



## 2023-2024 HOW TO OBTAIN A FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN

- 1) Submit a 2023-2024 Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at: [www.fafsa.gov](http://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](http://www.studentaid.gov) and log in using your FSA ID or verified Email Address & Password

As of May 10, 2015 you must have a verified FSA ID (Username & Password) instead of a PIN to log in to StudentLoans.gov.

Create an FSA ID.

If you have a verified FSA ID®, log in to StudentLoans.gov.

For assistance, call: 1-800-557-7394.

Log In

FSA ID Username or E-mail Address

FSA ID Password

Create an FSA ID

Forgot Username or Password?

FSA ID Frequently Asked Questions

For assistance, call 1-800-557-7394.

- 3) COMPLETE AID PROCESS:
  - Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement
  - Master Promissory Note (MPN)
  - Entrance Counseling

### 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 2023-2024 school year, the interest rate for Borrowers is 5.50%.

## Annual Loan Limits for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

|                                       | <i>Subsidized</i> | <i>Unsubsidized</i> | <i>Total subsidized &amp; Unsubsidized</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Dependent Students</b>             |                   |                     |  |
| First Year (Freshman) (0-29 credits)  | \$3,500           | \$2,000             | \$5,500                                    |
| Second Year (Sophomore) (30+ credits) | \$4,500           | \$2,000             | \$6,500                                    |
| Third & Fourth Year (60+ credits)     | \$5,500           | \$2,000             | \$7,500                                    |
| <b>Independent Students</b>           |                   |                     |  |
| First Year (Freshman) (0-29 credits)  | \$3,500           | \$6,000             | \$9,500                                    |
| Second Year (Sophomore) (30+ credits) | \$4,500           | \$6,000             | \$10,500                                   |
| Third & Fourth Year (60+ credits)     | \$5,500           | \$7,000             | \$12,500                                   |

## Aggregate (Lifetime) Undergraduate Loan Limits for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

|                             | <i>Subsidized</i> | <i>Unsubsidized</i> | <i>Total subsidized &amp; Unsubsidized</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Dependent Students</b>   | \$23,000          | \$8,000             | \$31,000                                   |
| <b>Independent Students</b> | \$23,000          | \$34,500            | \$57,500                                   |

\*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 2023-2024 school year, the interest rate for Borrowers is 5.50%. \*\*\* (Each loan also has an origination fee which is automatically deducted from your gross loan amount by your lender. **For the 2023-2024 school year the estimated origination fee is 1.059% for all loans disbursed on October 1, 2023).**

#### 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> 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.nslsds.ed.gov](http://www.nslsds.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:

- <https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>
- [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)
- <https://www.nslsds.ed.gov>

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



2023-2024 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 Date of Birth: MM DD YYYY Last 4 SOCIAL SECURITY # 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:

Table with 2 columns: Yes/No checkboxes and requirement text. Requirements include FAFSA completion, visiting studentaid.gov, enrollment in a degree program, and disbursement timing.

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

1. Please list credits for the term(s) you want the loan for: Summer Term: Fall Term: Spring Term:

2. When do you expect to graduate: MM YYYY

3. Please indicate below the loan type you want 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 2023-2024 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:

COURAGE. STRENGTH. FORTITUDE.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Cost of Attendance (COA): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Minus EFC* \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Need \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Minus Total Aid* \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Remaining Unmet Need** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent | <input type="checkbox"/> Dependent           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer      | <input type="checkbox"/> Freshman (0-29crs)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fall        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore (30+)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring      | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior/Senior (60+) |

**SULA** \_\_\_\_\_

Certified Subsidized Amt: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified Unsubsidized Amt: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_