



2016-2017 Direct Loan Information

All Federal Direct Student and PLUS Loans are considered a source of Title IV Financial Aid. This is federally funded aid which includes other programs such as the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG). These federal student aid programs are authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended.

Federal Direct Student Loan Information:

- Subsidized Direct Loan: A loan that the federal government pays interest on during in-school status, grace periods and authorized deferment periods. To qualify for a Subsidized Direct Loan, you must demonstrate financial need.
- Unsubsidized Direct Loan: A loan that you are responsible for paying the interest on during in-school status, grace periods and authorized deferment periods. You have the option of postponing the interest payments while in school. However, the interest continues to accrue and any unpaid interest will be capitalized (added to the principal balance) as you enter repayment.

Steps to request a Federal Direct Student Loan:

- Complete the 2016-2017 FAFSA
- Submit a Loan Request Form to the Financial Aid Office (you can obtain this form from our website at www.gmc.edu)
- First time borrowers at GMC, must complete a Master Promissory Note and the Entrance Counseling tutorial at www.studentloans.gov.

Tips on Completing a Federal Direct Student Loan Request Form:

- Anticipated Graduation Date (AGD) - Be sure to provide the month and year of which you are to graduate. If you're not sure what your AGD is, contact your Academic Advisor for guidance.
- Commuter or Cadet – Milledgeville Campus students participating in the Cadet Program must select "Cadet." All other students are to select "Commuter."
- Loan Period – The loan period is the period in which the student wishes to receive loan funds. Should the student wish to receive loan funds for one term only, the student must select "Other" and write in the requested term.
- Total Loan Amount Requested – Using the Annual Direct Loan Limits and Term Amounts Chart provided on the Direct Loan Request Form, please indicate the total amount of funds you wish to receive per term. The Financial Aid Office will process your maximum subsidized eligibility first. If the amount requested exceeds your subsidized eligibility **and** you have initialed indicating you are willing to borrow unsubsidized funds, the financial aid office will process the remaining amount requested up to your Cost of Attendance.
- Cost of Attendance is an estimation of what it will cost a student to attend the institution for the loan period specified. It includes estimated tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, food, transportation, and personal expenses.

Terms and Conditions when obtaining a Federal Direct Student Loan:

- Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). For detailed information regarding SAP, please go to our website at www.gmc.edu. Once there navigate to the Financial Aid, Forms and Links page and click on *Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards*.
- Students must be enrolled in a degree program and at least 6 hours at the time of the loan disbursement in order to be eligible for funds.
- Loan requests submitted after the end of the loan period will not be processed.
- Should the student have a break in enrollment during the academic year, or if there is a cancellation of loan funds due to a withdrawal of a course, loans funds in the current and subsequent terms will be cancelled. Should the student want loan funds for the subsequent terms, the student must complete and submit a new loan request form.
- Should the student request his/her maximum loan eligibility during the academic year, the student may not be eligible for loan funds during the summer term.
- Students wishing to obtain a Direct Student Loan who have not attended GMC previously, and have not received student loans previously, are subject to a 30 Day Delay in the disbursement of their loan funds.
- All one-term loans are distributed in two separate disbursements.
- When completing a Loan Request Form, the student is indicating that he/she understands that their loan information will be submitted to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and will be assessable by guaranty agencies, lenders, and institutions determined to be authorized users of the data system.

Cancelling or Adjusting a Federal Direct Student Loan:

- To cancel a Federal Direct Student Loan, the student must either complete and submit a Loan Adjustment Form, or submit an email to the campus of which you attend. The student must use his/her GMC email address for all correspondence.

Annual Student Loan Limits			
Grade Level	Base Amount	Additional Unsubsidized <u>Dependent</u>	Additional Unsubsidized * <u>Independent</u>
Freshman (0-44 credit hours)	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$6,000
Sophomore (45 + credit hours)	\$4,500	\$2,000	\$6,000
Bachelor of Applied Science	\$5,500	\$2,000	\$7,000
Additional unsubsidized independent loan amounts also apply to dependent students whose parents are not eligible for a PLUS Loan			
Aggregate Student Loan Limits			
Student Type	Total Amount		
Dependent Undergraduate	\$31,000	No more than \$23,000 of which may be Subsidized Funds.	
Independent Undergraduate, Additional Degree Undergraduate, or Post Baccalaureate Student	\$57,500		

Federal Direct PLUS Loan Information:

PLUS loans are federal loans that graduate or professional degree students and parents of dependent undergraduate students can use to help pay education expenses. The U.S. Department of Education makes Direct PLUS Loans to eligible borrowers through schools participating in the *Direct Loan Program*.

Steps to take as a parent to request a Federal Direct PLUS Loan:

- The student must complete the 2016-2017 FAFSA
- The parent or guardian must submit a PLUS Loan Authorization Form found in the financial section of our website at www.gmc.edu to the Financial Aid Office.
- A review of the parent or guardian's credit history is required. The parent or guardian may complete this step by requesting a PLUS loan at www.studentloans.gov. If the parent or guardian does not wish to complete this step online, GMC can complete this step on his/her behalf.
- If the parent or guardian is a first time borrower at GMC, he/she must complete a Master Promissory Note, found at www.studentloans.gov.

Tips on Completing a Federal Direct PLUS Loan Authorization Form:

- Be sure to distinguish which section is designated for the student and parent.
- Loan Period – The loan period is the period in which the borrower wishes to provide loan funds for their student. Should the borrower wish to provide loan funds for one term only, the parent must select "Other" and write in the requested term.
- Excess Loan Funds: The borrower must either select Option A – to disburse any PLUS Loan proceeds in excess of the student's account balance directly to the borrower, Or, Option B – to disburse any PLUS Loan proceeds in excess of the student's account balance directly to the student.
- Should the borrower wish to receive the excess loan funds directly and their address is different than that of the student's, then the borrower must complete the Address Section at the bottom of the PLUS Loan Authorization Form.

Terms and Conditions when obtaining a Federal Direct PLUS Loan:

- The U.S. Department of Education is the *lender*.
- The borrower must not have an *adverse credit history*.
 - If the PLUS loan is denied based on an adverse credit history, the parent or guardian may secure an approved endorser or appeal based on extenuating circumstances. If the PLUS loan is subsequently approved after meeting one of these conditions, the parent must complete PLUS loan entrance counseling before funds can be disbursed. See www.studentloans.gov for additional information.
- The maximum loan amount is the student's cost of attendance (determined by the school) minus any other financial aid received.
- The student must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) per quarter to be eligible.
- All funds will be credited to the student's account first, with any remaining balance refunded to either the parent or student.
- Only parents or step-parents are permitted to apply for a PLUS Loan.
- The borrower may cancel a portion or the entire PLUS Loan, even after the funds have been dispersed.
- When completing a PLUS Loan Authorization Form, the borrower is indicating that he/she understands that their loan information will be submitted to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and will be assessable by guaranty agencies, lenders, and institutions determined to be authorized users of the data system.
- Should the student have a break in enrollment, the borrower must complete a new PLUS Loan Authorization Form, and may be subject to a new credit check depending on the prior credit check's expiration date.

Canceling or Adjusting a Federal Direct PLUS Loan:

- To cancel a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, the borrower must complete and submit a Loan Adjustment Form.

For additional information, please visit the links below: