

Direct PLUS loans are unsubsidized loans for the parents of dependent students to help pay for education expenses up to the cost of attendance minus all other financial assistance. Interest is charged during all periods, beginning on the date of the loan's first disbursement.

Please read carefully, follow instructions, and provide any additional information requested to avoid delays.

**Eligibility requirements:**

- Parent must be the student's biological or adoptive parent or the student's stepparent, if the biological or adoptive parent has remarried at the time of the application.
- Student must be attending at least half-time (6 credits) or loan funds will be returned to the lender. If a loan is requested within two weeks of the end of the semester, final grades will be verified before any refunds are distributed.
- Parent cannot have an adverse credit history. A credit check will be performed by the Department of Education at the time of application.
- Parent and dependent child must be U.S. citizen or be eligible non-citizen, must not be in default on any federal education loans or owe an overpayment on a federal education grant, and must meet other general eligibility requirements for the Federal Student Aid programs.
- Parents who are denied based on adverse credit history:
  - ❖ Can secure an approved endorser.
  - ❖ Can successfully appeal on extenuating circumstances.
  - ❖ In both cases, the parent will be **REQUIRED** to complete PLUS Counseling.

**How to apply:**

1. Parent completes the Direct Parent PLUS application and Master Promissory Note (MPN) online in the *Apply For Aid* section at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov) or at <https://studentaid.gov/app/launchPLUS.action> (**Note: Available in April prior to start of academic year**). Parent will need the same Federal Student Aid ID used to sign the student's FAFSA to complete the PLUS application. If you do not have a Federal Student Aid ID, you may obtain one online in the *Apply For Aid/Get Prepared* section at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov) or at <https://studentaid.gov/help/create-fsa-id>. Please note that for the Direct Parent PLUS application, "Borrower" refers to the parent, not the student.
2. Direct PLUS loan funds are first applied to the student's school account to pay for institutional charges (i.e. tuition, fees, on-campus room and board). The parent will make a selection on the Direct Parent PLUS application whether any credit balance created by the loan will be refunded to the student or to the parent.

If the parent's PLUS loan application is denied because of a credit check decision, the student may be able to request additional unsubsidized Federal Direct funds in his/her own name.

If the student receives additional financial aid awards after the parent's PLUS loan is originated, the parent's PLUS loan amount may be reduced or eliminated.

Federal Direct and PLUS loan information is submitted to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and is accessible by guaranty agencies, lenders, and institutions determined to be authorized users of the data system.

Information on loan status and outstanding balances can be found under the *Manage Loans* section at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov) or at <https://studentaid.gov/h/manage-loans>.

WNCC Financial Aid Office • 1601 E. 27<sup>th</sup> Street • Scottsbluff, NE 69361

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