2020-2021
HOW TO OBTAIN A FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN

1) Submit a 2020-2021 Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at: www.fafsa.gov
   • If you are selected for Verification, all the required paperwork must be submitted and
     finalized before a loan can be processed.

2) Visit www.studentaid.gov and log in using your FSA ID or verified Email Address & Password

3) Complete: Entrance Counseling (→ A) & a Master Promissory Note (MPN) (B ←)

Important information about borrowing Federal Direct Loans

TYPES OF LOANS

1. Direct Subsidized Loan: (Based on financial need) The Federal Government pays the interest while you are in school at least halftime.
2. Direct Unsubsidized Loan: Accrues interest while in school.

For the 2020-2021 school year, the interest rate for New Borrowers is 2.75%.
### Annual Loan Limits for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Subsidized</th>
<th>Unsubsidized</th>
<th>Total subsidized &amp; Unsubsidized</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dependent Students</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>First Year (Freshman) (0-29 credits)</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Year (Sophomore) (30+ credits)</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third &amp; Fourth Year (60+ credits)</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Independent Students</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year (Freshman) (0-29 credits)</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year (Sophomore) (30+ credits)</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third &amp; Fourth Year (60+ credits)</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
<td>$7,000</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
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### Aggregate (Lifetime) Undergraduate Loan Limits for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Subsidized</th>
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<th>Total subsidized &amp; Unsubsidized</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dependent Students</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$23,000</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Independent Students</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$23,000</td>
<td>$34,500</td>
<td>$57,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: The Maximum Subsidized loan cannot exceed the Financial NEED of the student*

**The Total Loan cannot exceed the student COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA) for the loan period.***

### Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the current interest rate of Federal Direct Student Loans?**
For the 2020-2021 school year, the interest rate for Borrowers is 2.75%. *** (Each loan also has an origination fee which is automatically deducted from your gross loan amount by your lender. For the 2020-2021 school year the origination fee is 1.062%)

**When do I start repaying my student loans?**
If you’re attending school at least half-time (6 credits), you have a period of time after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time status before you must begin repayment. This period of time is called a “grace period”. The one-time grace period for a Federal Direct Loan(s) is six (6) months.

- **SUBSIDIZED LOAN:** During the grace period, you do not have to pay any principal and you won’t be charged interest.
- **UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN:** You do not have to pay any principal, but you will be charged interest. You can either pay the interest as you go along or you may choose to defer payments until later, but remember that the interest will continue to accrue, and will later be capitalized.

**How can I check the status of my Student Loans?**
You can log into your CUNYfirst account by visiting: [https://home.cunyfirst.cuny.edu](https://home.cunyfirst.cuny.edu) to see the status of your loan. You may also contact your loan servicer. If you do not know who your loan servicer is, you may log into: [www.nslds.ed.gov](http://www.nslds.ed.gov) - using your FSA ID (Username) or verified Email Address & Password - to find out. NSLDS displays information about your loan and/or federal grant amounts, outstanding balances, loan statuses, and disbursements.

For additional information about student loans you may visit the following websites:

- [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)
- [https://www.nslds.ed.gov](https://www.nslds.ed.gov)

***Please allow 4-6 weeks for your Federal Direct Loan(s) to be processed***
2020-2021

FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN APPLICATION

Borrower information to be completed by STUDENT

(Please print clearly in Black or Blue Ink only.)

Name:  
LAST NAME  
FIRST  
MI  

CUNYFIRST EMPLID #  

Address:  
NUMBER/STREET  
APT#  
CITY  
STATE  
ZIP  

Phone: ( )  
Email:  

Before applying for a Federal Direct Loan, make sure you have met the following requirements:

☐ Yes ☐ No  I have completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2020-2021 school year. If not visit www.fafsa.gov to apply.

☐ Yes ☐ No  I have visited www.studentloans.gov to complete the following:
☐ Entrance Counseling and
☐ Master Promissory Note (MPN)

You must use your FSA ID in order to electronically sign and submit both forms. Make sure to print or save a copy for your records.

☐ Yes ☐ No  I am enrolled and attending courses worth a minimum of six (6) credits/equated credits and I am matriculated in a degree granting program. I am aware that I must also meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements in order to receive Federal Direct Loan(s).

☐ Please note all disbursements of Direct Loan Funds are made approximately 30 days after the first day of classes for the term. All one-term loans will be disbursed in two (2) equal payments per semester.

All sections below must be completed in order for your loan to be successfully processed:

1. How many credits will you be taking in the: Summer Term: _______ Fall Term: _______ Spring Term: _______

2. When do you expect to graduate: _______ - _______ YYYY

3. Please indicate below the amounts you wish to borrow:
☐ Direct Subsidized Loan  ☐ Direct Unsubsidized Loan

Please check only ONE of the options below:

☐ Summer/ Fall/ Spring: $ _______  ☐ Fall/ Spring: $ _______

☐ Summer Term only: $ _______  ☐ Fall Term Only $ _______

☐ Spring Term only: $ _______

Applicant Certification: My signature below certifies that I understand: 1) this request form is not a Master Promissory Note (MPN); 2) that I have completed Direct Loan Entrance Counseling before submitting my application; 3) the Office of Financial Aid will determine my eligibility for Federal Direct Loans; 4) my Federal Direct Loan request cannot be processed until the Financial Aid Office has received the results of my 2020-2021 FAFSA, collected all required documentation, and determined my application information to be correct; 5) I must maintain half-time enrollment (6 credits) in order to receive any disbursement of Direct Loan funds; 6) the Direct Loan amount cannot exceed my cost of attendance (COA) minus any other financial aid awarded; 7) my loan may be reduced at any time due to a change in enrollment or financial aid eligibility; and 8) the Bursars’ Office will make any necessary deductions from my Federal Direct Loan to pay my remaining tuition liability before I receive the balance of the funds.

Student’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

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