



# 2025–2026 Information About Other Loan Options

In addition to Federal Direct loan awards, students may have eligibility for Other Loan Options to meet their Cost of Attendance (COA). While these loans may be requested up to the COA limit, it is important to borrow the minimum needed. A complete valid Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be on file and aid awarded prior to the processing of student and parent loans. The FAFSA can be completed online at: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

## Comparing Student Loan Options

Review the following information that lists main characteristics of each loan category, to assist with your borrowing decisions.

	DIRECT SUBSIDIZED LOANS	DIRECT UNSUBSIDIZED LOANS	FEDERAL PLUS LOANS	PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL LOANS
Annual Loan Limit	\$3,500 to \$5,500 (undergraduate students only, based on grade classification)	\$5,500 to \$12,500 * Continued Below	Cost of Attendance minus Student Aid	Cost of Attendance minus Student Aid
Primary Borrower	Student	Student	Parent (or Graduate Student)	Student or Parent
Lender	U.S. Department of Education	U.S. Department of Education	U.S. Department of Education	Banks, Credit Unions, Financial Institutions, State Agencies
Cosigner Requirement	No	No	Endorser if Adverse Credit History; Student cannot be endorser	Cosigner required for most new loans, if student does not satisfy credit criteria
Credit Criteria	None	None	Borrower may not have an Adverse Credit History	Credit Scores, Debt-to-Income Ratios, Minimum Income, No Adverse Credit History
Interest Rates Based on Credit Criteria	No	No	No	Yes
Loan Origination Fees	Yes, 1.057% of loan amount.	Yes, 1.057% of loan amount.	Yes, 4.228% of loan amount. ** Continued Below	Most Lenders have no fee. Check with Lender.
Grace Period Length	6 months	6 months	6 months	Generally 6 months for most loans, but terms may vary by lender
Repayment Term	Varies by Repayment Plan and Loan Balance, 10 to 30 years	Varies by Repayment Plan and Loan Balance, 10 to 30 years	Varies by Repayment Plan and Loan Balance, 10 to 30 years	Varies by Lender, 5 to 25 years
Deferment, Cancellation, Forgiveness Options	Yes, contact lender if needed	Yes, contact lender if needed	Yes, contact lender if needed	Yes, contact lender if needed

\* (undergraduate students, based on grade classification, dependent/independent status, and subsidized loan borrowing), \$20,500 (graduate students)  
\*\* \$10,000 Loan = \$423 fee taken off the top of the loan before it is disbursed to the school. So, \$9,577 will be applied to the University bill.

## Federal Parent Loan For Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

The Federal Direct PLUS Loan provides loans to parents of dependent undergraduate students attending college. The parent is the borrower of the Direct PLUS Loan and is responsible for repaying the loan. The Direct PLUS Loan interest rate is fixed at 8.94% as of 07/01/2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.

- For Federal Direct PLUS Loan, an eligible parent-borrower must:
- Be the biological or adoptive parent of the student, or a step-parent whose information was included on the student's FAFSA,
  - Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen,
  - Be borrowing on behalf of a dependent student who meets all of the requirements for the Federal Direct Loan Program,
  - Have a creditworthy history, and
  - Not be in default or owe a refund on any Title IV Federal Student Aid.
- To apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, go to the Federal Student Aid site, <https://studentaid.gov>. Select the Parent Tab. Under the Popular Topics list select Apply for a Parent PLUS Loan, then click on the Log In To Start button.
- Parent-borrower logs in with FSA ID (username and password). If the parent does not have a FSA ID, one can be created by selecting the Create an Account button.
  - Provide the required information to complete your application, through the Credit Check & Submit step.
    - The Credit Balance Option allows payment of loan funds not needed for the student's bill to be directed to either the parent-borrower or the student. Note that selecting payment to parent-borrower will require additional processing time.

- Complete a Direct PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (PLUS MPN for Parents). The Parent PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN) is valid for up to ten years, provided that the parent borrows within one year after signing.

If the parent-borrower is applying for Federal Direct PLUS Loan funds for more than one student, a separate Direct PLUS Loan Application and PLUS Loan MPN are needed.

Dependent students whose parents are denied the PLUS Loan may be eligible to receive additional funds from the Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan Program. A denial notice from the Department of Education will be provided to the school; at that time, the eligibility for additional Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan funds will be determined and processed according to the student's written request submitted to the Campus Hub.

## Educational Loans from Private Lenders

Several private lenders offer educational loan programs. The terms of these loans vary from one lender to another. Some have fees attached to the loans along with interest. Repayment options also vary from one lender to another. To be eligible, students must meet the specific requirements of the loan they select. Most lenders may require a creditworthy co-signer. A completed and valid FAFSA must be on file and aid must be awarded. There are limited exceptions to the FAFSA requirement; these students must meet with a financial aid advisor for approval before the private loan application will be processed.

You have the option to choose any private lender that offers educational loan programs whether or not the lender is included in the list below. The lenders listed represent the majority of loans processed at Minnesota State University, Mankato and are currently active. FastChoice is an online comparison tool that helps you determine the loan that is right for you by providing detailed information for various loans, as well as the terms and benefits offered by different lenders. Access FastChoice directly at <https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/236000/> or through a link on our web page, <https://mnsu.edu/private-loans>.



## Lenders by Category

Lender Information	Minimum Loan Amount	Current SAPS Suspension	Less than half-time enrollment	Needed for Past Due Balance	Parent Loans Available
Lender <b>Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union</b>	\$1,000	No	No	Yes	No
Lender <b>Citizens</b>	\$1,000	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Lender <b>College Ave Student Loans</b>	\$1,000	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lender <b>Earnest</b>	\$1,000	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Lender <b>LendKey</b>	\$2,000	No	No	Yes	No
Lender <b>Minnesota Office Of Higher Education (SELF)</b>	\$500	No	No	No	No
Lender <b>Sallie Mae</b>	\$1,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Lender <b>SoFi</b>	\$1,000	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

## Federal Graduate PLUS Loan (Grad PLUS)

Graduate students have the option to borrow a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan. This is a federal student loan; however, unlike the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan program, the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS borrower must meet credit history criteria. Interest is fixed at 8.94% as of 07/01/2025 for the 2025-2026 school year.

For Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans, an eligible graduate student-borrower must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen,
- Meet all of the requirements for the Federal Direct Loan Program,
- Have a creditworthy history, and
- Not be in default or owe a refund on any Title IV Federal Student Aid.

To apply for a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan go to the Federal Student Aid site, <https://studentaid.gov>. View the list under the Popular Topics menu, and select Apply for a PLUS Loan for Graduate School, then click on the Log In To Start button.

- Graduate student-borrower logs in with FSA ID (username and password).
- Provide the required information to complete your application, through the Credit Check & Submit step.
- Complete a Direct PLUS Master Promissory Note (PLUS MPN for Graduate/Professional Students). The MPN is valid for up to ten years, provided that the graduate student borrows within one year after signing.

## Contact Information

Student Financial Services • Minnesota State University, Mankato  
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507.389.1866  
[mankato.mnsu.edu/campus-hub](https://mankato.mnsu.edu/campus-hub)