

*THE GRADUATE/
PROFESSIONAL
PLUS LOAN AND HESC*

Helping you achieve your
career goals.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our Web site at www.hesc.org

**HESC Customer
Communications Center**
1-888-NYSHESC
1-888-697-4372

**Federal Student Aid Information
or
FAFSA Application Status**
1-800-4-FED-AID
1-800-433-3243



Your Student Aid Agency

New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12255
www.hesc.org



*COUNT ON HESC FOR
THE GUIDANCE AND
SUPPORT YOU NEED*

HESC is New York's student financial aid agency. We have the programs, information, and resources to help you afford a college education.

We administer the state's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and more than a dozen other grants and special awards. We also guarantee student loans as part of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). PLUS loans, along with Stafford and consolidation loans, are part of FFELP.

There are many student financial aid programs available for graduate study in New York State. Get all the information you need on our easy-to-navigate Web site, www.hesc.org, and make planning and paying for college faster and easier than ever.

*GRADUATE PLUS:
A FLEXIBLE LOAN
YOU CAN AFFORD*

For Graduate PLUS loans, you may borrow any amount up to the total cost of education (as defined by the school), minus other financial aid you've been awarded.

Whether you need extra cash for college fees, room and board, or books for your graduate-level classes, a graduate PLUS loan can cost less than a more expensive private loan or maxing out your credit cards.

You must first apply to borrow the maximum in Stafford loans (based on eligibility and determination of need) before applying for a Graduate PLUS loan.





ADVANTAGES OF THE GRADUATE PLUS: A FLEXIBLE LOAN YOU CAN AFFORD

The Graduate PLUS Loan can cost less than an alternative loan.

Unlike some private loans that come with variable interest rates that can climb several times a year, the Graduate PLUS Loan has a fixed interest rate of 8.5 percent, valid for the life of the loan.

And many lenders offer discounts, rebates, fee reductions and other borrower incentives.

Other features of Graduate PLUS loans include:

- No annual or aggregate loan limits;
- Payments deferred while you are in school (must maintain at least half-time enrollment);
- No co-signer required;
- Billing combined with your Stafford loans;

- Convenient online pre-approval and application process;
- Lower origination fees — 3 percent compared to alternative loan fees which can be as high as 9-11 percent;
- No prepayment penalties — ever;
- Eligible for consolidation.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a Graduate PLUS loan, you must:

- Be a graduate or professional student enrolled at least half time;
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and an electronic FFEL PLUS Master Promissory Note (e-MPN);
- Have first applied for the maximum amount in Stafford loans;
- Be credit worthy.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU BORROW

You may borrow up to your entire “cost of attendance,” which includes tuition, room and board, books, transportation, and additional expenses, minus any other aid you are receiving. For example, if college costs are \$30,000 and you are eligible for \$18,500 in financial aid, you may borrow up to \$11,500.

Once approved, your lender disburses the loan funds, less a 3percent origination fee, directly to your school on dates determined by the school.

HOW TO APPLY

Applying for a Graduate PLUS loan is simple on www.hesc.org. You can electronically submit your FAFSA and complete the PLUS e-MPN. Or get the forms from your school’s financial aid office or your lender.

REPAYMENT

Upon graduating or leaving school, you will have up to 10 years to repay your Graduate PLUS loan. Repayment begins within 60 days after the final disbursement. While in school at least half time, you can have your payments deferred.

Monthly payments are based on the amount you borrowed and the payment plan selected. The minimum monthly payment on principal and interest with standard repayment is \$50. There is no penalty for early repayment.

INTEREST RATES

Graduate PLUS loans carry an 8.5 percent fixed interest rate. See the chart below to estimate your total payments with varying loan amounts.

Sample Loan Repayment	
Amount Borrowed At 8.5% For 10 Years	Total Payments With Standard Repayment
\$5,000	\$7,439
\$15,000	\$22,317
\$25,000	\$37,196
\$35,000	\$52,074

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR FISCAL FITNESS

Do you have questions about your student loans? A HESC representative will work with you, your lender or school to find answers. Call us at 888-215-0196 for help staying on track with your loans.

If you need help with debt management, you may want to consult with a professional, not-for-profit budget planner or consumer credit counselor. To locate a counselor, contact the National Foundation for Credit Counseling at www.nfcc.org or call 800-388-2227.

