

Parents, please remember that you will need to re-apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan (PLUS) every year. PLUS applications should be submitted online by no later than the billing due date. The parent borrower may be the student's biological or adoptive parent, and in some cases, a stepparent. In the case of divorced parents, both are eligible to borrow a PLUS loan. Please note that if both parents borrow a PLUS loan, the total loan amount cannot exceed cost of attendance less the current financial aid.

Step 1 – Student Must Complete a FAFSA

Goucher is required to determine federal aid eligibility prior to originating a PLUS loan. Therefore, the student must file a 2024-2025 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) first, and make sure to file a FAFSA every year.

Step 2 – Parent Applies Online

Parents apply online: <https://studentaid.gov/app/launchPLUS.action?plusType=parentPlus>. (PLEASE MAKE SURE you are logged in with your parent FSA ID and not the student's!) A loan for the academic year is divided in half between fall and spring. (QUICK TIP: The federal government retains an origination fee. If you are applying to cover a specific amount, we suggest you multiply the dollar amount you need by 1.045 and round to the nearest whole dollar.)

Step 3 – Results of Application

Approved: First-time borrowers and prior borrowers whose PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN) has expired will need to [complete the Parent PLUS Master Promissory Note \(MPN\) at studentaid.gov](#).

Denied: If your credit check is denied you may seek an endorser, appeal the decision, or request that the student be eligible for an additional unsubsidized loan. If you choose for the student to receive an additional loan, the student will receive an e-mail in about 10-15 business days. Please note: If you are determined to be eligible via appeal or endorsement, you will be required to complete PLUS Credit Counseling.

Step 4 – Processing Notifications

The student will be notified first and receive a financial aid revision e-mail. Please allow at least 10-15 business days. Students are able to access the [Net Partner](#) system to confirm the loan and amount. Provided the student has [set a parent up as a billing party](#), the parent will see the PLUS loan reflected on the billing account. **Please note that this process is not real-time and instantaneous, and there may be a turnaround of up to 3-4 weeks before the billing account reflects a PLUS loan.** Parents may contact our office about 1 week after applying online to check the status.

Step 5 – Disbursement, Loan Servicer, and Repayment

PLUS loans are disbursed approximately 3 weeks after the start of class each semester, **provided the parent has applied by the billing due date.** You will have a [Department of Education loan servicer assigned to you who will handle all service on repayment and options](#).

Step 6 – Refunds for Indirect Costs

PLUS loans are applied toward direct billable costs (tuition & fees, and room/board for resident students) first. If loan funds remain to help cover indirect costs, then the student will have a credit on their account with Goucher's Billing Office. You may [request that the credit be paid out by billing as a "refund" using the billing office refund request](#). **Please plan ahead! You will not have access to available funds until about 4 weeks after classes start each semester.**