



# Pittsburg State University is Live with Oracle Student Financial Planning

## Client Overview

Pittsburg State University (Pitt State), has been shaping the minds of students since its establishment in 1903. At Pitt State, students can select from over 100 academic programs within the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, and Technology. Committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service, the university fosters an inclusive and supportive environment that empowers students to achieve their goals and make meaningful contributions to society.

## Project Summary

Pitt State's existing student system, including Financial Aid, was over thirty years old, outdated, and fragile. Additionally, the outdated financial aid system required significant manual intervention from the Office of Financial Aid. The legacy system functioned only in a live state, which means it wasn't possible to update and test a fix in a test environment before going into production. This created significant risk for Pitt State that an update would break existing processes and create system vulnerabilities. A decision was made to focus on the critical area of Financial Aid first and implement a cloud-based solution as a first step toward a full cloud-based student information system.

## Objectives

- Provide a better user experience for students and the office of financial aid.
- Allow for a mobile experience and improved interface for awards and acceptance, submission of required documents, and communications to support the students and their families.
- Increase automation of manual tasks to allow the Financial Aid staff to focus on student outreach.
- Package and award aid faster with the goal of increasing enrolled students at Pitt State.

## Results

Pitt State is now live on Oracle Student Financial Planning with ISIR processing, verification and access to the Student Portal, and packaging and awarding of financial aid for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students. Aid will be disbursed in August for the Fall 2023 semester and approximately 3,525 students received financial aid award letters.

Pitt State can now process thousands of financial aid offers in a single day, a process that was completed manually in the past. This provides for a significant improvement in the timeliness of aid awarded and allows the financial aid staff to provide improved outreach to students.

The legacy financial aid system functions have been retired. Seeing the success of this project, University leadership approved the complete replacement of the student information system. Pitt State was able to significantly reduce the risk associated with its legacy student system's vulnerabilities related to the age and fragility of the system and was able to implement greatly increased automation and improved student experience and support.

The talented Pitt State team, with support and coaching from Sierra-Cedar, embraced the new system, worked with extreme dedication and commitment, and rolled out incremental releases while meeting all of the Financial Aid cycle requirements. This was an impressive result and timeline for a year one SFP institution!

## From the Client



*Sierra-Cedar joined the Pitt team as a true partner, helping us understand the system fully and jumping in when needed to help solve a problem, take on extra work, or review options with us. Their expertise and support were a huge part of our success."*

**Angela Neria**

Associate VP of Technology  
Pittsburg State University

## Organization Overview

Industry:	Higher Education
Employees:	700
Students:	7,400

## Project Timeline

- 11/2022: ISIR loading
- 12/2022: Verification, Student access to the SFP Portal
- 01/2023: New Student Awarding/Packaging
- 03/2023: Continuing Undergrad Awarding/Packaging
- 04/2023: Grad Student Awarding/Packaging, Origination
- 05/2023 & 06/2023: Alt Loans and Plus Loans
- Next Major Functionality Release
- 08/2023: Disbursement of Funds