

TEACH GRANT

Under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, Congress has approved legislation to offer additional grant funds to students pursuing an undergraduate, graduate or certification in an eligible education program. For additional information, please view the website for the Teach Grant at www.teachgrant.ed.gov.

While enrolled at an eligible institution:

\$4,000 per academic year - \$16,000 undergraduate maximum - \$8,000 graduate maximum

- Must complete the FAFSA and be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Must sign AGREEMENT TO SERVE for each year the grant is received and will be available electronically on Department of ED website at www.teach-ats.ed.gov. To complete the Agreement to Serve you will need your Federal PIN number from FAFSA. If you do not have it you will need to request a duplicate and can do so by going to the Federal PIN website www.pin.ed.gov.
- Must complete counseling - initial/subsequent (each year)/exit at: <https://teach-ats.ed.gov/ats/studentHome.action>
- Grant is not need based aid
- Available for undergraduate or graduate students, but **the TEACH Grant is not available to students pursuing a second bachelor's degree or certification following a first bachelor's degree.**
- Must maintain 3.25 cumulative GPA or score above the 75th percentile of national test scores
- Grant funds received cannot exceed cost of attendance
- Students enrolled less than full-time will have the TEACH Grant award reduced according to a schedule established by the U.S. Department of Education. Students may receive \$4,000 for full-time; \$3,000 for three quarter time; \$2,000 for half-time, and \$1,000 for less than half-time.

After graduation or no longer enrolled:

Applicants will incur a **4 year** teaching obligation for each educational program for which they received TEACH Grant funds

- Applicant has **8 years** to complete the teaching obligation
- Current high need fields are as follows:
 - Bilingual education and English language acquisition
 - Foreign language
 - Mathematics
 - Reading Specialist
 - Science
 - Special Education
 - A field documented as high need or 'shortage subject area' by the Federal Government, a State government, or an LEA and approved by the Department of Education.

For years of service to qualify:

- Must teach in a **high need subject and low income area** after graduation.
- Must teach full-time and be certified as a highly qualified teacher
- Must self report teaching service after each year completed
- Subject to be taught must be high need subject and low income area at the time applicant begins teaching service (if a subject is removed from high need during service or institution is no longer considered to be a low income area, service still counts toward requirements if teacher continues at that institution)

Please note: If you do not complete service requirement, grant funds will revert to an unsubsidized loan, with interest accrued from the date the grant was disbursed. Once a grant is converted to a loan it CANNOT be converted back to a grant.

TEACH Grants will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan if:

- The TEACH Grant recipient, regardless of enrollment status, requests the conversion.
- Within 120 days of ceasing enrollment, the recipient fails to notify the US Department of Education that he or she is employed, or intends to pursue employment, as a fulltime teacher in accordance with the Agreement to Serve.
- Within one year of ceasing enrollment the recipient has not:
 - o Been determined eligible for a suspension
 - o Re-enrolled in a TEACH Grant eligible program
 - o Begun teaching service in accordance with Agreement to Serve.
- The Grant recipient completes the course of study and
 - o Does not actively confirm to the U.S. Department of Education, at least annually, his or her intention to satisfy the Agreement to Serve.
 - o Fails to begin or maintain qualified employment within a timeframe that would allow the recipient to complete teaching service.

A TEACH Grant recipient whose grant has converted to Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan is eligible for most benefits of the Federal Direct Loan Program, including a 6-month grace period prior to entering repayment and an in-school deferment.

Suspension of Eight-Year Period of Completion

Teach Grant recipients who have completed or ceased enrollment in a Teach Grant-eligible program may request a "suspension" of the eight-year period for completion of the service obligation based on:

- Re-enrollment in a TEACH Grant-eligible program or a state approved teacher certification program.
- A condition covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act
 - o Birth of a son or daughter
 - o Placement of a son or daughter with the recipient for adoption or foster care
 - o Caring for a spouse, child, parent with a serious health condition
 - o Serious health condition of the recipient
- Call or order to active duty status of more than 30 days as a member of Armed Forces reserves of National Guard.

Suspensions cannot exceed a combined total of three years except for military service, which is unlimited. Suspensions must be requested prior to being subject to condition that converts the recipient's TEACH Grant to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

Documentation

You must respond promptly to any requests for information or documentation from the U.S. Department of Education, **even if they seem repetitive**. These requests will be sent to you while you are still in school as well as once you are out of school. You will be asked regularly to confirm that you either still intend to teach or that you are teaching as required. You must provide documentation to the U.S. Department of Education at the end of each year of teaching.

If you temporarily cease enrollment in your program of study or if you encounter situations that affect your ability to begin or continue teaching, you will need to stay in touch with the U.S. Department of Education to avoid your grants being converted to loans before you are able to complete your teaching obligation.