

FEDERAL DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

OVERVIEW

The Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan is available to the [eligible parent\(s\)](#) of dependent undergraduate students to help pay for educational expenses not covered by other financial aid. Eligibility is not based on financial need, but a credit check is required. If you have an [adverse credit](#) history, you may still be able to receive the loan if you [meet additional requirements](#). If you choose to borrow:

- You will be required to submit a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Application online.
- You will be required to submit a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN).
- The maximum amount you may borrow is the full cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received.
- The U.S. Department of Education is your lender.
- Interest rates change every July 1st. For Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2020, and before July 1, 2021, the interest rate is 5.30%. This is a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan.
- If you request an in-school deferment, you will not need to make [payments](#) while your child is enrolled at least half-time and for an additional six months after your child graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time enrollment. If you do not request an in-school deferment, you will be expected to begin making payments after the loan is fully disbursed (paid out).
- The [loan fee](#) is a percentage of the loan amount and is proportionately deducted from each loan disbursement. Loans first disbursed after October 1, 2020, and before October 1, 2021 is 4.228%.
- You choose your [repayment plan](#). Determine the repayment plan best for you by using the [Loan Simulator](#).
- You can track your borrowing, get contact information about your loan servicer(s) and make payments [online](#).
- At any time prior to disbursement, or within 14 days of your notification of your right to cancel, you may cancel all or part of your loan by submitting a completed [Parent PLUS Change Request](#), in PDF format, to fadocs@ucr.edu. Form must accompany copy of borrower ID and wet signature.

UCR FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

900 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92521

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FEDERAL DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN APPLICATION INFORMATION FOR **PARENTS**

BEFORE YOU APPLY

- Read **FEDERAL DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN APPLICATION TIPS FOR **PARENTS****
- If you currently have a security freeze on your credit file, you must remove the freeze with each credit bureau. Your Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Application will not be processed if you have a security freeze.
- It may be helpful, but not required, to review the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Application [Demo](#) so you know what to expect as you navigate through the application process.
- The entire Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Application process must be completed in a single session. It takes approximately 20 minutes to complete the process.
- An FSA ID is required and must be created prior to applying. Please note the Parent FSA ID is *not* the same as the Student FSA ID. The Parent FSA ID acts as the electronic signature on the application. If you have not already done so, obtain verified FSA ID [online](#).

WHAT YOU NEED

- Verified [FSA ID](#)
- School Name: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
- Your dependent student's information including social security number, *not* UCR Student ID
- Your biographical information
- Your employer's information (if applicable)

HOW TO APPLY

Apply for a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan 24 hours a day, 7 days a week online at studentaid.gov.



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FEDERAL DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN APPLICATION TIPS FOR PARENTS

1. Log into studentaid.gov using your own FSA ID, not your dependent student's FSA ID.
2. Choose the correct *Award Year*
3. Authorize the school to use Direct Parent PLUS Loan to pay any existing charges on your dependent student's account
4. Choose the right *Credit Balance Option* for you and your dependent student. The Direct Parent PLUS Loan will be applied towards the charges on your dependent student's school account. Any amount that remains after these charges have been paid is called a "Credit Balance". You must choose to have the school refund any "Credit Balance" directly to you or to your dependent student:
 - Choosing *ME*, the "Credit Balance" will be refunded in the form of a paper check, made payable to the parent borrower, and mailed directly to the parent borrower's address as indicated on the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Application.
 - Choosing *THE STUDENT*, the "Credit Balance" will be refunded directly to your dependent student's bank account (if signed up for [Direct Deposit](#)) or refunded in the form of a paper check, made payable to your dependent student, and mailed directly to your dependent student's local or permanent address.
5. Know the *Loan Amount Requested*. You will have the following three choices:
 - Choose *I want to borrow the maximum Direct PLUS Loan amount for which I am eligible, as determined by the school*:
 - Your Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan will be processed for the full cost of your dependent student's attendance minus all other financial aid your dependent student has received.
 - OR**
 - Choose *I would like to specify a loan amount*:
 - Your Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan will be processed for the amount you've indicated, not to exceed the full cost of attendance minus all other financial aid your dependent student has received.
 - **DO NOT** choose *I don't know the amount I want to borrow. I will contact the school. If you choose this option your Federal Direct Parent PLUS Application will not be processed.*
6. Select the correct *Loan Period*.
7. If your dependent student will first attend SUMMER and then the ACADEMIC YEAR, and you would like to borrow a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan for both loan periods, it will be necessary for you to complete a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Application for each loan period.
8. Once approved, click on [Complete an MPN](#) and proceed to follow instructions through completion.
9. If denied, see **FEDERAL DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN APPLICATION DENIAL GUIDE FOR PARENTS**

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FEDERAL DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR **PARENTS**

1. Log in at studentaid.gov using your (parent borrower) FSA ID, **not** Student FSA ID
2. Select Award Year
3. Enter Student Information
4. Select In-School Deferment Option
5. Select Post-Enrollment Deferment Option
6. Authorize Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan funds to satisfy other educationally related charges the student incurred at UCR. Examples of other charges may include, but are not limited to, course fees, library fines and campus parking tickets.
7. Select Credit Balance Option
8. Select School Information
9. Select Loan Amount Requested –**Your application will NOT be processed by UCR if you choose you “don’t know the amount I want to borrow”**
10. Select Loan Period - If you are borrowing for Summer and Academic Year, you must complete **two** separate applications, Summer being first. Credit will not be run again if the second application is completed within 180 days of the first.
11. Select Borrower’s Citizenship Status –must be a U.S. Citizen/National or Permanent Resident/Other Eligible Non-Citizen (verification of Permanent Resident/Other Eligible Non-Citizen status will be requested and must be received prior to Direct Parent PLUS Loan disbursement).
12. Enter Borrower’s Permanent Address and/or Mailing Address
13. Enter Borrower’s Contact Information
14. Enter Borrower’s Employer’s Information (if applicable)
15. Review all information provided to verify that it is correct and edit as needed
16. Review Important Notices and Certifications



A credit decision for your application will be determined using the credit history information received from the credit agency. This decision will determine the next steps in the process.

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FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS LOAN APPLICATION DENIAL GUIDE FOR **PARENTS**

If, after applying for, the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan your application is denied, you will be given the following options:

1. Obtain an [endorser](#) and complete PLUS Credit Counseling
2. Provide documentation of [extenuating circumstances](#) (appeal)
3. Not pursue a Direct Parent PLUS Loan
4. Undecided

Option 1

If you choose to obtain an endorser he or she may complete the process by completing the [Endorser Addendum](#). Additionally, you will be required to complete [PLUS Credit Counseling](#) once your endorser is accepted and prior to your loan funds being made available. Your endorser will need:

- An [FSA ID](#) - Endorsers must be logged in using their own FSA ID. If they do not have an FSA ID, the endorser may obtain one at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>.
- Endorser Code or Award ID and Borrower's Last Name. You must provide your endorser with the endorser code or the award identification number and your last name. The endorser code will be provided to you in an email.

Option 2

If you choose to appeal the decision due to extenuating circumstances, you must document, to the satisfaction of the U.S. Department of Education that:

- The information causing the adverse credit decision is incorrect OR
- There are extenuating circumstances relating to the adverse credit history AND
- Complete [PLUS Credit Counseling](#)

To document extenuating circumstances, provide:

- A statement explaining your extenuating circumstances and how those circumstances relate to your adverse credit history, and
- Documentation supporting your claim.

Option 3

If you choose not to pursue a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan, your dependent student will be offered an additional Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan up to the amount that would be offered to an independent undergraduate student (maximum of \$4,000 for freshmen/sophomores and \$5,000 for junior/seniors). Depending on the time of year, this could take 2-4 weeks.

Option 4

If you choose that you are undecided, UCR will not review your Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Application and no further action will be taken.

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FEDERAL DIRECT PARENT PLUS LOAN **FAQ's**

1. Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible to borrow a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan you must:

- Be a U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident or other Eligible Non-Citizen
- Be the biological/adoptive parent of the student or spouse of the student's biological/adoptive parent
 - Grandparents, other relatives and/or legal guardians are NOT eligible to apply

2. How long does it take to process a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan?

Depending on the time of year, processing can take 2-4 weeks.

3. What is the interest rate?

Interest rates change every July 1st. For Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2020, and before July 1, 2021, the interest rate is 5.30%. This is a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan.

4. Is there a loan fee?

The loan fee for each disbursement of a Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan first disbursed after October 1, 2020, and before October 1, 2021 is 4.228%.

5. How much can I borrow?

The maximum amount you may borrow is the full cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received or the maximum amount you applied for when completing the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Application.

6. If I have not borrowed the maximum amount, can I increase my Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan?

Yes, to increase your Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan (not to exceed the full cost of attendance), you may submit a completed [Parent PLUS Change Request](#), in PDF format, to fadocs@ucr.edu. Form must accompany copy of borrower ID and wet signature.

7. Do I have to make payments on the loan while my dependent student is still in school?

If you request a deferment, you will not need to make payments while your child is enrolled at least half-time and for an additional six months after your child graduates, leaves school, or drops below half-time enrollment. You will have the option of requesting a an in-school and/or post-enrollment deferment as part of the Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan application process. You can also contact your [loan servicer](#) to request a deferment. If you do not request a deferment, you will be expected to begin making payments within 60 days of the loan being fully disbursed (paid out).

8. When does the interest start to accrue?

During any period when you're not required to make payments, interest will accrue. You may choose to pay the accrued interest (recommended) or allow the interest to be capitalized (added to your loan principal balance) when you have to start making payments. Your loan servicer will notify you when your first payment is due.

9. When does the loan have to be repaid?

You have the option to choose a [repayment plan](#). If you don't choose a repayment plan, your loan servicer, the company that handles the billing and other services on your federal education loan, will place you on the Standard Repayment Plan.

10. I have an adverse credit history, can I still apply?

Yes, you have the option to apply with a credit-worthy [endorser](#).

11. How are the funds disbursed?

Funds are applied to the student's charges and, based on the Credit Balance Option chosen when completing the application, any credit balance will be 1) refunded in the form of a paper check, made payable to the parent borrower, and mailed directly to the parent borrower's address or 2) will be refunded directly to your dependent student's bank account (if signed up for [Direct Deposit](#)) or refunded in the form of a paper check, made payable to your dependent student, and mailed directly to your dependent student's local address.

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