

# Federal Stafford Direct Loan Program for Graduate Students

Humphreys University participates in the Federal Direct Loan Program, offering flexible, low-interest loan options for graduate students to support their educational journey. This guide outlines key programs, benefits, and application steps to help you make informed borrowing decisions.

## Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- Begin accruing interest immediately after disbursement.
- Accrue interest while you are in school, during your grace period, and during any deferment or forbearance.
- Do not require financial need to qualify.
- Are not subsidized by the government at any time.

You are not required to make payments while enrolled, but any unpaid interest will continue to accrue. If unpaid, it will be added to your loan balance (capitalized) when repayment begins.

## Interest Rates & Origination Fees

- Interest Rates for Federal Student Loans: Federal Student Aid
- Origination Fees for Federal Student Loans: Federal Student Aid

## Loan Limits for Graduate Students

Loan Type	Annual Limit	Aggregate Limit
Unsubsidized Loan	\$20,500 (3 quarters)	\$138,500 (includes undergraduate loans)
Subsidized Loan (no longer available)	—	\$65,500 (included in total above)

## Eligibility Requirements

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by Humphreys University.
- Not be in default on any prior federal student loan or owe a federal grant overpayment.
- Be enrolled at least half-time in an eligible degree program
  - Master of Arts Degrees: minimum enrollment of 4 credits.
  - Juris Doctor: minimum enrollment of 6 credits.
- Complete [Entrance Counseling](#) and sign a [Master Promissory Note](#) (MPN) at studentaid.gov.

## Benefits of Federal Direct Loans

- **Fixed Interest Rates:** Do not change over the life of the loan.
- **Lower Interest Rates:** Compared to private loans.
- **Flexible Repayment Options:** Including income-driven plans.
- **Loan Forgiveness Programs:** May be eligible for PSLF.

## Loan Program Overview

Program	Description	Interest & Fees	How to Apply
Unsubsidized Loan	Interest accrues during all periods. Repayment begins 6 months after graduation or dropping below half-time.	Fixed rate. No credit check.	File the FAFSA. The loan will appear in your Financial Aid Offer.
Graduate PLUS Loan	Credit-based loan. May require an endorser. It covers the full cost of attendance minus other aid.	Fixed rate. Higher origination fee.	Apply at <a href="https://studentaid.gov">studentaid.gov</a> and notify Student Services.

## Borrow Wisely

Federal student loans may be used to cover all components of your Cost of Attendance (COA), including tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, transportation, and personal expenses—as defined by federal regulations.

While students can borrow up to their full COA, it's important to note that the annual loan limit for the Direct Unsubsidized Loan may not cover the entire COA. In most cases, the COA exceeds the annual borrowing limit set by the Direct Loan program.

We strongly encourage graduate students to make informed and intentional borrowing decisions. Borrowing the full amount offered may be appropriate depending on your circumstances, but remember that all borrowed funds accrue interest and must be repaid. Evaluate your financial needs, develop a budget, and consider other resources before accepting loan offers to help reduce long-term debt. [FSA Cost of Attendance Guide](#).

## Financial Awareness

- Start saving early; modest savings can grow significantly over time.
- Monitor your credit regularly to ensure accuracy and reduce identity theft risk.
- Track student loan borrowing through your Federal Student Aid account to stay informed about your loan balance and servicer.

## Repayment & Loan Forgiveness

- Compare federal repayment plans, including Standard, Graduated, and Income-Driven options.
- You may qualify for [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) (PSLF).
- Consider [Direct Loan Consolidation](#) to combine multiple loans and simplify your payments.
- Use the [Loan Simulator](#) to estimate monthly payments and explore the best plan for your future.

Visit [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) for tools and guidance.