

Best Practices for Private Educational Loans

UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships recommends exhausting all federal loan options before considering a Private Educational Loan.

Unlike federal loans, private loans are administered by private lenders — either banks or private institutions — who set the terms for the loans. This can mean they have different criteria for both loan eligibility and loan rates (they can have a range of interest rates and fees). Before you decide to apply for a private student loan, we encourage you to do your research, review your budget, and review our [Loan webpage](#) for more information.

You can submit one loan application to cover your period of enrollment. It is very important that you indicate the correct loan period start and end dates when you apply with your lender. **Please refer to the table below to select correct dates based on your enrollment plans during the academic year.**

NOTE: Professional students should refer to [Professional School Calendars | Registrar's Office](#) for recommended dates to indicate on their Private loan application based on their school.

2026-20267 Academic Year Loan Period	Dates for Loan Application
Summer 2026 Only	June 2026 – September 2026
Summer 2026, Fall 2026, Winter 2027, and Spring 2027	June 2026 – June 2027
Fall 2026, Winter 2027, and Spring 2027	October 2026 – June 2027
Fall 2026 Only	October 2026 – December 2026
Winter 2027 Only	January 2027 – March 2027
Spring 2027 Only	March 2027 – June 2027

Important Notes:

- Once your loan has been certified, it cannot be adjusted. Your disbursement dates will be based on the loan period you selected when applying.
- **If you do not have a Social Security Number and your loan is processed with a lender-assigned identification number, please reach out to Financial Aid and Scholarships as our system will not be able to import your application until we update it with the lender assigned number.**

Quick Guide to Private Educational Loan Requirements

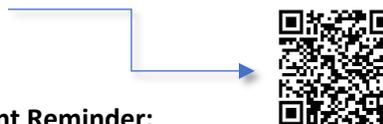
Citizenship Requirements – U.S. citizenship or eligible residency usually required; international students often need a U.S. cosigner.

Credit Check Required – Most lenders require a good credit score and strong credit history.

Cosigner Often Needed – Many students need a creditworthy cosigner who shares repayment responsibility.

Borrowing Limits Apply – Loan amounts are capped at the school's cost of attendance and may have lifetime limits.

Please refer to the [UC Preferred Private Lender List](#) for vetted lenders approved by the UC Office of the President. Students and families may choose any private lender they prefer.



Important Reminder:

Students may only borrow up to their remaining Cost of Attendance (COA) after all other financial aid, including federal direct loans and university-based loans have been applied. Private educational loans cannot exceed your unmet educational expenses as determined by UCLA Financial Aid & Scholarships.