

	2019-2020 Parent Federal PLUS Loan Application Tip Sheet	Office of Student Financial Aid 1021 Dulaney Valley Road Baltimore, Maryland 21204-2794 P: 410-337-6141 F: 410-337-6504 E: finaid@goucher.edu
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Parents, please remember that you will need to re-apply for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan (PLUS) every year. 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 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 2019-2020 [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) first, and make sure to file a FAFSA every year.

Step 2 – Parent Applies Online

PLUS borrowers must sign in at <https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/launchPLUS.action?plusType=parentPlus> to apply. If you are not the same parent that electronically signed the student's FAFSA, then you will need to [create your own login called an FSA ID](#). Once signed in, you should follow the process to request a PLUS loan. You may wish to apply for the maximum allowable for the entire academic year, and then you may adjust that amount down depending on the student's needs. A loan for the academic year is divided in half between the fall and spring semesters.

Step 3 – Results of Application

Approved: If your credit check is approved- First-time borrowers and prior borrowers whose PLUS [Master Promissory Note \(MPN\)](#) has expired will need to complete the PLUS MPN at studentloans.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 be instructed to log in to the [Net Partner](#) system to accept the additional loan. 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 via email once the PLUS loan is added to their financial aid package. Students are able to access the [Net Partner](#) system at any time to confirm this. Provided the student has [set a parent up as a billing third-party](#), the PLUS loan will be reflected on the E-Bill as anticipated aid. **Please note that this process is not “live” and instantaneous, and there may be a turnaround of up to 3-4 weeks before a billing statement reflects a PLUS loan.** Parents may call our office at 410-337-6141 starting 4 business days after applying online to check the status if desired.

Step 5 – Disbursement, Loan Servicer, and Repayment

PLUS loans are disbursed approximately 3 weeks after the start of class each semester. You will have a Department of Education loan servicer assigned to you who will reach out to you after the disbursement occurs. You may also look up your loan servicer contact information at any time by [logging in at studentaid.gov](#), or by calling 1-800-557-7394.

Step 6 – Refunds for Indirect Costs

PLUS loans are applied toward tuition, fees, room and board 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 a disbursement check from Goucher's Billing Office](#), and are able to choose to have the check go to you or the student. **Please plan ahead! You will not have access to available funds until about 4 weeks after classes start each semester.**