

Federal Direct GRAD PLUS Loan Information

A Grad PLUS Loan is a federal loan that students may borrow for educational expenses. It is a non-need-based loan with a variable interest rate, currently at 5.30% for loans disbursed after July 1, 2020. Interest accrues on this loan while the student is in school and the first payment of the Grad PLUS Loan is due within 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. There is no grace period for Direct Grad PLUS Loans, however, students can postpone payment with an in-school deferment while they are in school on at least a half-time basis.

Eligibility Requirements

You must be enrolled at least half-time in a graduate or professional program (for example, a program that leads to a Master's Degree or to a law or medical degree), must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen, and must not be in default on a prior Federal Loan. In addition, you must not have an adverse credit history (a credit check will be done).

How do I apply?

You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory note (Grad PLUS MPN). You can complete the Grad PLUS Application and MPN on-line at studentaid.gov. The Grad PLUS application process will initiate the credit check process and you will be informed almost immediately if you are eligible to borrow through this program. If you are approved and wish to borrow, then complete the MPN. We will receive electronic notification of the results within a few days.

How much should I borrow?

How much a student borrows depends on what the student's expenses are and the amount of other financial aid they are receiving. Grad PLUS loan proceeds may be used for books and transportation expenses as well as tuition, fees, room and board. If you are unsure of how much Grad PLUS loan to borrow, use the Tuition Expense Worksheet to help you determine and estimate how much you will need or call the Student Service Center at 440-646-8309 for assistance. Currently, there are processing fees of 4.228% assessed to your loan – make sure you account for this when determining how much you want to borrow. Also, the maximum amount you may borrow is based on your cost of education which includes an average allowable allotment for books, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses. If you would like to know your maximum borrowing limit, please call the Student Service Center.

The Disbursement Process

Grad PLUS Loan funds are delivered through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) at the beginning of each term. The funds are first applied to any outstanding changes on the student's account. Remember that the amount of your net disbursement will be 4.228% less than what you are borrowing. If your disbursement produces a credit balance, then a refund check will be issued to the student. Once processed, refund checks are available for pick-up in the Student Service Center.

Office of Financial Aid
