

# Federal Parent PLUS Loan and Private Parent Loans

## Comparison Chart

Many families are considering financing their student's education with either a Federal Parent PLUS Loan or a private parent education loan. The comparison chart below will help you understand the features and benefits of each type of loan.

Interest rates and fees for private loans vary between lenders and are typically based on the credit of the individual borrower and cosigner. We recommend that you apply for one or more private loans and compare your options before deciding which type of loan is best for you. Remember, applying for a private loan does not obligate you to accept it and will not have an adverse impact on your credit.

	FEDERAL PLUS LOAN FOR PARENTS <sup>1</sup>	PRIVATE PARENT LOAN <sup>2</sup>
<b>Primary Borrower</b>	Parent	Parent or other eligible non-student individual
<b>Cosigner requirement</b>	No. If parent has adverse credit history an endorser may be required.	No, but if the primary borrower is not eligible on their own some lenders may offer a cosigner option.
<b>Cosigner/parent release option</b>	No, the parent, and any endorser, is making a commitment to repay the loan for the life of the loan.	Varies by lender. Check for availability.
<b>Interest rate</b>	For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2015, and before July 1, 2016, the interest rate is 6.84%.  For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2016, and before July 1, 2017, the interest rate is 6.31%.	Most lenders offer a fixed interest rate. Fixed interest rates range from 5.75% to 12.99%. Some lenders may also offer variable rates. Variable interest rates range from 4.00% to 10.49%. Rates are typical based on applicant's credit history, other factors such as income and repayment term may also be considered.
<b>Origination/disbursement fees</b>	4.272% for loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 2015 and before October 1, 2016.	Varies by lender, most offer 0%.
<b>Minimum payment amount while the student is enrolled in school</b>	Loans will automatically be placed in principal and interest repayment. The borrower can apply to have the PLUS loan payments deferred while the student is in school and for 6 months after graduation (interest continues to accrue during this time and unpaid interest is added to the loan's principal amount when the deferment period ends).	Varies by lender. Some lenders will allow interest only payments while in school. Others may offer or require immediate principal and interest repayment.
<b>Repayment term</b>	10 – 25 years of principal and interest payments.	Varies by lender; typically terms of 5-15 years of principal and interest payments are offered.
<b>Payment flexibility</b>	PLUS loans are eligible for graduated and extended repayment options, federal consolidation, and some public service loan forgiveness options.	Most lenders will work directly with the borrower to assess repayment options.
<b>Loan limits</b>	Up to 100% of the school-certified cost of attendance minus other financial aid received.	Varies by lender, may or may not require school-certification. Some lenders may have minimum and maximum loan amounts and may base the limits on various factors.
<b>Credit check required</b>	Yes. Applicant or endorser cannot have an adverse credit history.	Yes. Loan approval and pricing is generally based on creditworthiness.
<b>Minimum enrollment status</b>	At least half time.	Varies by lender. Some offer loans to borrowers who have students who are attending school less than half time.
<b>Application process</b>	Online with the Department of Education through the FAFSA process.	Online with lender.
<b>Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) required</b>	Yes. In addition to the FAFSA, some states/colleges require additional forms or applications for aid.	No. Families are not required to complete the FAFSA unless it is the policy of the school.
<b>Borrower benefits</b>	0.25 percentage point interest rate reduction for automatic debit enrollment.	Most lenders offer a 0.25 percentage point interest rate reduction for automatic debit enrollment. Additional benefits vary by lender.
<b>Death and disability loan forgiveness</b>	Yes. If the student beneficiary dies, and certain conditions are met, then payments on the loan will be waived.	Varies by lender. Some lenders waive the remaining balance in the event of the student's death or permanent and total disability.
<b>Ability to consolidate through the Department of Education</b>	Yes. Parents can consolidate with other federal loans in their name (not the student's).	No. Cannot be included with federal student loans.
<b>Options for denied loans</b>	If parent applies and is denied, the student is eligible for additional unsubsidized Stafford loans.	Varies by lender. Parent or other creditworthy individual may be able to obtain a cosigner.
<b>Tax deduction for interest paid<sup>3</sup></b>	The interest paid on the loan may be deductible subject to IRS guidelines.	The interest paid on the loan may be deductible subject to IRS guidelines.

This information is provided by Sallie Mae® for your reference. Information gathered on private loans is based on National private loan programs offered by publicly-traded companies or subsidiaries thereof.

<sup>1</sup> Federal student loan information was gathered on February 7, 2016, from <http://studentaid.ed.gov>; check this page for the most up-to-date information about federal student loans. Rates, fees, and availability of federal student loans are subject to change by the Federal Government.

<sup>2</sup> Interest rates, fees, terms, and borrower benefits based on a January 1, 2016 review of national private loan programs offered by publicly-traded companies or subsidiaries thereof. Private loans that have variable rates may go up or down based on the changes of an underlying interest rate index.

<sup>3</sup> This information is general in nature and may not apply to your specific situation. For more information see IRS Publication 970 or consult a tax advisor.

Explore federal loans and compare to ensure you understand the terms and features. Private loans that have variable rates can go up after consummation. Federal student loans are required by law to provide a range of flexible repayment options, including, but not limited to, Graduated Repayment and Extended Repayment plans, and loan forgiveness and deferment benefits, which other student loans are not required to provide. Federal loans generally have origination fees, but are available to students regardless of income.

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