

TEACH Grant Policy and Operations

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Agenda

- TEACH Grant Program overview and eligibility
- Counseling requirements
- Service obligation
- TEACH Grant servicing



TEACH Grant Program Summary

Non-need-based program providing up to \$4,000 per year to students enrolled in a TEACH-eligible program who agree to teach as a highly-qualified teacher, in a high-need field, at a low-income elementary or secondary school for four years within eight years of completing the program

Failure to complete the required teaching service results in conversion of the TEACH Grant to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accruing from the date the grant was disbursed



Grant Amounts

- Grants of up to...
 - \$4,000 per year for 1st undergraduate degree or post-baccalaureate credential (aggregate limit of \$16,000)
 - \$4,000 per year for master's degree (aggregate limit of \$8,000)
- Grants are prorated for less than full-time and are subject to the sequester
- TEACH Grant, in combination with other aid, may not exceed the Cost of Attendance

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Student Eligibility

- Applicants can be...
 - Undergraduate students
 - Graduate students pursuing a master's degree (*not* a doctorate)
 - Students enrolled in a post-baccalaureate teacher credential program
 - Current or former teachers
 - Retirees

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Student Eligibility

- All applicants must:
 - Meet requirements of 34 CFR 668, Subpart C – General Provisions of Student Eligibility
 - Submit a completed FAFSA
 - Sign an Agreement to Serve
 - Enroll in a TEACH Grant-eligible program
 - Be completing, or intend to complete, coursework necessary to begin a career in teaching
 - Not have already earned a first bachelor's or post-baccalaureate program

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Student Eligibility

Undergraduate, Post-baccalaureate and Graduate Students

- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 from:
 - High school for first year undergraduate/post-baccalaureate student, or first semester of college
 - College or post-baccalaureate coursework for undergraduates beyond the first year
 - College for first-year graduate student, or first semester of graduate program
 - Graduate coursework beyond first year
- OR
- Score above the 75th percentile on one of the batteries of a nationally-normed admissions test (e.g. SAT, ACT, GRE)

Exceptions apply



Institutional Eligibility

- Must be financially responsible in accordance with 34 CFR 668, subpart L, or meet an alternative standard
- Must apply to participate in the TEACH Grant program and be approved by the Secretary via the E-App
Dear Colleague Letter GEN-08-07
- May establish eligibility in any of four ways



Institutional Eligibility: Method 1

- Provide a high-quality teacher preparation program at the baccalaureate or master's degree level that is:
 - Accredited by an agency specializing in professional teacher education programs, e.g., TEAC or NCATE; or
 - Approved by a State and includes at least 10 weeks of full-time pre-service clinical experience and provides or assists in providing pedagogical coursework





Institutional Eligibility: Method 1

The high-quality teacher preparation program...

- Must provide or assist in providing supervision and support services to teachers such as:
 - Information on effective teaching strategies
 - Information on effective practices in supervision and coaching of novice teachers
 - Mentoring focused on effective teaching skills

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Institutional Eligibility: Method 1

September 23, 2016 Letter to Presidents

- TEAC and NCATE lost Departmental recognition, so it is not currently possible for an institution to establish or maintain eligibility for the TEACH Grant Program on the basis of accreditation
- Additional information was requested by ED to determine the impact of TEAC and NCATE's loss of recognition on schools' continued participation in the TEACH Grant Program

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Institutional Eligibility: Method 1

Option 1 – State Approval

The institution provides a teacher preparation program at the baccalaureate or master's degree level that is...

- Approved by a State
- Includes a minimum of 10 weeks of full-time pre-service clinical experience, or its equivalent, and
- Provides either pedagogical coursework or assistance in the provision of such coursework

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Institutional Eligibility: Method 1

Option 2 – Provisional certification and 18-month extension

The institution requests that its TEACH Grant eligibility be maintained for 18 months following its accrediting agency's loss of recognition while it seeks to meet all applicable TEACH Grant Program eligibility requirements as discussed in [Dear Colleague Letter GEN 08-07](#). The institution would be placed on provisional certification under 34 CFR 668.13(c)(2).



Institutional Eligibility: Method 1

Option 3 – Withdrawal from the TEACH Grant Program

The institution ceases to participate in the TEACH Program

Schools had 30 days to respond with a choice. If neither option 1 nor 2 were selected, the institution was considered to have lost eligibility for the TEACH Grant Program effective September 22, 2016.



Institutional Eligibility: Method 2

- Institution provides a two-year program that...
 - Is acceptable for full credit toward an eligible baccalaureate teacher preparation program, or
 - Is acceptable for full credit in a high-need field offered by a TEACH Grant-eligible institution
- Institutions must be able to demonstrate this relationship



Institutional Eligibility: Method 3

- Institution offers a baccalaureate degree that, in combination with other training or experience, will prepare students to teach in a high-need field, *and*
- Has entered into an agreement with an eligible institution that offers a high-quality teacher preparation program or one that offers a post-baccalaureate program

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Institutional Eligibility: Method 4

- Institution provides a post-baccalaureate program of study that...
 - Does not lead to a graduate degree
 - Consists of courses required by a State for professional certification or license to teach in an elementary or secondary school in that State
 - Is an undergraduate program for Title IV student financial assistance purposes

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Program Eligibility

- TEACH Grant-eligible institutions have wide latitude to designate their eligible programs
- Programs must be designed to prepare an individual to teach as a highly-qualified teacher in a high-need field and lead to a baccalaureate or master's degree, or be a post-baccalaureate program
- A post-baccalaureate program is not a TEACH Grant-eligible program at institutions that offer both a post-baccalaureate program and a bachelor's degree in Education

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Program Eligibility

High-need fields

- Mathematics
- Science
- Foreign language
- Bilingual education and English language acquisition
- Special education
- Reading specialist
- Other high-need field documented by a local, State, or Federal government

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Counseling Requirements

- TEACH Grant-eligible institutions must provide initial, subsequent, and exit counseling to TEACH Grant recipients that covers...
 - Terms and conditions of the Agreement to Serve (ATS)
 - Information on how to identify low-income schools and documented high-need fields

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Counseling Requirements

- Counseling must also cover...
 - How to request a suspension of the eight-year period for completion of service
 - Conditions resulting in conversion to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
 - Terms and conditions of a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Initial and subsequent counseling must be provided annually prior to first disbursement

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Counseling Resources

Initial and subsequent counseling
StudentLoans.gov

Exit Counseling
http://www.nsls.ed.gov/nsls_SA/SaEcWelcome.do

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Service Obligation

An "Agreement to Serve" obligates the grant recipient to...

- Teach full-time as a highly qualified teacher in a high-need field at an eligible low-income elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency for at least four academic years
- Complete the required four years of teaching within eight years of completing or otherwise leaving your TEACH Grant program of study
- Certify within 120 days of completing or otherwise leaving your TEACH Grant program of study, and each year thereafter, that you are meeting (or intend to meet) the requirements of your service obligation

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Service Obligation

- Service obligation may be suspended for TEACH Grant recipients who have completed or ceased enrollment
- Service obligation may be discharged if TEACH Grant recipient dies or becomes permanently and totally disabled

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Suspension

- A TEACH Grant recipient who has completed or ceased enrollment in a TEACH Grant-eligible program may request a temporary suspension of the eight-year service obligation based on...
 - Enrollment in a TEACH Grant-eligible program or a State-approved teacher certification program
 - A condition that is a qualifying reason for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
 - A call or order to qualifying active duty status for more than 30 days as a member of Armed Forces or National Guard

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Suspension

- Granted for periods of one year at a time
 - Suspensions based on enrollment in a qualifying program of study or an FMLA condition cannot exceed a *combined* total of three years
 - Suspensions based on qualifying active duty service cannot exceed a total of three years
- Must be requested prior to the recipient being subject to a condition that converts the recipient's grant to a loan

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Suspension

Recipients may request a temporary suspension of the service obligation online. When requesting a temporary suspension, the recipient will indicate that their existing circumstance falls into the approvable suspension reasons, as detailed in the Agreement to Serve.



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Discharge

The Service obligation will be discharged if...

- The grant recipient dies (original, certified, or photocopy of death certificate required)
- The grant recipient becomes totally and permanently disabled and applies for and satisfies the eligibility requirements for the discharge under the Direct Loan Program

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Discharge

Recipients that have used three years of suspension time due to active duty military service can request a proportional discharge of the four year service obligation

Years of active duty	Service Discharge
More than 3 years	1 year
More than 4 years	2 years
More than 5 years	3 years
More than 6 years	4 years

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Conversion of Grant to Loan

TEACH Grants will be converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans that must be repaid in full, with interest charged from the date of disbursement, if...

- The grant recipient requests the conversion
- Within 120 days of ceasing enrollment before completing the program, the recipient fails to notify FedLoan Servicing that s/he is employed as a qualifying full-time teacher or that s/he intends to fulfill the service obligation
- Within one year of ceasing enrollment before completing the program the recipient...
 - Has not been determined eligible for a suspension
 - Has not re-enrolled in a TEACH Grant-eligible program, or
 - Has not begun qualifying teaching service

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Conversion of Grant to Loan

TEACH Grants will be converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans that must be repaid in full, with interest charged from the date of disbursement, if...

- The grant recipient completes program and:
 - Does not actively confirm to FedLoan Servicing, at least annually, intent to satisfy the ATS
 - Fails to begin or maintain qualified employment within a timeframe that would allow the recipient to complete the teaching service within eight years
 - Requests that the TEACH Grants be converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans
- A grant recipient whose TEACH Grant is converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan will receive a six-month grace period before entering repayment
 - If the recipient does not pay the interest that has accrued from the time of first disbursement, it will be capitalized when the loan enters repayment

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Conversion of Grant to Loan

From Account Access, a recipient can initiate a grant-to-loan conversion request at any time by selecting "I'd like to convert my TEACH Grants to loans."



If the recipient hovers over this option, they will receive a tip to help them determine if the option is right for them. Once selected, the recipient will be prompted by the self-service tool to provide details about their employment and the reason for the grant-to-loan conversion request.

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Conversion of Grant to Loan



Recipients can request that the TEACH Grants to be converted to loans using the selection box beside each TEACH Grant.



The recipient must agree to the Terms and Conditions of the grant-to-loan conversion request.

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Conversion of Grant to Loan

The recipient will receive confirmation that their grant-to-loan conversion request has been accepted. Recipients will be encouraged to review eligibility for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.



A TEACH Grant recipient whose grant has converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan...

- Enters repayment following a six-month grace period and
- Is eligible for all the benefits of the Direct Loan program, including in-school deferment



School Support & Resources

- Toolkits for outreach to current and past grant recipients
 - Handouts
 - Web and print ads
- Reporting
 - Customized email communications showing the number of recipients for your institution who have submitted a TEACH Grant Certification Form
 - Student detail information through the FedLoan Servicing School Portal
- Training resources and sector-based personalized support



Resources

TEACH Grant general information
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach>

Low-Income School Directory
<https://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp>

Highly Qualified Teacher Fact Sheet
www.ed.gov/nclb/methods/teachers/hqflexibility.html





General Resources

Teacher Shortage Areas Nationwide Listing
www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.pdf

TEACH Grant Certification Form
<http://www.myfedloan.org/pdf/teach-grants/certification.pdf>

StudentLoans.gov





Thank you!

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ED Contacts

[Research and Customer Care Center](#)
800.433.7327
fsa.customer.support@ed.gov



[Reach FSA](#)
855.FSA.4FAA -- 1 number to reach 10 contact centers!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Campus-Based Call Center</i> | <i>eZ-Audit</i> |
| <i>COD</i> | <i>School Eligibility Service Group</i> |
| <i>CPS/SAIG</i> | <i>Foreign Schools Participation Division</i> |
| <i>NSLDS</i> | <i>Research and Customer Care Center</i> |
| <i>G5</i> | <i>Nelnet Total & Permanent Disability Team</i> |





We Appreciate Your Feedback

To ensure quality training we ask all participants to please fill out an online session evaluation:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZacharyGoodwin>

This evaluation tool provides a means to inform us of areas for improvement, and to support an effective process for listening to our customers.

Additional feedback about training can be directed to joann.borel@ed.gov.



Q&A Updates



