much students are borrowing, which students are borrowing, the types of institutions borrowers are attending, and how the likelihood of repayment or default varies by individual student. Panelists will also discuss student loan delinquency and default.*

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11:30–11:45 AM

## **Break**

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11:45 AM–1:45 PM

## **Federal Repayment Programs & Simulation**

Speakers: Brian Denten, Pew Charitable Trusts; Ama Takyi-Laryea, Pew Charitable Trusts

*This panel will provide an overview of the current federal student loan repayment plans and their strengths and weaknesses. It will also give participants an opportunity to interact with the various repayment plans using the Department of Education's Loan Simulator.*

# Friday, July 11 (cont.)

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(All times EDT)

1:15–2:00 PM

## Lunch

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2:00–3:00 PM

## Policy Roundtable

Speakers: TBD

*This session will bring together experts to further explore questions around federal student aid.*

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3:00–3:10 PM

## Break

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3:10–3:30 PM

## Wrap Up & Adjourn

Speaker: Betsy Prueter, PNPI