

Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

2026-2027 School Year: Includes Fall 2026, Spring 2027, and Summer 2027.

Parent PLUS Loan Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are currently available on the https://studentaid.gov website for the following loan periods:

- Fall/Spring: August 2026 – May 2027
  This application is available online through **December 3, 2026.*

- Fall Only: August 2026 – December 2026
  This application is available online through **December 3, 2026.*

- Spring Only: January 2027 – May 2027
  This application will become available beginning **November 1, 2026.*

Middle Tennessee State University
Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

Middle Tennessee State University does not automatically award PLUS as part of the financial aid awards package. However, parents with good credit histories may borrow funds through the PLUS program to assist with educational expenses of a dependent undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time in eligible coursework for aid.

Who May Borrow?

- Must be the biological or adoptive parent of the student.
- Stepparents may apply if married to the biological or adoptive parent and the stepparent's income and assets are listed on the FAFSA.

Eligibility Requirements

- Student must have a FAFSA completed and on file for the appropriate award year.
- The student must be considered dependent by FAFSA and enrolled at least half-time in courses counted towards the student's degree and be admitted into an eligible degree seeking program.
- Both the student and parent must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
- Student must be making satisfactory academic progress per the policies of the university.
- Both the parent and the student cannot be in default on their own federal student loans or owe a refund on any federal grant or loan.
- The parent borrower must have a good credit standing as determined by the U.S. Department of Education loan servicing agency.

Application Process

- The application for the Parent PLUS Loan is accessible online at https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/parent/landing.
- The parent must log in using the parent's FSA ID Username or E-mail Address and Password.
- Once logged in, read over all pertinent information, and then click the 'Start' button located in the middle of the web page.
- Continue to follow the prompts to complete the online application. *For assistance, call 1-800-433-3243.*
- If credit is *approved*, first time PLUS Loan borrowers must complete **a PLUS MPN for Parents** (*Master Promissory Note*) on the same website at https://studentaid.gov . Once completed, **please allow 3-5 business days for MTSU to receive notification that you have satisfied this requirement and to update the status on your child's PipelineMT account.**
- Parent borrowers also can complete an **'Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment'** at https://studentaid.gov . This tool allows parents to see how much money has been borrowed in federal loan funds before taking out additional Parent PLUS Loan funding, preview what your anticipated monthly payments may be, and understand important concepts concerning borrowing. Though not required, parents are encouraged to complete 'The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment' to be a more informed borrower.
- If credit is *denied* and the credit decision is not appealed or an endorser is not obtained, the dependent student may apply for an additional unsubsidized loan based on grade level and remaining eligibility for aid. Typically, the additional unsubsidized amount is up to $4,000 for freshman and sophomores annually. Juniors and seniors may be eligible for up to an additional $5,000 annually.

PLUS Counseling Requirement

Parents who are not initially credit approved for the PLUS Loan, but who qualify by documenting extenuating circumstances or obtaining an endorser, must complete **PLUS Credit Counseling**, in addition to a PLUS MPN for Parents (Master Promissory Note), at https://studentaid.gov . PLUS Credit Counseling must be completed before the PLUS Loan is disbursed.

How Much Can the Parent Borrow?

Beginning with the 2026-2027 award year, federal regulations state that parent borrowers (combined) may borrow up to $20,000 per school year per dependent student. Additionally, Parent PLUS Loans now have an aggregate limit of $65,000 per dependent student, regardless of any amounts repaid, forgiven, canceled, or otherwise discharged.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The amount of the PLUS Loan cannot exceed the dependent student's cost of attendance minus other estimated financial aid. Estimated financial aid includes federal/state grants, scholarships, federal work-study, federal/private student loans, tuition discounts, or any other aid paid by a third party. Parent borrowers should work closely with the student to review the cost of attendance budget and the estimated financial aid awarded through the student's PipelineMT account. Students may view their online College Financing Plan for their cost of attendance and estimated financial aid awards administered by the Financial Aid Office. The College Financing Plan is available on PipelineMT, under the Financial Aid tab. If the maximum amount of $20,000 per year is borrowed, the dependent may run out of PLUS eligibility before reaching their Senior year of study due to the new aggregate loan limit. For this reason, we urge parents to please borrow conservatively.

*There is a legacy provision for parents who receive a PLUS Loan for their dependent before July 1, 2026. Under this provision, parents may continue to borrow up to the full cost of attendance for up to three additional years, or for the remaining time needed for the dependent student to complete their current degree. This is calculated by the minimum length of the student's program, less the amount of time the student has completed, whichever is sooner. Continuous enrollment is required.

Interest Rates and Fees

PLUS Loans have a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan. In addition to interest, the U.S. Department of Education automatically deducts a loan fee from each loan disbursement before the money is credited to the student's account. For current interest rate and fee information, visit the Direct Loan website at https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates .

When Does Repayment Begin?

Repayment of the Direct Parent PLUS Loan begins approximately 45-60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. Parent borrowers may postpone repayment by requesting a deferment while the dependent student is enrolled at least half-time. During periods of deferment, interest will continue to accrue. During the online application process, the parent borrower will be given the option to select whether or not to defer the loan.
