

Federal Student Aid Program Summary 2025-26

The following chart details the main federal student aid programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Eligibility criteria listed are program-specific and in addition to Title IV general student eligibility criteria. Not all schools participate in all of the programs listed.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
Federal Pell Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need-based grants based on highest financial need as expressed by lowest student aid index (SAI) • 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 Congress¹ • \$740 minimum for 2025-26 • \$7,395 maximum for 2025-26 • Limited to a maximum of 6 Scheduled Awards or its equivalent (e.g., 12 full-time semesters) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate students without first baccalaureate or professional degree • Certain students enrolled in a postbaccalaureate teacher certification program • The Special Rule for Pell Grants replaces the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG) and the Children of Fallen Heroes (CFH) with new or modified eligibility criteria for a student who is less than 33 years old as of January 1 of the FAFSA award year and whose parent or guardian died in the line of duty while: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001; or ➢ Actively serving as and performing the duties of a public safety officer • Students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs • Incarcerated students enrolled in eligible prison education programs 	No ²

¹ According to DCL GEN-25-02, the Pell Grant maximum and minimum amounts may be adjusted based on appropriations for the 2025-26 award year.

²Title IV grants do not have to be paid back as a general rule. However, if the student withdraws from school, they may have to pay back some or all of the grant(s). See Volume 5 of the *FSA Handbook* for additional information.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-need-based grant program • Portable, depending on institutional participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA required annually • TEACH Agreement to Serve or Repay (Agreement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4,000 annual maximum • When sequestration is in effect, reduced by 5.7% when first disbursed on or after 10/1/20 and before 10/1/25³ • \$16,000 undergraduate aggregate limit (includes postbaccalaureate) • \$8,000 graduate aggregate limit • Sequestration has no impact on aggregate limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain 3.25 GPA on a 4.0 scale (or numeric equivalent), or have scored above 75th percentile on any single battery of nationally normed undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, or graduate standardized 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 • Agree to teach full time in a high-need field for at least 4 years within 8 years of ceasing enrollment at the school where the grant was received, at a school serving a high percentage of low-income students (For example: Title I schools) 	Repayment required if student does not fulfill teaching requirement; grant funds become a Direct Unsubsidized Loan
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need-based campus-based grant program • Recipients designated 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 transition and postsecondary programs • Priority given to Federal Pell Grant recipients with “exceptional financial need” 	No ⁴
Federal Work-Study (FWS)	<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 minimum or maximum • Offer amount is dictated by school policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate and graduate students • Students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive transition and postsecondary (CTP) programs • Students enrolled at least half time in coursework required by a state for teacher certification 	No

³The sequestration reductions for aid disbursed after 10/1/25 were not available at the time of publication.

⁴Title IV grants do not have to be paid back as a general rule. However, if the student withdraws from school, they may have to pay back some or all of the grant(s). See Volume 5 of the *FSA Handbook* for additional information.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
Federal Direct Student Loan (Direct Loan)—Base Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated by school and paid using funds from federal government • Need-based subsidized loan, supplemented by non-need-based unsubsidized loan up to combined limit • 6.53% fixed interest rate for undergraduate subsidized loans first disbursed on or after 7/1/24 and before 7/1/25⁴ • 1.057% origination fee when first disbursed on or after 10/1/20 and before 10/1/25⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA required annually; • Master Promissory Note (MPN) • Entrance counseling (if first-time borrower) • Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement (ASLA) is optional 	<p>Annual Loan Limits</p> <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 program • \$5,500 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in graduate or professional degree program if already have baccalaureate • \$5,500/year for teacher certification if already have baccalaureate • Actual amount of subsidized loan cannot exceed COA – SAI – OFA (Other Financial Assistance) • Actual amount of unsubsidized loan cannot exceed COA – OFA <p>Aggregate Loan Limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$23,000 undergraduate aggregate subsidized limit • \$65,500 combined undergraduate and graduate aggregate subsidized limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate students enrolled at least half time • Graduate and professional students enrolled at least half time are only eligible for base unsubsidized • Must first have determination of eligibility/ineligibility for Federal Pell Grant (undergraduates) • Must determine eligibility for subsidized loan before determining eligibility for unsubsidized loan (undergraduates) • Except for subsidized loans disbursed between 7/1/12 and 6/30/14, interest subsidy for undergraduates during at least half-time enrollment, grace period for certain loans, and deferment periods for subsidized loan • Unsubsidized loan 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 coursework (eligibility limited to one consecutive 12-month period) 	<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

⁵Interest rates will adjust each year based upon the 10-Year Treasury Bill Index and an add-on. The interest rate for first disbursements on or after 7/1/25 and before 7/1/26, as well as the origination fee for loans first disbursed on or after 10/1/25 and before 10/1/26 had not been announced when these materials were finalized.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
Direct Loan— Additional Unsubsidized Direct Loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-need-based loan • Limits are in addition to the “base” limits for the subsidized and unsubsidized loans described above • Actual amount of loan cannot exceed COA minus other aid including loans received under base limit • 6.53% fixed interest rate for undergraduate loans first disbursed on or after 7/1/24 and before 7/1/25⁵ • 8.08% fixed interest rate on graduate loans first disbursed on or after 7/1/24 and before 7/1/25⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA required annually • Master Promissory Note (MPN) • Entrance counseling (if first-time borrower) • Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement (ASLA) is optional 	<p>Annual Loan Limits <i>Dependent undergraduates whose parents can borrow a PLUS:</i></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><i>Dependent students whose parents cannot borrow a PLUS:</i></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 program • \$7,000 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in graduate or professional degree program <p><i>Independent students:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6,000/year 1st and 2nd undergraduate year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at least half time • Must have determination of eligibility/ineligibility for Federal Pell Grant (undergraduate) • Must determine eligibility for subsidized loan before determining eligibility for additional unsubsidized loan (undergraduate) • 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 programs ➤ Preparatory coursework (Direct Loan eligibility limited to one consecutive 12-month period) 	Yes, same as subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loan

⁶Interest rates will adjust each year based upon the 10-Year Treasury Bill Index and an add-on. The interest rate for first disbursements on or after 7/1/25 and before 7/1/26, as well as the origination fee for loans first disbursed on or after 10/1/25 and before 10/1/26 had not been announced when these materials were finalized.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
Direct Loan— Additional Unsubsidized Direct Loan (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.057% origination fee when first disbursed on or after 10/1/20 and before 10/1/25⁷ 		<p><i>Independent students (cont'd):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$7,000 each remaining undergraduate year Undergraduate annual limits prorated for programs or remaining periods of enrollment less than an academic year \$20,500/year graduate or professional students⁸ \$7,000/year for teacher certification \$6,000 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in undergraduate program \$7,000 for preparatory coursework necessary to enroll in graduate or professional degree program <p>Aggregate Loan Limits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dependent undergraduates whose parents can borrow</i> PLUS: \$31,000 minus outstanding subsidized amounts <i>Dependent undergraduates whose parents cannot borrow</i> PLUS and independent undergraduates: \$57,500 minus outstanding subsidized amounts <i>Graduate and professional students:</i> \$138,500 minus outstanding subsidized amounts⁸ 		

⁷The interest rate for first disbursements on or after 7/1/25 and before 7/1/26, as well as the origination fee for loans first disbursed on or after 10/1/25 and before 10/1/26 had not been announced when these materials were finalized.

⁸Students in certain health professions programs have higher loan limits.

Program	Description	Application	Annual/Aggregate Amounts	Program-Specific Eligibility	Repayment Required
Direct PLUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originated by school with funds from federal government • 9.08% fixed interest rate when first disbursed on or after 7/1/24 and before 7/1/25⁸ • 4.228% origination fee when first disbursed on or after 10/1/20 and before 10/1/25⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA required annually • PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN) • Entrance counseling (only for graduate/professional borrowers who have not previously received a Direct Loan) • Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement (ASLA) is optional 	No annual or aggregate limits, except parent or graduate/professional student may not borrow more than difference between COA and EFA student is expected to receive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate/professional students enrolled at least half time • Natural and adoptive parents (and stepparents if included on FAFSA) of eligible dependent undergraduates enrolled at least half time • No adverse credit history • Parent or student borrower must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Not be in default on a federal loan or owe a repayment on federal student aid ➢ Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen ➢ Not be incarcerated ➢ Have fully repaid any fraudulently obtained Title IV funds • May be used to replace SAI • Under certain conditions for enrollment in preparatory coursework or coursework required by a state for teacher certification 	<p>Yes, first payment due within 60 days after loan is fully disbursed</p> <p>Deferment possible</p>

⁹Interest rates will adjust each year based upon the 10-Year Treasury Bill Index and an add-on. The interest rate for first disbursements on or after 7/1/25 and before 7/1/26, as well as the origination fee for loans first disbursed on or after 10/1/25 and before 10/1/26 had not been announced when these materials were finalized.