

TEACH Grant

Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant



The TEACH Grant is a federally-funded program created to help students pay college costs in return for teaching high-need subjects in low-income schools. These grants are available to eligible undergraduate, post-baccalaureate and graduate students who agree to serve as full-time teachers for at least four years. The information below will help you understand the program qualifications and requirements.

Applicant Qualifications:

A grant recipient must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Be enrolled¹ as:
 - an undergraduate student; or
 - a graduate student; or
 - a post-baccalaureate student in a program required by the state to obtain a teaching credential at a college that does not offer a bachelor's degree in education.
- Be enrolled¹ in or plan to enroll in a TEACH Grant eligible program that is necessary to begin a career in teaching.

¹ Not all colleges and universities participate in the TEACH Grant program. If you are interested in the TEACH Grant, please contact the financial aid office at your school.

Academic Standards²:

Applicants must meet one of the two following academic achievement requirements:

- Maintain a cumulative 3.25 GPA on 4.0 scale.
 - Eligibility for first-time, first-year college students is based on high school cumulative GPA.
- Score above the 75th percentile on at least one of the batteries in an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate program admissions test.

More information on how to locate percentiles for test batteries can be accessed from the Federal Grants section of our website: www.iowaCollegeAid.gov.

² The academic achievement requirements described here do not apply to graduate degree candidates who are current teachers or retirees from another occupation with expertise in a high-need field, or former teachers pursuing a high-quality alternative certification.

IMPORTANT

If you don't fulfill the teaching service, your TEACH Grants will become unsubsidized Direct Stafford loans that must be repaid with interest accrued from the first disbursement date of each grant.

Application Process:

1. File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually.
2. Participate in TEACH Grant counseling before each annual award and before graduation. This must be done before completing the Agreement to Serve (ATS).
3. Complete a TEACH Grant ATS each academic year.

Iowa College Student Aid Commission

430 E. Grand Fl 3 • Des Moines IA 50309-1920

Phone: 877-272-4456 • Fax: 515-725-3401

Email: info@iowacollegeaid.gov • Website: www.iowacollegeaid.gov

Award Amounts:

- Maximum of \$4,000 per year - amount is reduced for students enrolled less than full-time

Note: New TEACH Grants first disbursed after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015 must be reduced by 0.89 percent, resulting in a reduced maximum award of \$3,708.³

- TEACH Grant plus other financial aid may not exceed cost of attendance (COA)
- Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate (non-graduate) combined aggregate total maximum of \$16,000
- Graduate aggregate total maximum of \$8,000

³ On August 2, 2011, Congress passed the Budget Control Act of 2011, which put into place automatic federal budget cuts, known as a “sequester” to take effect if Congress failed to enact legislation to reduce the federal deficit by March 1, 2013. These budget cuts are now in effect.

High-Need Fields:

The high-need fields⁴ recognized for the TEACH Grant are as follows:

- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
- Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Reading Specialist
- Science
- Special Education
- Other teacher shortage areas identified by the state in which you will teach at the time you receive your TEACH Grant.

⁴ The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) publishes a nationwide listing of teacher shortage areas in each state. Scan this QR code to find an updated list of teacher shortage areas.



USDE-Designated Low Income Schools

The *Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory* allows you to search public and private elementary and secondary schools and educational services agencies serving low-income families, as designated by the USDE.

Note: If you plan to teach in a high-need field included in the Nationwide list, that field must be listed for the state where you teach either at the time you begin your qualifying teaching service or at the time you receive a TEACH Grant.

Scan this QR code to access the directory.



The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve

The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) explains the terms and conditions for receiving a TEACH Grant. According to the agreement, a grant recipient must:

- Serve as a full-time teacher for a total of at least four academic years within eight years of completing or otherwise ceasing to be enrolled in a teaching program.
- Serve as a highly qualified teacher⁵ at a USDE-designated low-income school or education service agency.
- Carry out the teaching service requirement within a high-need field.
- Provide certification of employment annually after each year of your four years of required teaching. A form for documenting your qualifying teaching is available at www.MyFedLoan.org/Teach.

The TEACH Grant ATS also requires the recipient to acknowledge that the failure to complete the teaching service requirement will result in the total TEACH Grant award amount being converted to an unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan, to be repaid with interest accruing from the first disbursement date of each grant.

⁵ The USDE defines “highly qualified teacher” in Section 901 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. You can access the definition by scanning this QR code.



More Information

If you have questions after reviewing this guide, or if you would like more information on planning, preparing and paying for college, please contact us. You may reach us at:

Phone: 877-272-4456
Email: info@iowacollegeaid.gov
Website: IowaCollegeAid.gov

TEACH Grant Servicer:
U.S. Department of Education
FedLoan Servicing
P.O. Box 69184
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9184
Phone: 1-800-699-2908
Website: www.MyFedLoan.org/Teach-Grants

