

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 graduate student.

UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships

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financialaid.ucla.edu

Message Center
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. Interest on these loans starts accruing while the student is enrolled in school at least half-time and during the 6 month grace period. Repayment starts 6 months after graduation. Students must be enrolled at least half time (4 units) to receive funds.

The One Big Beautiful Bill increased the annual unsubsidized loan maximum to $50,000 for professional students, expected to be defined as Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), Law (L.L.B. or J.D.), Medicine (M.D.), and Clinical Psychology (Psy.D. or Ph.D.). Federal Direct Loan maximums are subject to proration if a student is enrolled less than full time (8 units).

Federal Graduate PLUS Loan for Current Borrowers

One Big Beautiful Bill eliminated Graduate PLUS loans for new borrowers after July 1, 2026.

Legacy provisions for current borrowers allow borrowing under current federal loan limits for the remainder for student's current program of study or 3 years, whichever is less. To qualify, you must be enrolled at least half time (4 units/ 6 units for Law students). Federal Graduate PLUS Loans are subject to proration if a student is enrolled less than full time (8 units).

Private Student Loans

Private loans are financed by lenders independently of the Department of Education. Private loans are best utilized if eligibility for Federal Direct Loans has been exhausted. You can review the Preferred Private Lender List compiled by UC, Office of the President along with our Best Practices for Private Educational Loans guide for additional information.

DREAM Student Loans

Available to undocumented graduate students who complete the CA DREAM Act Application and meet eligibility criteria. Students can borrow up to $20,500 annually. Interest rates are fixed at 6.52% for the 26/27 academic year.

- For more information regarding the DREAM loan, please review UCLA Financial Education, Loan and Support Services Office website via 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

Unsubsidized Direct Loans

If you choose to borrow your Direct Unsubsidized Loan, you will need to complete the acceptance process via "Step 2 Take Actions On Loans" of your Bruin Financial Aid Portal under the FINANCIAL tab.

You will have to take action on the loans offered to you for each term. You can accept the entire amount offered or request less.

Graduate PLUS Loans

If offered a Graduate PLUS Loan, you must submit a request at studentaid.gov annually to start the process. It is recommended that you indicate the "maximum" loan amount on your loan application as you can reduce the actual amounts borrowed in the Bruin Financial Aid Portal.

You can increase or reduce the amount accepted via "Step 2 Take Actions On Loans" of your Bruin Financial Aid Portal under the FINANCIAL tab. Note, if you request a specific amount on your loan application, you will not be able to increase the loan on the Bruin Financial Aid Portal.

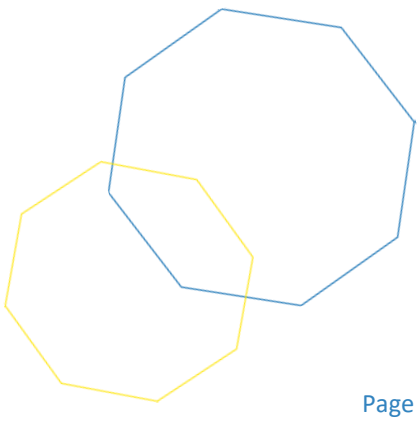
What to Keep In Mind When Borrowing Loans

The home page of your Bruin Financial Aid Portal will show the steps required to complete your loan acceptance process.

If you are a new borrower, you will be required to complete a Master Promissory Note and Loan Entrance Counseling at studentaid.gov.

Reducing the amount accepted on your loan after it has disbursed will result in a bill on your BruinBill account.

The amount of loans accepted in Section 2 of the portal represents the gross loan amount without taking the loans fees into account. You can see the amount of fees that will be charged based on the amount you borrow in Section 3 "When am I scheduled to receive my financial aid?" of the Financial Information when you click on the icon to the left of the Award Name.



PLUS Loan Credit Requirements

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 Graduate PLUS Loan based on appealing the credit decision or applying with an endorser must complete credit counseling before their loan can be disbursed. PLUS credit counseling is available at studentaid.gov.

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 updated on July 1st for the upcoming academic year.

Loan Type	Interest Rate	Interest Rate Period	Origination Fee	Loan Period
Unsubsidized Loan	**8.07%**	**July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**	**1.057%**	**October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027**
PLUS Loan ***(Current Borrowers)***	**9.07%**	**July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027**	**4.228%**	**October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027**
DREAM Loan	**6.52%**	**July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027**	**1.057%**	**October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027**

Loan Disbursements

The total loan amount you accept (less loan fees) 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; 6 units for law students) 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 refund, 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
Message Center:
financialaid.ucla.edu/Contact-Us

Financial Education, Loan and Support Services
555 Westwood Plaza
(310) 825-9864
loans.ucla.edu

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