

# Federal TEACH Grant Program

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides grants up to \$4,000 per academic year to students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. Students interested in applying for the TEACH Grant must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) every year and submit a TEACH Grant application to the MTSU Financial Aid and Scholarship Office.

## Teaching Obligation

In exchange for receiving a TEACH Grant, you must be a highly-qualified, full-time teacher in a high-need subject area for at least four years at a school serving low-income students. You must complete the four years of teaching within eight years of finishing the program for which you received the grant. You incur a four-year teaching obligation for each educational program for which you received TEACH Grant funds, although you may work off multiple four-year obligations simultaneously under certain circumstances. Specific definitions of these terms are included below.

## Full-Time , Highly-Qualified Teacher

You must meet the state's definition of a fulltime teacher and spend the majority (at least 51 percent) of your time teaching one or the high-need subject areas. Elementary school teachers who teach many subjects would not be able to fulfill the service obligation required. You must perform the teaching service as a highly-qualified teacher, which is defined in federal law. The informational sheet can be found online at <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg107.html>

## High-Need Majors

- Mathematics
- Science, with a minor in secondary education
- Special Education
- Foreign Language
- Bilingual Education & English Language Acquisition
- Reading Specialist (MTSU program equivalent – Literacy)
- English as a Second Language (ESL)

## Schools Serving Low-Income Students

Schools serving low-income students include any elementary or secondary school that is listed in the Department of Education's Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits at <https://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp>

## Student Eligibility

### Grade Point Average

- Incoming freshmen must have a final cumulative high school grade point average of 3.25
- Currently enrolled undergraduates must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 as of the last completed semester
- Students entering a graduate program must have a final cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.25
- Currently enrolled graduates must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 as of the last completed semester

#### Current or Former Teachers & Retirees from other Professions

- Current or former teachers are eligible to receive the TEACH Grant for their first graduate high need program only
- Retirees from other professions are also eligible for the TEACH Grant for their first graduate high need program only
- These types of TEACH Grant candidates are not subject to the GPA requirement.

#### **Awarding & Grant Requirements**

- Maximum annual award for the TEACH Grant is \$4,000 (amount is prorated based on enrollment)  
Undergraduate –  
    Full time - 12 + hours  
    3/4 time - 9 - 11 hours  
    1/2 time - 6 - 8 hours  
Graduate -  
    Full time - 9 + hours  
    3/4 time - 7 - 8 hours  
    1/2 time - 5 - 6 hours
- Maximum aggregate TEACH Grant awards for undergraduate students is \$16,000 or \$8,000 for graduates students
- Must be enrolled in one of the listed high-need program of study
- Each year you receive the TEACH Grant, you must complete a **TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Initial and Subsequent Counseling**. (<https://teach-ats.ed.gov>) The Agreement to Serve is a legally binding document that defines the teaching obligations you must meet and specifies your repayment obligation if a TEACH Grant is converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. By signing the Agreement to Serve, you are agreeing to repay the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, with interest accrued from the date that the grant funds were disbursed to you, if you do not complete the teaching obligation. **Once the TEACH Grant has been converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan, it cannot be converted back to a grant.**

You must respond 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 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 contact the U.S. Department of Education immediately.**

#### **How to apply:**

1. **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**
2. **Submit Federal TEACH Grant application to the Financial Aid Office**  
<http://www.mtsu.edu/financialaid/forms/TEACHapp.pdf>
3. **Complete your Agreement to Serve and Initial and Subsequent Counseling**  
<https://teach-ats.ed.gov>