Federal Direct Loan Guide

As part of your Financial Aid offer, you were awarded Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans. These loans do not require you to have a cosigner but do require at least half-time enrollment in the university.*

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans will begin accruing interest from the time of disbursement. The student may opt to pay this interest while enrolled. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan terms and conditions for graduate students each year include a fixed interest rate and loan origination fee. The loan origination fees are deducted proportionately each time a loan disbursement is made to the student's account. For more information on Federal Student Loans and the current interest rate, please visit https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized.

If you wish to decline or reduce your loan(s), please complete the Graduate Student Federal Loan Reduction or Cancellation Request Form.

How to Secure Your Direct Loan Funding

1. Go to https://studentaid.gov and click on the Log In button.
2. Sign in using your (student's) FSA ID username or e-mail address and FSA ID password.
3. On your Dashboard under Checklist, select "I'm Preparing for School". Then select "Complete entrance counseling before getting a loan," and follow the instructions for the online tutorial. This should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.
4. Once you have completed the entrance counseling requirement, return to the dashboard and select under Checklist, select "I'm Preparing for School". Then select "Complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) to take out a federal student loan". Follow those instructions. You will need to provide 2 separate addresses and contact information for 2 references.
5. You may log out after steps 3 and 4 are completed and submitted. We will receive this information electronically.

Graduate students may qualify for up to $20,500 per year in Direct Unsubsidized Loans only.*

The aggregate loan limit for new graduate students is $100,000.

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan

Graduate students may decide to borrow a Direct Graduate PLUS Loan to help cover education expenses. Graduates may borrow up to the total cost of attendance minus any portion of expenses already covered by Graduate Direct Unsubsidized Loans. Graduate PLUS Loans will begin repayment six months after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment.*

Graduate PLUS Loans will require a credit check for the borrower. If you are denied the Graduate PLUS Loan, there are steps you may take to appeal the credit decision, or you may obtain a credit-worthy endorser in order to reverse the denial.

Graduate PLUS Loan include a fixed interest rate and a loan origination fee. The loan origination fees are deducted proportionately each time a loan disbursement is made to the student's account. For more information on Graduate PLUS Loans and the current interest rates, please visit https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/.

Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan is no longer available for new graduate students.

*As of July 1, 2026, while you do have to be at least half-time to qualify for any federal loan, you have to be considered full-time in order to qualify for the maximum amount on an annual basis.