Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate / Profession Students

The Office of Financial Aid certifies Graduate PLUS through the Federal Direct Loan Program. Federal funds are borrowed directly from the Department of Education. The Graduate PLUS Loan is available to a graduate student who is matriculated in a degree program and enrolled in at least six (6) credits and does not have adverse credit history. Consider borrowing under the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan program before borrowing under the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS loan program. The student must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to participate in this program. Please visit http://www.fafsa.gov to complete the 2017-2018 FAFSA.

Application Procedures

Once logged into www.studentloans.gov (using your FSA ID and password), select the “Apply for a Direct PLUS Loan” on the home page. You are encouraged to review needed items for this process by selecting the “Learn More” link under the Direct PLUS Application for Graduate / Professional Students (type).

Under the heading Direct PLUS Loan Application for Graduate/Professional Students click on the blue START button to initiate the application process.

NOTE: If you HAVE borrowed under the Graduate PLUS loan program while attending RPI there is nothing more you need to do. If you HAVE NOT borrowed under the program previously while attending RPI, then you will need to complete a Graduate PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (see below) and participate in entrance loan counseling session.

Sign your Master Promissory Note (MPN)

If approved for a Graduate PLUS you must complete a Graduate PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN). You may complete your MPN by visiting www.studentloans.gov. You will need your FSA ID and user password to complete the MPN online. The Master Promissory Note is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education. It also explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s). The MPN is valid for up to 10 years. It must be completed in order for your Direct Loan funds to be disbursed to your student account. Rensselaer will be informed electronically when you have successfully completed this requirement.

a. Go to www.studentloans.gov
b. Log in using your FSA User ID and password.
c. Click “Complete Loan Agreement (Master Promissory Note)
d. Use START button next to PLUS MPN for Graduate / Professional Students type. Follow prompts through completion. Be aware that information is not saved if not submitted.

Complete Entrance Counseling

All first time borrowers in the Direct Loan program must complete an Entrance Counseling session. This can be done via the Internet and takes about 20 minutes. There is a quiz at the end of each section so that you may demonstrate that you understand the information being provided. You can print a copy of the verification page for your records as proof that you completed the session. Rensselaer will be informed electronically when you have successfully completed this requirement.

a. Go to www.studentloans.gov and log in using your FSA User ID and password.
b. Click on “Complete Loan Counseling (Entrance, Financial Awareness, Exit”
c. Click START button next to Entrance Counseling type to begin process.
If the Graduate PLUS application is denied, the borrower has three options:

1. Request a review of the credit check due to inaccurate information on your credit report. Contact Direct Loan Applicant Services at 1-800-557-7394.

2. Provide an endorser. The endorser must pass a credit check and sign a promissory note. Contact Direct Loan Applicant Services at 1-800-557-7394.

3. Not pursue the Graduate PLUS loan. No further action.

Additional Information

The current fixed interest rate in the Graduate PLUS program is 7%. Repayment begins 60 days after the funds are disbursed unless the borrower requests a deferment which allows no payments to be made while the student is enrolled, but interest on the loan is capitalized if not paid by the borrower during the deferment. Federal regulation requires that a 4.276% origination fee is deducted from the gross amount borrowed if after 10/1/2016.

Submission of the Department of Education online Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Request Form does not guarantee approval for the amount you request. Eligibility is subject to change based upon completion of required documents, our review of the student’s other financial aid, and approval from the U.S. Department of Education. Requested PLUS loan amounts will not be considered for billing purposes until we receive approval/denial notification from the U.S. Department of Education or approximately two weeks after the semester for which the funds are intended, whichever comes first.