



FEDERAL STUDENT AID PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR 2025-26

Most federal student aid is need-based, taking into account the student aid index (SAI), determined by information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). Need-based financial aid comes in three basic types:

1. **Grants and scholarships** are considered gift aid and generally do not have to be paid back (sometimes a repayment is required if a student withdraws);
2. **Work-study** is money that you earn by working part-time while in school; and
3. **Loans** are funds that you (or your parent) borrow and must be paid back, usually after you leave school.

The following chart details the main federal student aid programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Not all schools participate in each of the programs listed.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Eligibility*	Repayment Required
Federal Pell Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need-based grant program • Portable • Schools receive Federal Pell Grant funds from ED as needed to pay eligible students 	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) required annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual minimum and maximum vary, as set by Congress • \$740 minimum for 2024-25¹ • \$7,395 maximum for 2024-25¹ • Receive for a maximum of 12 full-time semesters • Adjusted for enrollment intensity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate students without first baccalaureate or professional degree • Certain students enrolled in a post-baccalaureate teaching certification program • Based on family size, adjusted gross income (AGI) limits, federal poverty guidelines, and calculated SAI from the FAFSA • Special Rule for Pell Grants: Criteria used to determine Pell Grant eligibility for students whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while (a) serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001; or (b) actively serving as and performing the duties of a public safety officer; and is less than 33 years old as of the January 1 prior to the award year for which the applicant is applying (e.g., for the 2025-26 award year, a student must be less than 33 years old as of January 1, 2025, to be eligible). Eligible students will receive a maximum Pell Grant regardless of their SAI 	No

*In addition to the general student eligibility requirements

¹Congress has not yet passed legislation regarding aid amounts, interest rates, or loan origination rates for the 2025-26 award year.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Eligibility*	Repayment Required
Federal Pell Grant (continued)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive postsecondary transition programs Confined or incarcerated students, if enrolled in an eligible prison education program (PEP) 	
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need-based campus-based grant program Funds provided by institution 	FAFSA required annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100 annual minimum (may be prorated for less than full-year enrollment) \$4,000 annual maximum (students on approved study abroad programs may receive up to \$4,400) No aggregate limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergraduate students without baccalaureate or professional degree Students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive postsecondary transition programs First priority given to Federal Pell Grant recipients with “exceptional financial need” 	No

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Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Eligibility*	Repayment Required
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant^{2, 3}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant program Conditional² Portable³ 	FAFSA required annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$4,000 annual maximum reduced by 5.7%, or \$3,772, for grants first disbursed on or after October 1, 2020, and before October 1, 2025¹ \$16,000 undergraduate aggregate limit (includes postbaccalaureate) \$8,000 graduate aggregate limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree to teach full time in a high-need field for at least 4 years within 8 years of graduation at a school serving a high percentage of low-income students (Title I schools)² Have and maintain 3.25 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale, or have scored above 75th percentile on single battery of nationally normed undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or graduate admissions test GPA/score requirements do not apply to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Current teachers working on graduate degrees or retirees from other occupations with expertise in high-need fields working on graduate degrees ➤ Current or retired teachers completing a high-quality alternate route teacher certification program 	Repayment required if student does not fulfill teaching requirement; grant funds become a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

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²Failure to meet teaching obligation results in conversion of grant to Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

³Depending on institutional participation

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Eligibility*	Repayment Required
Federal Work-Study (FWS)³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need-based campus-based employment program • Funds offered by institution 	FAFSA required annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No program minimum or maximum • Offered amount is dictated by school policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate and graduate students • Students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive postsecondary transition programs • Students enrolled at least half time in coursework required by a state for teacher certification • Funds paid to the student throughout the year based on the number of hours worked 	No

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²Failure to meet teaching obligation results in conversion of grant to Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

³Depending on institutional participation

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Eligibility*	Repayment Required
Federal Direct Student Loan—Direct Subsidized and Direct Unsubsidized Loans³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated by school with funds from federal government • Need-based subsidized loan supplemented by non-need-based unsubsidized loan up to combined limit • 6.53% interest rate for Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans for undergraduate students in 2024-25¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA required annually • Master Promissory Note (MPN) • Entrance Counseling (if first-time borrower) 	Annual Loan Limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,500 1st-year undergraduates • \$4,500 2nd-year undergraduates • \$5,500 each remaining undergraduate year • Undergraduate annual limits prorated for programs and remaining periods of enrollment less than an academic year • \$2,625 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in undergraduate program⁴ • \$5,500 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in graduate or professional degree program if already have baccalaureate⁴ • \$5,500/year for teacher certification if already have baccalaureate • Actual amount of subsidized loan cannot exceed cost of attendance (COA) – SAI – other aid • Actual amount of unsubsidized loan cannot exceed COA – other aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at least half time • Graduate and professional students enrolled at least half time are eligible for base unsubsidized only • Must first have determination of eligibility/ineligibility for Federal Pell Grant • Must determine eligibility for Direct Subsidized Loan before determining eligibility for Direct Unsubsidized Loan • Interest subsidy for undergraduates during at least half-time enrollment, grace period for certain loans, and deferment periods for subsidized loans • Unsubsidized funds may be used to replace SAI • Under certain conditions to students enrolled in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Coursework required by a state for teacher certification ➢ Preparatory coursework⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes; begins 6 months after cessation of at least half-time enrollment • Deferment possible • Interest accrues on unsubsidized loan from date of disbursement

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³Depending on institutional participation

⁴Direct Loan eligibility is limited to one 12-month period for students enrolled in preparatory coursework.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Eligibility*	Repayment Required
Federal Direct Student Loan –Direct Subsidized and Direct Unsubsidized Loans³ (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8.08% for Direct Unsubsidized Loans for graduate/professional students in 2024-25¹ • Interest rates subject to change July 1 each award year • 1.057% origination fee for loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 2020, and before October 1, 2025¹ 		Aggregate Loan Limits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent undergraduates whose parents can borrow PLUS: \$31,000, of which only \$23,000 can be in subsidized amounts • Dependent undergraduates whose parents cannot borrow PLUS and independent undergraduates: \$57,500, of which no more than \$23,000 can be in subsidized amounts • Graduate and professional students (including loans for undergraduate study): \$138,500, of which no more than \$65,500 can be in subsidized amounts⁵ 		

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¹Congress has not yet passed legislation regarding aid amounts, interest rates, or loan origination rates for the 2025-26 award year.

³Depending on institutional participation

⁵Effective with periods of enrollment beginning on or after 7/1/12, graduate and professional students are not eligible to borrow Direct Subsidized Loans.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Eligibility*	Repayment Required
Direct Loan—Additional Unsubsidized Loan³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-need-based loan • Limits are in addition to the “base” limits for subsidized and unsubsidized loans described above • Interest rates and origination fee same as Direct Unsubsidized Loans described above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA required annually • MPN • Entrance Counseling (if first-time borrower) 	<p>Annual Loan Limits: Dependent undergraduates whose parents can borrow PLUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,000/year • Undergraduate annual limits prorated for programs or remaining periods of enrollment less than an academic year <p>Independent undergraduate students and dependent students whose parents cannot borrow PLUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6,000/year 1st and 2nd undergraduate year • \$7,000 each remaining undergraduate year • Undergraduate annual limits prorated for programs or remaining periods of enrollment less than an academic year • \$7,000/year for teacher certification • \$6,000 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in undergraduate program⁴ • \$7,000 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in graduate or professional degree program if already have baccalaureate⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must first have determination of eligibility/ineligibility for Federal Pell Grant • Must determine eligibility for Direct Subsidized Loan before determining eligibility for additional Direct Unsubsidized Loan • May be used to replace SAI 	Yes; same as Direct Subsidized Loan

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³Depending on institutional participation

⁴Direct Loan eligibility is limited to one 12-month period for students enrolled in preparatory coursework.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Eligibility*	Repayment Required
Direct Loan— Additional Unsubsidized Loan ³ (continued)			<p>Annual Loan Limits: (continued) Graduate and professional students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20,500/year • Actual amount of loan cannot exceed COA minus other aid including loans received under base limit <p>Aggregate Loan Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent undergraduates whose parents can borrow PLUS: \$31,000, of which only \$23,000 can be in subsidized amounts • Independent undergraduate students and dependent undergraduates whose parents cannot borrow PLUS: \$57,500, of which no more than \$23,000 can be in subsidized amounts • Graduate and professional students (including loans for undergraduate study): \$138,500, of which no more than \$65,500 can be in subsidized amounts⁵ 		

*In addition to the general student eligibility requirements

³Depending on institutional participation

⁴Direct Loan eligibility is limited to one 12-month period for students enrolled in preparatory coursework.

⁵Effective with periods of enrollment beginning on or after 7/1/12, graduate and professional students are not eligible to borrow Direct Subsidized Loans.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Eligibility*	Repayment Required
Direct PLUS³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated by school with funds from federal government • 9.08% for parent and graduate PLUS in 2024-25¹ • Interest rates subject to change July 1 each award year • 4.228% origination fee for loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 2020, and before October 1, 2025¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA required annually • PLUS MPN • Entrance Counseling (required for graduate/professional student borrowers but not required for parent borrowers) 	No annual or aggregate amounts, except parent or graduate/professional student may not borrow more than difference between COA and other financial assistance student expects to receive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural and adoptive parents (and stepparents, if included on FAFSA) of eligible dependent undergraduates enrolled at least half time • Graduate/professional students enrolled at least half time • No adverse credit history • Must not be in default on a federal loan • Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen • May be used to replace SAI • Under certain conditions for enrollment in preparatory coursework⁴ or coursework required by a state for teacher certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes; first payment due within 60 days after loan is fully disbursed • Deferment available

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⁴Direct Loan eligibility is limited to one 12-month period for students enrolled in preparatory coursework.