The primary source of financial aid for citizens and permanent residents of the US is through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. Undergraduate students are eligible to apply for subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loans from the US government and parents may apply for Parent Plus Loan. The US government does not allow foreign schools to offer Pell grants to students. Detailed information on how to apply, who can apply, annual borrowing limits, deadlines and how funds are received is available at www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/government/us/governmentloans.

Students must complete the following steps:
- Student (with parents) complete the 2017 - 18 FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Student e-signs a Master Promissory Note (MPN) for a US Direct Loan at www.studentloans.gov
- **First time US Direct Loan borrowers** complete Entrance Counselling at www.studentloans.gov
- Student completes the US Direct Loan application in Minerva (log into Minerva >> Financial Aid/Awards tab >> Financial Aid Menu >> Apply for US Direct Loans)

Parents complete the following steps (if applying for Plus loan):
- Parent applying for Plus loan complete (with student) the 2017 - 18 FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Parent applies for Plus loan (to initiate a credit check) at www.studentloans.gov
- Parent e-signs a Plus loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) at www.studentloans.gov
- **Student completes the Parent PLUS loan application in Minerva** (log into Minerva >> Financial Aid/Awards tab >> Financial Aid Menu >> Apply for US Direct Loans) (can be combined with Direct Loan application above)

As of March 29, 2015 the following options are available to any borrower whose Direct Plus loan credit check is denied due to adverse credit history:
- secure an approved endorser (must pass the credit check) or
- appeal based on extenuating circumstances

In either case, the Plus loan applicant (not the endorser) will be **required** to complete Plus Counseling via www.studentloans.gov. Please note that this is **not** the same as Entrance Counseling

All of the above steps for Direct Loans and Parent PLUS loans should be completed by **June 1**. Applications are processed on a rolling basis. **Late applications cannot be assured of obtaining loan documentation in time to obtain immigration approval or, that loan funds will be disbursed by the tuition fee payment deadline.**

**Notification/Disbursement of US Direct Loans**
- Students are advised of loan offer(s) by letter (sent via email) listing loan type and the **Gross** amount of each loan in US currency. This letter can be used for proof of financial capacity for immigration purposes.
- Students log into Minerva to view loan offer(s) and disbursement schedule. The loan amount(s) in Minerva is the **Net** amount of the loan and is in US currency.
- Students are advised to “accept” or “decline” each loan offer in Minerva. **No loan should be left in an “offered” status in Minerva.**
- Students must be registered full time prior to the disbursement date. If not, disbursement will be delayed.
- Loan amounts will be converted into Canadian funds upon disbursement.
Notification/Disbursement of US Direct Loans (cont’d)

- US Direct Loan funds will be disbursed to student’s fee account in Minerva:
  o Fall
    ▪ Freshmen (Direct Loans) – late September
    ▪ Others (sophomores, juniors, seniors and Parent Plus loans) – late August
  o Winter
    ▪ All students – early January

Students whose loan(s) will not be disbursed by the fee payment deadline can apply for a Tuition Payment Deferral. More information can be found at: www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts/awards-assistance/tuition-fees-payment-deferral.

The US Direct Loan Program and Student Exchanges:
- McGill students going on an exchange can receive US Direct Loans only if attending a school that participates in the U.S. Direct Loan program, and the school is located outside of the U.S. For more information, please refer to our website at www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/government/us/regulations-us-loan-recipients/study-abroad-and-exchange.

Changes to the US Direct Loan Program which took effect as of the 2012-2013 year:
- Nursing students (undergraduate and graduate levels) are not eligible for Direct Loans.
- Graduate students are no longer eligible for subsidized Direct Loans but remain eligible for unsubsidized Direct Loans and Graduate PLUS loans.

The Scholarships & Student Aid Office offers several financial aid programs for entering and in-course students. Students need to apply for US government financial aid in order to be eligible to apply for McGill Financial Aid. More information can be found by using the following links:
- Entrance Financial Aid Program (for first year, first degree students only, from low/modest income families) www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/scholarships-aid/future-undergrads/need
- Work Study Program (entering and in-course students) www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/workstudy/
- In-Course Financial Aid (entering and in-course students) www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/scholarships-aid/current-undergrads/need

PLEASE DIRECT ALL US FINANCIAL AID QUERIES TO:
us.studentaid@mcgill.ca

DUE TO QUEBEC LAW (BILL65) RELATING TO PERSONAL CONFIDENTIALITY, WE ARE UNABLE TO DISCUSS PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN THE STUDENT.

NOTE TO STUDENT: PLEASE ADVISE PARENTS, SPOUSE OR ANYONE WHO MAY CONTACT THE SCHOLARSHIPS & STUDENT AID OFFICE ON YOUR BEHALF THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO DISCUSS YOUR SITUATION UNLESS YOU PROVIDE WRITTEN CONSENT.