

# Federal Student Loan Amounts and Terms for Loans Issued in 2011-12

This chart summarizes the loan limits, interest rates, and other terms for federal student loans from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

<b>Basic Eligibility Requirements</b>		U.S. citizens or permanent residents, enrolled at least half time in a qualified program at a participating school, not in default on a prior student loan, and not convicted of a drug offense while receiving prior federal financial aid. Total aid, including student loans, cannot exceed school's total cost of attendance (tuition and fees, room and board, transportation, personal and miscellaneous expenses).
<b>Stafford</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	No credit check. FAFSA required. Subsidized loans require financial need; unsubsidized loans are available regardless of need.
	<b>Annual Loan Limits</b>	<b>Dependent students:</b> \$5,500 as freshmen (including up to \$3,500 subsidized); \$6,500 as sophomores (including up to \$4,500 subsidized); \$7,500 as juniors and seniors (including up to \$5,500 subsidized).
		<b>Independent students:</b> \$9,500 as freshmen (including up to \$3,500 subsidized); \$10,500 as sophomores (including up to \$4,500 subsidized); \$12,500 as juniors and seniors (including up to \$5,500 subsidized).
		<b>Graduate students:</b> \$20,500 (including up to \$8,500 subsidized).
	<b>Aggregate Loan Limits</b>	<b>Dependent students:</b> \$31,000. <b>Independent students (undergraduate):</b> \$57,500. <b>Graduate and professional students:</b> \$138,500 (or \$224,000 for certain medical training) including undergraduate borrowing.
	<b>Interest rate</b>	The interest rate for unsubsidized loans is 6.8% for all students. The interest rate for subsidized loans is 3.4% for undergraduate students and 6.8% for graduate students. On subsidized loans, no interest is charged during school and in some deferment periods.
	<b>Fee</b>	1% (See Discounts)
<b>Discounts</b>	Origination fees are reduced by 0.5% at disbursement; the 0.5% is charged later if the borrower fails to make the first 12 monthly payments on time.	
<b>PLUS</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	Available regardless of need to parents of dependent students (Parent PLUS) and to graduate and professional students (Grad PLUS). Credit check must show no delinquencies in the previous 90 days (some exceptions for extenuating circumstances) and no bankruptcy in the previous five years. The credit requirement can be met by a cosigner. Families applying for a Parent PLUS loan are required to file a FAFSA.
	<b>Loan Limit</b>	Total cost of attendance minus other financial aid. No aggregate maximum.
	<b>Interest rate</b>	7.9%
	<b>Fee</b>	4% (see Discounts)
	<b>Discounts</b>	Origination fees are reduced by 1.5% at disbursement; the 1.5% is charged later if the borrower fails to make the first 12 monthly payments on time.
<b>Rate reduction for automatic electronic payments</b>	0.25% interest rate reduction.	
<b>Income-Based Repayment</b>	Available for both Direct Loans and loans originated through the Family Federal Education Loan (FFEL) program, which was eliminated June 30, 2010.	
<b>Loan Forgiveness</b>	Public Service Loan Forgiveness is available after 10 years of qualifying payments and employment, only in the Direct Loan Program (includes Grad PLUS). Teacher loan forgiveness programs (Stafford only) available for loans in both the Direct and FFEL programs.	
<b>Variable-Rate Loans</b>	Unconsolidated Stafford loans that were issued before June 30, 2006 have variable interest rates that reset each year. For loans issued between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 2006, the 2011-12 interest rate is 2.36% during repayment and 1.76% during in-school, grace or deferment periods. Any borrower with these loans can consolidate at a fixed rate of 2.375%. If 2011 graduates have these older loans, they can consolidate during their six-month grace period to lock in an even lower rate of 1.875%. The variable rate for Parent PLUS loans issued between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 2006 is 3.16%.	

For more information about federal student loans, please visit: [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)