

## Descriptions of Major Financial Aid Programs

### Federal Pell Grant

- Available to undergraduate students only.
- Award eligibility determined by the Federal government based upon EFC from FAFSA application.
- Unlimited number of awards available.

### Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant

- Available to first and second year undergraduate students.
- Available for second year recipients who have maintained a 3.0 GPA their freshman year.
- Must be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.
- Must be a full-time student who graduated from a rigorous high school curriculum after 1/1/2006 (as determined by the appropriate State guidelines for the high school).
- Must have financial need.

### National SMART Grant

- Available to third and fourth year undergraduate students.
- Must be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.
- Must be a full-time student majoring in mathematics, science, technology, or foreign languages important to national security.
- Must have at least a 3.0 GPA.
- Must have financial need.
- Must enroll in one class within the student's eligible major each term the student receives the grant.

### Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- Available to undergraduate students.
- Must demonstrate exceptional financial need.
- Limited number of awards based on available funds.
- Must be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant.

### The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant/Loan Program

- Must be enrolled in course work that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plan to complete such course work.
- Eligible majors are defined by the participating institution.
- Must have a score above the 75th percentile on an admissions test, such as the SAT, ACT or GRE, OR maintain at least a 3.25 GPA each term.
- Must teach full-time for at least four years within eight years of completing the program as a highly qualified teacher, at a school that serves low-income students, in a high need subject area (mathematics, science, a foreign language, bilingual education, special education, as a reading specialist, and other identified teacher shortage areas as of the time you begin teaching).
- Must sign an Agreement-to-Serve to certify understanding of the terms of the grant and the teaching service requirements.
- Must also complete Entrance Counseling, Subsequent Counseling for each year that TEACH is accepted, and Exit Counseling when no longer receiving the TEACH Grant/Loan.
- Annual award of up to \$4,000 for full-time students; annual award amount is less (prorated) if student is part-time.
- May not exceed cost of attendance in combination with other aid.
- **Must be repaid as an Unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan, with interest from the date(s) of original disbursement if the required teaching service is not fulfilled.**
- **It is expected that over 80% of students who accept this grant will be unable to fulfill the teaching service requirement, and will repay this as a loan.**

### Private Scholarships

- Awarded by philanthropic groups and also private organizations such as fraternal organizations, unions, church groups, etc.
- Private scholarships are considered financial aid awards and may reduce the amount students need to borrow.
- Notification of private scholarships must be forwarded to the Financial Aid Office for inclusion in the aid package.
- Private scholarships are considered to be need-based aid.

### Federal Work Study (FWS) Employment

- Must demonstrate financial need.
- May work approximately 6-8 hours per week earning at least minimum wage.
- May choose from a variety of jobs.
- Money earned is paid directly to the student.
- Limited number of awards available based on annual allocation of funds.

### Federal Perkins Loan

- Must demonstrate financial need.
- Fixed interest rate of 5 percent.
- Limited number of awards available based on annual allocation of funds.
- Must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Interview (generally performed on-line).
- Repayment begins nine months after leaving school or dropping below half-time enrollment.

### Federal Subsidized Stafford Student Loan

- Must demonstrate financial need.
- 2009-2010 Loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2009 have an interest rate of **5.6% for undergraduate students** and **6.8% for graduate students**.
- Interest-free while enrolled in at least 6 credit hours.
- Repayment begins six months after leaving college or if enrollment drops below 6 credit hours.
- The maximum yearly loan limits are: \$3,500 freshmen, \$4,500 sophomores, \$5,500 juniors/seniors, and \$8,500 for graduate students.
- Loan disbursement is reduced by an origination and insurance fee (2 percent fee, minus an automatic rebate of 1.5 percent), at the time of disbursement.

### Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Student Loan

- Not need-based.
- Fixed interest rate of 6.8% for new borrowers.
- Interest accrues during the in-school period.
- Eligible students may borrow a combined subsidized and unsubsidized loan up to the maximum loan limits for their class year (see above). All undergraduate students may also borrow up to \$2,000 in additional unsubsidized loan funding. Independent students, or dependent students whose parents are ineligible for a Parent PLUS Loan, are eligible for the following unsubsidized loan amounts: \$4,000-freshmen/sophomores, \$5,000 juniors/seniors, and \$12,000 for graduate students.
- Same origination/insurance fees as Subsidized Stafford.

### Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

- Not need-based.
- Parent is the borrower, not the student.
- Parent borrower must not have "adverse credit" history.
- Loan to parents of dependent students enrolled at least half-time.
- Parents may borrow up to the cost of education minus any other aid received per academic year.
- Fixed interest rate of 7.9% for new borrowers.
- Deduction of 4% origination and insurance fee, plus an automatic rebate of 1.5 percent, at the time of disbursement.

### PLUS Loan for Graduate or Professional Students

- Not need-based.
- Available to graduate students enrolled at least half-time.
- Students may borrow up to the cost of education minus any other aid received per academic year.
- Fixed interest rate of 7.9% for new borrowers.
- Credit review must be completed to determine eligibility.
- Repayment begins 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed.
- Students must have applied for the maximum loan eligibility from the Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford loans first.
- Same origination/insurance fees as Parent PLUS.