What is a Federal Direct PLUS Loan?

- A loan made through the federal government in the parent's name.
- Credit worthiness is required.
- Low, fixed interest rates.
- Multiple repayment options.
- **Get more information**.

Who may apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan?

- Parent borrowers of dependent undergraduate level students.
- Student must be enrolled in a degree level program at least half-time.
- Student must meet **eligibility** requirements.
- The parent borrower must be the dependent student's biological or adoptive parent. A stepparent is also eligible to borrow a Federal Direct PLUS Loan only if their income and assets were used on the student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid in the academic year that loan is being requested. A legal guardian is not considered an eligible borrower.
- Federal regulations require that in order to receive Federal Direct PLUS Loan the parent borrower cannot be in default or have an overpayment of federal aid. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid if you have questions about your eligibility.
- If you have federal loan(s) previously discharged due to disability, check with your loan servicer as to how a new federal loan may affect the discharged loan(s) before you apply for a new loan.

When should you apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan?

Please use the following as to when you should apply for the loan. Dates may vary based on federal system availability. The credit check is only valid for 180 days. Applying too early may require the parent borrower to recomplete the application process if credit expires before disbursement of the loan can be made.

> **2024-2025 Academic Year (Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025)**
> - Loan Term Beginning Summer 2024 - Apply on or after April 1, 2024
> - Loan Term Beginning Fall 2024 - Apply on or after April 1, 2024
> - Loan Term Beginning Spring 2025 - Apply on or after November 1, 2024
>
> **2025-2026 Academic Year (Summer 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026)**
> *Note availability of this year's application is tentatively April 1, 2025 and may change.*
> - Loan Term Beginning Summer 2025 - Apply on or after April 1, 2025
> - Loan Term Beginning Fall 2025 - Apply on or after April 1, 2025
> - Loan Term Beginning Spring 2026 - Apply on or after November 1, 2025

Federal Direct PLUS Loan applications must be certified by the Office of Financial Aid by the last day of the semester. Therefore the parent borrower must complete all steps at least one day prior to the end of the semester.

How do I apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan?

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS. It is important that you complete all steps to ensure that your loan application is properly processed. Failure to do so will delay the certification of your loan. **This process must be completed by the parent borrower, not by the student.** If you have multiple students enrolled needing a PLUS Loan, a separate PLUS Loan Application must be submitted for each student.

STEP 1 - Determine Credit Eligibility for Loan

- Visit **studentaid.gov**.
- Under "Loans and Grants" select *PLUS Loans:Grad PLUS and Parent PLUS*.
- Select "Learn More" next to *I am a Parent of a Student*.
- Log in to start using the parent borrower's FSA ID number, not the student's id.
- Complete requested information and follow instructions given. Below is clarification on certain items requested.
  - Select an Award Year - Make certain you select the correct Award Year or the loan will not be processed.
    - Award Year 2024-2025 (Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
    - Award Year 2025-2026 (Summer 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026)
  - School Information – Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania 003315
  - Loan Amount Requested - When prompted indicate the amount you wish to have processed for the award range. Amount requested will be split between semester(s) indicated in the award range. Please indicate whole dollars, no cents. If you want the maximum, you may indicate maximum. *An origination fee of 4.228% of the borrowed amount will be deducted by the federal processor when the loan is disbursed. Estimate this amount in your amount requested. For example, a $5,000 loan will have an approximate net disbursement of $4,789.*
    - **Special Note on Loan Amount Changes:** If you are trying to increase an existing loan for the award year, select the option "New Application" when asked for Application Submission Reason not "Loan Amount Increase". Enter only the additional amount required. If you are trying to reduce/cancel an existing loan for the award year, please see how to **reduce/cancel** the loan.
    - Loan Period - When prompted select the appropriate dates you wish to have this loan processed for. You may apply for one semester at a time or multiple semesters in an academic year.
- The credit decision will be provided at the end of the process. If the credit is approved, proceed to **STEP 2 - Submit PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN)**. If the credit is denied, the parent may appeal or apply with an endorser. For instruction on how to do this, please contact Federal Student Aid Information Center 1-800-433-3243. If parent is not able to appeal or apply with an endorser, the student may **submit a request** in order for additional loan to be processed in the student's name.
- For technical or site related issues or have questions, please call Federal Student Aid Information Center 1-800-433-3243.

STEP 2 - Submit Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN)

The PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN) is a legal document that holds the parent borrower, not the student, responsible for repayment of current and future loans. The MPN is valid for 10 years and does not require you to complete another MPN for subsequent borrowing unless the original MPN was approved with an endorser. If an endorser is required, future borrowing will require that a new MPN be submitted. If you have multiple students enrolled needing a PLUS Loan, a separate PLUS MPN must be submitted for each student.

- Visit **studentaid.gov**.
- Under "Loans and Grants" select *Master Promissory Note (MPN)*.
- Under "Choose the Direct Loan MPN you want to preview or complete" select *I'm a Parent of an Undergraduate Student.*
- Log in to start using the parent borrower's FSA ID number, not the student's id.
- Complete requested information and follow instructions given.
- For technical or site related issues or have questions, please call Federal Student Aid Information Center 1-800-433-3243.

STEP 3 - What Happens Next?

- Our office will certify your loan once all required items have been received (i.e. completed FAFSA, verification of at least half-time enrollment in an eligible program, and **satisfactory progress** earned).
- In order for the loan to be disbursed, the parent borrower must complete all required steps above before the last day of enrollment for the term in which the loan is processed. The student must be enrolled at least half-time at the time of disbursement.
- Get more information on how to **reduce/cancel** the loan.