Scholarships and Student Aid Office

Financial Aid Information for US Undergraduate Students and Parents

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.

The application process for US Direct Loans is different for students attending a foreign school. All of the steps have to be completed each academic year in order to receive US Direct and/or Parent PLUS Loans (with the exception of Entrance Counselling, which is only done once).

Students must complete the following steps at https://StudentAid.gov:

- Student (with parents) completes the 2020 - 21 FAFSA Form
- Student completes a Loan Agreement (Master Promissory Note) for Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans
- First time US Direct Loan borrowers complete Loan Entrance Counseling
- 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) at https://StudentAid.gov:

- Parent applying for PLUS loan completes (with student) the 2020 – 21 FAFSA Form
- Parent applies for a Parent PLUS Loan (to initiate a credit check)
- Parent completes a Master Promissory Note for a Parent PLUS Loan
- 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)

The following options are available to any borrower whose PLUS Loan credit check is denied:

- 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 Credit Counseling via https://StudentAid.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 after the US Dept. of Ed. origination fee has been assessed 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.
Notification/Disbursement of US Direct Loans (cont’d)

- Loan amounts will be converted into Canadian funds upon disbursement.
- US Direct Loan funds will be disbursed to student’s fee account in Minerva:
  - Fall  Freshmen (Direct Loans)      late September
  -          Sophomores, juniors, seniors and Parent PLUS loans late August
  - 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](http://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](http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/government/us/regulations-us-loan-recipients/study-abroad-and-exchange).

US Dept. of Education regulations affecting eligibility for the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program:
- Nursing students (undergraduate and graduate levels) are not eligible for Direct or PLUS Loans.
- Graduate students are no longer eligible for subsidized Direct Loans but remain eligible for unsubsidized Direct Loans and Graduate PLUS loans.
- As per regulation #34 CFR 600.51(d), students taking online courses are **not** eligible to receive US Direct and/or PLUS Loans through McGill.

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](http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/scholarships-aid/future-undergrads/need)
- Work Study Program (entering and in-course students) [www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/workstudy](http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/workstudy)
- In-Course Financial Aid (entering and in-course students) [www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/scholarships-aid/current-undergrads/need](http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/scholarships-aid/current-undergrads/need)

PLEASE DIRECT ALL US FINANCIAL AID QUERIES TO:
[us.studentaid@mcgill.ca](mailto: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.

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Scholarships & Student Aid Office
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Tel 514.398.6013 | Fax 514.398.7352 | [www.mcgill.ca/studentaid](http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid)

- Queries related to e-bills, fee accounts and refunds of credit balances should be directed to Student Accounts: [student.accounts@mcgill.ca](mailto:student.accounts@mcgill.ca) or visit [www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts](http://www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts)
- Students may grant guest access to their fee account: [www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts/parents-and-sponsors/guest-access](http://www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts/parents-and-sponsors/guest-access)
- For information on refunds of credit balances: [www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts/your-account/requesting-refund](http://www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts/your-account/requesting-refund)
- McGill is an approved Title IV school (federal code G06677) and is eligible to receive funds from **529 Education Plans**.