



Grad PLUS LOAN FACTS

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRADUATE PLUS LOAN BORROWERS

Graduate degree students can borrow a Direct PLUS Loan to help cover education expenses.

The terms and conditions applicable to [PLUS Loans for parents](#) also apply to PLUS Loans for graduate students. These terms and conditions include:

- a determination that you (the applicant) do not have an adverse credit history; and
- a fixed interest rate of 7.9% for Direct PLUS Loans.

The student applicant are required to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSASM). In addition, before you can receive a PLUS Loan, your school must have determined your maximum eligibility for [Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans](#).

Note: Before July 1, 2010, Graduate PLUS, Loans were also made by private lenders under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFELSM) Program. As a result of recent legislation, no further loans will be made under the FFEL Program beginning July 1, 2010. All new Graduate PLUS Loans will come directly from the U.S. Department of Education under the Direct Loan Program.

How do I apply for a PLUS Loan?

For a PLUS Loan, you must complete a Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note (MPN). The MPN is a legal document in which you promise to repay the loan and any accrued interest and fees to the Department. It also explains the terms and conditions of the loan. In most cases, one MPN can be used for loans that you receive over several years of study, although a separate Loan Request must be filed for each school year. If you previously signed an MPN to receive an FFEL PLUS loan, you will need to sign a new MPN for a Direct PLUS Loan.

How much can I borrow?

The maximum PLUS Loan amount you can borrow is your Cost Of Attendance (determined by the school) minus any other Financial Aid awarded by your school. There is no set dollar amount. Contact your Financial Aid Office or view your award package for the estimated amount you are eligible to borrow.

The following information will guide you through the two-step process to accept your Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, complete Entrance Loan Counseling and sign the Graduate PLUS electronic Master Promissory Note (eMPN).

YOU MUST FULLY COMPLETE ALL TWO STEPS

Note: You will need your Department of Education Personal Identification Number (PIN) to complete both of the steps outlined below. This is the same PIN that you utilize to sign your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you do not know your PIN, visit the PIN website at www.pin.ed.gov.

Step #1 ENTRANCE LOAN COUNSELING FOR GRADUATE PLUS BORROWERS–

Entrance Loan Counseling is required for all Graduate PLUS borrowers. Entrance Loan Counseling will help you understand your rights and responsibilities as a Graduate PLUS loan borrower. When you enter the entrance counseling website, select the PLUS entrance counseling session. To complete the entrance counseling tutorial and quiz, access the Department of Education website at <http://studentloans.gov>. You must use your Department of Education PIN to sign in on this Web site.

Step #2 ELECTRONICALLY SIGN YOUR PROMISSORY NOTE - To electronically sign, you must access the Department of Education website at <http://studentloans.gov>. The signature process is completed once you can view the screen that indicates **SUCCESS!** **Now Print Your MPN.** This screen will appear after you have completed all the steps for eMPN signing

Your Graduate PLUS electronic Master Promissory Note will be automatically forwarded to the Student Financial Aid Office from Direct Loans within 5-7 business days from date of signing.