

Applying for Federal Student Loans

Federal Stafford Loans:

Stafford Loans max at \$20,500 per year and have a fixed interest rate of 6.8%

- Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov (a new application is required each year). Our school code is 001371.
- Accept the Stafford Loans you wish to borrow in [webCentral](#) (new students receive awards in April and continuing students receive awards in May). The amount you accept is split equally over fall and spring semesters.
- [Select a lender](#) to borrow the Stafford Loan through. Although Stafford Loans are federal student loans, you need to select a private lender to borrow the loans from.
- Go online to your lender's website and complete a Stafford Loan application. If you have not borrowed the Stafford Loan with that lender before, you will also be required to complete a Master Promissory Note. We recommend completing it online with an electronic signature. This is faster than completing the paper promissory note.
- Once you have applied, the lender sends electronic notification to the University of Denver Office of Financial Aid to certify the loan(s). For a new year, certification generally begins in July. Certification can take 3-4 weeks during busy times of the year. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid directly at finaid@du.edu or 303.871.4020. Their offices are located in University Hall Room 210.

Federal Graduate PLUS Loans:

Grad PLUS Loans have a fixed interest rate of 8.5% and are not capped at a specific amount. Instead limits are determined by the current cost of attendance minus other financial aid awarded (Stafford Loans, DU and outside scholarships, work study, Perkins Loans, GI benefits, Americorps vouchers, employer tuition assistance, etc.). Please review the current [cost of attendance](#).

- Be sure the FAFSA has been completed. The application is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov (a new application is required each year). Our school code is 001371.
- Graduate PLUS Loans are not listed on [webCentral](#) until they have been certified by the school, so you do not need to accept them.
- [Select a lender](#) to borrow the Graduate PLUS Loan through. As with Stafford Loans, Graduate PLUS Loans are federal student loans but you will be required to select a private lender to borrow the loans from. We recommend borrowing the PLUS Loan through the same lender you borrowed the Stafford Loan with.

- Once you have applied, the lender sends electronic notification to the University of Denver Office of Financial Aid to certify the loan(s). For a new year, certification generally begins in July. Certification can take 3-4 weeks during busy times of the year. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Financial Aid directly at finaid@du.edu or 303.871.4020. Their offices are located in University Hall Room 210.

Federal Perkins Loans:

Perkins Loans have a fixed interest rate of 5% and are generally a few thousand dollars per year. These funds are limited and awarded directly by the University of Denver.

- To be considered, complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Indicate interest in the Perkins Loan on the application. It is also recommended that you complete the FAFSA by March 1st if a new student and April 1st if a continuing student.
- If awarded, the loan will be listed on [webCentral](#).
- Accept Perkins Loan on [webCentral](#) (new students receive awards in April and continuing students receive awards in May).
- If you are a new Perkins Loan borrower, complete entrance counseling and a promissory note. See the [Bursar's](#) website for further information.

Because funding is limited, few students will be awarded Perkins Loans each year.