UCLA

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT LOAN GUIDE



There are several types of student loans available to undergraduate students and the parents of dependent students.

This guide will provide you with information on the different loans available to help fund your UCLA education.

UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships

A129 Murphy Hall, Box 951435
Los Angeles, CA 90095
www.financialaid.ucla.edu
Message Center
www.financialaid.ucla.edu/Contact-Us

Loan Eligibility

- You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each academic year for Federal Loan eligibility.
- Eligibility for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans, PLUS loans and Private loans is not need based.
- You must be a US citizen or an eligible non-citizen for Federal and University Loans.
- You must complete a CA DREAM Act Application each year for DREAM Loans.

There are several different types of loans available for undergraduate students and their families to help cover college costs.

Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans are financed by the U.S Department of Education. Federal Government pays Subsidized loan interest while the student is enrolled at least half time. Unsubsidized loan interest accrues while the student is in school. Annual loan maximums vary depending on the student's grade level and dependency status. The student must be enrolled at least half time (6 units) in order to be eligible.

Loan limits for graduating seniors who will not be enrolled for the entire academic year will be prorated, resulting in lower than the annual maximum eligibility being awarded. Loan limits are reduced for students that not enrolled full time.

Annual Loan Limits

Grade Level	Federal Direct Subsidized Loan Maximum	Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan Maximum*	TOTAL Annual Maximum**
Freshman	$3,500	Dependent = $2,000 Independent = $6,000	Dependent = $5,500 Independent = $9,500
Sophomore	$4,500	Dependent = $2,000 Independent = $6,000	Dependent = $6,500 Independent = $10,500
Junior/Senior	$5,500	Dependent = $2,000 Independent = $7,000	Dependent = $7,500 Independent = $12,500
Undergraduate Aggregate Loan Limits	$23,000		Dependent = $31,000 Independent = $57,500

- Students whose parents do not qualify for a Parent PLUS Loan are eligible to receive unsubsidized loan at the independent student maximum, not to exceed cost of attendance.
- Students who do not qualify for a Federal Direct Subsidized Loan are eligible to receive Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans up to their respective total annual maximum loan limits, not to exceed cost of attendance.

Federal Parent PLUS Loans

Parent PLUS Loans are financed by the U.S Department of Education.

One Big Beautiful Bill has placed limitations on Parent PLUS loans for new borrowers after July 1, 2026. New borrowers can borrow annual loan maximum up to $20,000 per student with an aggregate lifetime maximum of $65,000 per student.

Legacy provisions for prior year PLUS borrowers allow borrowing up to annual Cost of Attendance minus other aid received without a lifetime aggregate limit for the remainder of the student's program of study or 3 years, whichever is less. To qualify, the student must be enrolled at least half time (6 units).

Loan Fees and Interest Rates

The following interest rates are established by the Department of Education and updated annually on July 1.

Loan Type	Interest Rate	Interest Rate Period	Origination Fee	Loan Period
Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and DREAM Loan	**6.52%**	**July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**	**1.057%**	**October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027**
PLUS Loan	**9.07%**	**July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**	**4.228%**	**October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027**

University Loans

University Loans are financed by UCLA and awarded to eligible undergraduate students with high need. Loan maximums are set by the University and vary annually. $2,500 is set as the annual maximum for the 2026-2027 academic year. Half-time enrollment is required. Interest rate is fixed at 5%.

California DREAM Loans

California DREAM Loans are financed by the State of California and the University, for DREAM Act applicants with high need. The annual maximum is $4,000 and the aggregate lifetime limit is $20,000. Half-time enrollment is required. Interest rates are the same as the interest rate for the Subsidized Direct Loan.

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 University of California Office of the President along with our **Best Practices for Private Educational Loans** guide for additional information. There are some private loan lenders who do not require half-time enrollment minimum.

How to Accept Your Loans

Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

The home page of your Bruin Financial Aid Portal will show the steps required to complete before your loans can be funded.

- If you choose to borrow your Direct Subsidized or 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 and can accept the entire amount offered or request less.

DREAM and University Loans

DREAM and University Loans must be accepted using a Loan Acceptance Document, which will be available on the Documents tab of the Bruin Financial Aid Portal.

- For more information 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.

Parent PLUS Loans

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

- The borrower (parent) must submit a PLUS Loan application at studentaid.gov annually to start the process. It is recommended that the "maximum" loan amount is requested on the loan application because the actual amounts borrowed can be determined by the borrower on the Bruin Financial Aid Portal.
- If the borrower has 3rd party access to the student's Bruin Financial Aid Portal, they will be able to reduce the amount of parent PLUS processed, via "Step 2 Take Actions On Loans" of the Bruin Financial Aid Portal under the FINANCIAL tab, if they decide to borrow less. If the borrower requests a specific amount on their loan application, the student or the parent will not be able to increase the loan on the Bruin Financial Aid Portal.
- The parent must also complete a Master Promissory Note on studentaid.gov. This requirement is for first time borrowers only, with the exception of Loans approved with an endorser.

Federal PLUS Loan Requirements

A Federal Direct Parent 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.
- If the parent is denied a PLUS loan due to adverse credit, and the family chooses not to appeal the decision or proceed with an endorser, the student can contact UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships via Message Center to request they be awarded the maximum additional unsubsidized loan funds they are eligible for based on their grade level.

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.

Loan Disbursements

The amount of loans accepted in Section 2 of the portal represents the gross loan amount without taking the loans fees into account. University Loans do not have loan fees. When applicable, the loan fees are displayed 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.

- Reducing the amount accepted on your loan after it has disbursed will result in a bill on your BruinBill account .
- 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.
- Parent PLUS Loan refunds will be deposited to the same BruinDirect account as the rest of your aid.

NOTE: *You must be enrolled at least half time (6 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.*

Student Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, DREAM and University) loans enter repayment six months after a

Repayment

student graduates or drops below half-time (grace period). Payments to the principal and interest on Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans can be deferred while the student is in school and during the grace period (although interest will still accrue).

Deferred interest will be capitalized (added to the principal) at repayment or the borrower can pay interest while in school.

A **Parent PLUS** loan will enter repayment 30 days after the final disbursement. Parents have the option to defer payment until after their dependent student graduates or drops below half time enrollment by contacting their loan servicer.

The standard repayment period for all Federal loans is 10 years but can be extended. Please visit studentaid.gov for information about different repayment plan options, deferments and forbearances available through the Department of Education.

Contacts

UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships	Financial Education, Loan and Support Services	Student Financial Services	Federal Loan Processing Center
A-129 Murphy Hall Los Angeles, CA 90095	555 Westwood Plaza, Room 106 Los Angeles, CA 90095	1125 Murphy Hall 405 Hilgard Ave Los Angeles, CA 90095	P.O Box 87130 Lincoln, NE 68501
(310) 206-0400 financialaid.ucla.edu	(310) 825-9864 loans.ucla.edu	(310) 825-9194 finance.ucla.edu/	(800) 557-7394 studentaid.gov