

For almost 60 percent of Syracuse University students, a portion of educational expenses is met by student and/or parent loans. This guide is intended to assist families in understanding loan options and help them make informed decisions when borrowing to meet education costs.



Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

The PLUS loan is a federally sponsored loan used by many parents to pay for part of their children's education. Parents may apply for a Federal PLUS loan at any time during the academic year. Parents are encouraged to budget their costs for the entire 2008-2009 year to determine the PLUS loan needed, and then submit one PLUS application to cover those costs. Parents must reapply for a PLUS loan each year their child is an undergraduate student.

ELIGIBILITY

The annual limit for the PLUS loan is the 2008-2009 academic year cost of attendance at the University, minus all other financial aid the student will receive. A loan repayment calculator can be found online at finaid.org.

SU Cost of Attendance \$ _____

Student's Financial Aid - _____

PLUS Loan Eligibility _____

HOW TO APPLY

For additional information about the PLUS Loan program, and to begin the application process, visit financialaid.syr.edu/Loans.htm.

Alternative Loan Programs

Alternative education loans are offered through banks to help bridge the gap between financial aid and federal loans, and the cost of education. Alternative loans are not federally sponsored or guaranteed; therefore, the FAFSA is not required. Students should apply for alternative loans only if additional funding is needed after applying for Federal Stafford and PLUS loans.

Alternative loans must be certified or approved by the SU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships Programs to ensure the loan does not exceed the cost of attendance minus all other financial aid.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for an alternative education loan, contact a lender. For guidance on selecting a lender, visit financialaid.syr.edu/Loans.htm.

Disbursements

Loan funds are disbursed to the University at the beginning of each semester. If a student has borrowed for one semester only, the funds will disburse at the beginning of that semester.

Most lenders will send loan funds by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). This allows loan funds to be automatically deposited to the student's bursar account. The borrower will be notified when the loan funds are disbursed to the student's bursar account.

The student will be notified if the lender disburses loan funds via check and an endorsement is needed.

Access to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs is located on the second floor of Archbold North. The second floor of Archbold North is not accessible by elevator. Therefore, if you have a mobility impairment preventing stairway use, please contact our office and we will make arrangements to meet with you at an accessible and convenient location.

Questions? Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs

Office of Financial Aid
200 Archbold North
Syracuse NY 13244
315-443-1513
finmail@syr.edu
financialaid.syr.edu

Office of Scholarship Programs
216 Archbold North
Syracuse NY 13244
315-443-1513
scholar@syr.edu
financialaid.syr.edu/scholarships.htm



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Guide to Educational Loans

Fall 2008





Federal Stafford Student Loan Program

Students who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are eligible for a Federal Stafford Loan. For information on the interest rate, fees, repayment, and other details, see the chart below.

HOW TO APPLY

Once students receive their SU Financial Aid Award Notice, they must complete the Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Counseling session to apply for a Stafford Loan. Visit MySlice.syr.edu and go to the Financial Aid Portfolio Task List for instructions and to complete these required items.

Students whose parents are denied the Federal PLUS Loan may apply for additional unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans. The maximum amount is \$4,000 for first-year students and sophomores, and \$5,000 for juniors and seniors.

TO REDUCE OR DECLINE THE FEDERAL STAFFORD LOAN

To reduce the loan amount or decline the loan completely, students must notify the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs via e-mail at finmail@syr.edu, clearly stating the amount they want to borrow and the term (fall only, fall/spring, etc.). Students must include their name and Syracuse University I.D. number in their e-mail.

	Program Description	Eligibility	Interest Rate	Fees	Credit Check	Loan Borrower	Cosigner Required	Annual Loan Maximum	Lifetime Loan Maximum	Repayment Begins	Repayment Terms	Deferments* or Forbearance**	May Be Eligible for Tax Deduction	Eligible for Federal Consolidation
Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan	A long-term, fixed-interest federal loan. The federal government subsidizes the interest that accrues during in-school, grace, and deferment periods.	Full- or half-time undergraduate and graduate students. Based on financial need.	6.8% fixed. Some lenders' repayment benefits lower this rate.	2% Some lenders pay the fees for you.	No	Student	No	First-Year Student 0-23 credits \$3,500 Sophomore 24-53 credits \$4,500	Dependent students \$23,000 Independent students \$46,000 (of which no more than \$23,000 can be subsidized)	Principal is not due while the student is enrolled at least half-time. Payments begin following a six-month grace period after graduation or if enrollment falls below half-time.	10-25 years	Yes	Yes	Yes
Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan	A long-term, fixed-interest federal loan. The government does not subsidize the interest during in-school, grace, and deferment periods.	Full- or half-time undergraduate and graduate students	6.8% fixed. Some lenders' repayment benefits lower this rate.	2% Some lenders pay the fees for you.	No	Student	No	Junior 54-83 credits \$5,500 Senior 84+ credits \$5,500		Principal is not due while the student is enrolled at least half-time or during the six-month grace period. Interest is due while in school, but can be postponed. If the interest is postponed, it will be capitalized (added to the principal).	10-25 years	Yes	Yes	Yes
Federal PLUS Loan	A long-term, fixed-interest federal loan available to parents and stepparents of full- or half-time dependent students	Parents of full- or half-time dependent undergraduate students. A credit check is required.	8.5% fixed. Some lenders' repayment benefits lower this rate.	3%	Yes	Parent	No	Total cost of education minus other aid received	None	Principal and interest are due 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. Upon request, payment deferment privileges may be available with some restrictions.	10-25 years	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alternative Loans (private loan)	This loan is available to students who are enrolled in school. These are private, variable-interest loans that are not associated with the federal government.	Undergraduate borrowers must have a positive credit history or provide a creditworthy cosigner. Enrollment eligibility varies by lender.	Variable-interest rate depending on lender product	Various origination fees depending on lender product	Yes	Student (usually with parent co-signer)	Varies by lender, but usually yes	Total cost of education minus other aid received	Varies by lender	Varies by lender	Varies by lender	No	No	No

* Deferments are a period of time during repayment in which the borrower, upon meeting certain conditions, is not required to make regular monthly payments. Deferment types include: in-school, military, unemployment, economic hardship, graduate fellowship, and rehabilitation training. Interest does not accrue on subsidized loans during deferments.

**Forbearance is a period of time during repayment in which the borrower is permitted to temporarily postpone making regular monthly payments. For example, a forbearance may be granted if the borrower does not qualify for a deferment or is experiencing financial difficulty. Interest does accrue during forbearances.