



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Student Financial Aid

Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Information Sheet

What is the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS?

The Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan enables a graduate student to borrow money for educational expenses. You must be enrolled at least half-time. It is available through the Federal Direct Loan Program at WMU. The Direct Graduate PLUS Loan is additional assistance beyond the Federal Direct Subsidized or Unsubsidized Loan Program.

Offer eligibility is based on the information supplied on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The maximum amount you may borrow is based on the cost of attendance for the loan period minus other estimated assistance, including eligibility for the Federal Direct Subsidized or Unsubsidized Loan Program. However, applicants are encouraged to borrow the minimum amount needed to cover your actual costs. See an estimated cost of attendance calculator on our website, wmich.edu/finaid.

Who may borrow a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?

The borrower of a Federal Graduate PLUS Loan is the student if they are admitted to a graduate degree-granting program, are enrolled at least half-time and do not have adverse credit history.

How do I apply for a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan?

First, complete the Federal Graduate PLUS Loan application. The Fall, Spring and Summer I application is available at studentaid.gov and the Summer II application is available at wmich.edu/finaid/forms. Then, complete the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN) online at studentaid.gov. The MPN is required of all first-time borrowers, unless otherwise notified. The Federal Direct Loan Servicer will complete a credit check on the borrower.

What if I don't pass the credit check?

If you don't pass the credit check, you will be notified in writing by the Federal Direct Loan Servicing Center and they will indicate that you have the following options:

- Appeal: If you think there may be an error in how the credit worthiness was determined.
- Endorsement: You may obtain someone else who does not have adverse credit history to endorse the loan. This person would be responsible to repay the loan if you are unable to make the payments.

Who receives the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan funds?

WMU receives the funds from the federal government. We will apply the Federal Grad PLUS Loan (and any other financial aid the student is receiving) to the direct educational charges on the student's account (usually tuition, fees, housing and food) and then to other authorized charges. If any funds remain after the student's bill is paid, a refund will be sent to the student.

How do I repay the loan?

After you have accepted the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, a "Disclosure Statement" will be sent to you by the Department of Education indicating the amount you are borrowing, the loan period and the loan fees. The repayment period begins on the date of the final loan disbursement for the loan period and the first payment is due within 60 days after the day the loan is fully disbursed. Interest begins to accumulate at the time the first disbursement is made. For more information about your loan account, interest rates or repayment plans, visit studentaid.gov or call the Direct Loan Servicing Center at (800) 848-0979.

Am I eligible for a postponement of payments if I am enrolled at least half-time?

Yes, if you are enrolled on at least a half-time basis at an eligible school, payments may be postponed. You must apply for an In-School Deferment from the Direct Loan Servicing Center. To apply for a deferment contact Direct Loan Servicing by telephone, (800) 848-0979.

Questions? Please call Bronco Express at (269) 387-6000 or email us at finaid-info@wmich.edu.