

FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS



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Federal Direct Loans

Federal Direct Loans are funded by the federal government and are either subsidized (the government pays the loan's interest while you are enrolled in school) or unsubsidized (you pay the loan's interest, which can be deferred until after you graduate).

The following chart highlights current annual and aggregate loan limits for subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans, which may be combined to fund your education.

Please note: There are different limits for dependent and independent undergraduate students as well as graduate and professional students. Subsidized Federal Direct Loans are limited to the amounts in the column titled Combined Base Limit for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans. Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans are limited to the amounts in the Total Limit for Unsubsidized Loans column, minus the amount of any subsidized Federal Direct Loans.

Annual Loan Limits—Federal Direct Loan			
Dependent Students Whose Parents Were Approved for a PLUS Loan	Combined Base Limit for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans	Additional Limit for Unsubsidized Loans	Total Limit for Unsubsidized Loans (minus subsidized amounts)
First-Year Undergraduate (Freshman)	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$5,500
Second-Year Undergraduate (Sophomore)	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,500
Third-Year and Beyond Undergraduate (Junior, Senior)	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,500
Preparatory Coursework (for enrollment in an undergraduate program)	\$2,625	\$0	\$2,625
Preparatory Coursework (for enrollment in a graduate or professional program)	\$5,500	\$0	\$5,500
Teacher Certification Coursework	\$5,500	\$0	\$5,500

Annual Loan Limits—Federal Direct Loan			
Independent Students and Dependent Students Whose Parents Were Denied a PLUS Loan	Combined Base Limit for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans	Additional Limit for Unsubsidized Loans	Total Limit for Unsubsidized Loans (minus subsidized amounts)
First-Year Undergraduate (Freshman)	\$3,500	\$6,000	\$9,500
Second-Year Undergraduate (Sophomore)	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$10,500
Third-Year and Beyond Undergraduate (Junior, Senior)	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500
Preparatory Coursework (for enrollment in an undergraduate program)	\$2,625	\$6,000	\$8,625
Preparatory Coursework (for enrollment in a graduate or professional program)	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500
Teacher Certification Coursework	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$12,500

Graduate and Professional Students	Combined Base Limit for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans	Additional Limit for Unsubsidized Loans	Total Limit for Unsubsidized Loans (minus subsidized amounts)
Graduate and Professional Students	0	\$20,500	\$20,500
Medical School Students	0	\$40,500	\$40,500

Aggregate Loan Limits—Federal Direct Loan			
	Combined Base Limit for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans	Additional Limit for Unsubsidized Loans	Total Limit for Unsubsidized Loans (minus subsidized amounts)
Dependent Undergraduate Students Whose Parents Were Approved for a PLUS Loan	\$23,000	\$8,000	\$31,000
Independent Undergraduate Students and Dependent Students Whose Parents Were Denied a PLUS loan	\$23,000	\$34,500	\$57,500
Graduate and Professional Students	\$65,500* (including undergraduate Federal Direct loans)	\$73,000	\$138,500

	Combined Base Limit for Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans	Additional Limit for Unsubsidized Loans	Total Limit for Unsubsidized Loans (minus subsidized amounts)
Medical School Students (Effective 4/18/08 per DCL GEN-08-04)	\$65,500 † (including undergraduate Federal Direct loans)	\$158, 500	\$224,000

Effective for loan periods beginning on or after July 1, 2012, graduate and professional students are no longer eligible for Direct Subsidized Loans.

† Aggregate loan limits for graduate and professional students include loans received for undergraduate study. The \$65,500 subsidized aggregate loan limit shown here for graduate and professional students includes subsidized loans received for loan periods beginning before July 1, 2012, and prior subsidized loans received for undergraduate study.

Source: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans>.