

## GRADUATE STUDENT LOAN GUIDE

There are several different loan programs designed to help graduate students meet their educational costs. This guide will provide you with information regarding the loan options available to you as a

**UCLA** Financial Aid & Scholarships

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[www.financialaid.ucla.edu](http://www.financialaid.ucla.edu)

Message Center

[www.financialaid.ucla.edu/Contact-Us](http://www.financialaid.ucla.edu/Contact-Us)

# Types of Loans

There are several different types of loans available for Graduate Students to help cover college costs.

## Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

Unsubsidized loans are financed by the U.S Department of Education and the maximum annual unsubsidized loan amount is \$20,500. Students must be enrolled at least half time (4 units) to receive funds.

## Federal Graduate PLUS Loan

PLUS loans are available to graduate students enrolled at least half time (4 units) who have borrowed the maximum Unsubsidized loan amount per year. The borrower (you) and the UCLA Financial Aid and Scholarships office work with the Department of Education (ED) to complete the loan process.

## Private Student Loans

Private loans are offered by lenders independently of the Department of Education. Private loans are best utilized only if eligibility for Federal Direct Loans have been exhausted. You can review the [Preferred Private Lender List](#) compiled by UC, Office of the President along with our private loan guide for additional information.

## DREAM Student Loans

Available to undocumented grad students who meet the DREAM Act Application requirements and criteria set by the [UC, Office of the President](#). Students can borrow up to \$4,000 annually. Interest rates will be fixed at the same rates as Federal loans with no loan fees.

### DREAM Loan

- ◆ For more information please review UCLA Financial Education, Loan and Support Services Office website via <https://loans.ucla.edu/e-sign-portal>
- ◆ The required loan entrance counseling for a CA or University Dream Loan will be provided when e-signing the loan documents.

# How to accept your Loans

## Take Action On Your Loans

If you choose to utilize any student loans offered as part of your Bruin Financial Aid Letter, you will need to complete the acceptance process via “Step 2 Take Actions On Loans” of your Bruin Financial Aid Portal under the HOME tab.

Under this section, you will have the option to take action on your loans per term; accepting or reducing the loan amount offered. **Please keep in mind:**

- Reducing the amount accepted on your loan after it has disbursed will result in an overaward, requiring us to bill you immediately on your BruinBill.
- When accepting your loans, please keep loan origination fees into consideration, which can be seen in the breakdown under section 3 “When am I scheduled to receive my financial aid?” by clicking on the icon to left of the Award Name.

## Receive Your Funds

After you have accepted your loans, you will need to proceed to “Step 3 Receive Your Funds” of your Bruin Financial Aid Portal under the HOME tab to complete any outstanding loan documentation required. For Graduate PLUS Loans, a separate Loan application will need to be completed with the link provided in this section.

### Graduate PLUS Loan Documents

- ◆ The student must request a Graduate PLUS Loan at: <https://studentaid.gov> A new request must be completed each year.
- ◆ The student must also complete a Master Promissory Note on the same website (<https://studentaid.gov/mpn>). This requirement is for first time borrowers only, with the exception of Loans approved with an endorser.

## PLUS Loan Credit

A Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan applicant is considered to have an adverse credit history if he or she:

- ◆ Is 90 or more days delinquent on any debt as of the date of the credit report, or
- ◆ Has been the subject of a default determination, bankruptcy discharge, foreclosure, repossession, tax lien, wage garnishment or write-off of debt under Title IV of Higher Education Act during the 5 years preceding the date of the credit report.
- ◆ Has unpaid collection accounts and/or charge-offs as of the date of the credit report.



## PLUS Approval on Appeal or with an Endorser:

Borrowers who have adverse credit but are approved for a Direct Parent PLUS Loan as a result of appealing the credit decision or applying with an endorser are subject to a new counseling requirement. This new PLUS credit counseling module must be completed at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

## Federal Loan Fees and Interest Rates

Interest rate varies depending on the loan type and first disbursement. Interest rates are set by Federal Law and are typically published after July 1st for the upcoming academic year.

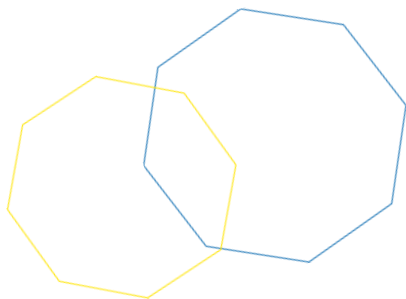
Loan Type	Interest Rate	Interest Rate Period	Origination Fee	Loan Period
Unsubsidized Loan	7.94%	July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026	1.057%	October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026
PLUS Loan	8.94%	July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026	4.228%	October 1, 2024-September 30, 2026

## Loan Disbursements

The total loan amount you accept on your Bruin Financial Aid Portal will be disbursed to your BruinBill account at the start of each quarter. Any funds remaining after your Bruin Bill balance is paid will be refunded to the student.

**NOTE:** *You must be enrolled at least half time (4 units) in order for your loan to be disbursed. If you drop below half time or withdraw from school you may be billed for loans funds disbursed to you for the term.*

For faster delivery of your excess funds, we recommend that students sign up for [BruinDirect](#) via their BruinBill on MyUCLA. This will allow any refund to be direct deposited to your bank account, rather than being processed as a paper check, which can take up to 7-10 business days.



## Contact Information

Financial Aid and Scholarships  
A-129 Murphy Hall  
(310) 206-0400  
[www.financialaid.ucla.edu](http://www.financialaid.ucla.edu)  
Message Center:  
<http://financialaid.ucla.edu/Contact-Us>

Financial Education, Loan and Support Services  
555 Westwood Plaza  
(310) 825-9864  
[www.loans.ucla.edu](http://www.loans.ucla.edu)

Student Financial Services  
1125 Murphy Hall  
(310) 825-9194  
Message Center:  
[www.finance.ucla.edu/business-finance-services/student-accounts/contact-us](http://www.finance.ucla.edu/business-finance-services/student-accounts/contact-us)