



Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

2025-2026 Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan Certification

This form is to be completed and signed by the parent borrower only.

Student Information

Name: _____ ID#: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent Information

Parent Name: _____ Last 4 of Social Security #: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please follow these steps:

1. Review Borrowing Parent PLUS Loans FAQs (enclosed).
2. **Write the total amount you want to borrow below and check the semesters for disbursement installments:**

Requested Academic Year Loan Amount \$ _____

☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer

Note: **First-time** PLUS Loan borrowers **must** complete a [PLUS Master Promissory Note \(MPN\) for Parents](#) online at [studentaid.gov](#). Direct PLUS Loans have a [fixed interest rate](#) of 8.94%. An origination fee of 4.228% will be deducted from your loan amount. Rates for 2026-27 will be set by the Dept. of Education in July 2026.

3. Sign below to indicate that you have read, understood, and agree to the Direct Loan borrowing requirements and responsibilities according to federal guidelines. Your signature also indicates that your family knows to contact SFA as soon as possible in the unfortunate event of your passing.
4. Complete the [Annual Parent Loan Acknowledgment \(Optional\)](#) on [studentaid.gov](#).

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Typed or e-signatures are not acceptable.

Submit this form to the Office of Student Financial Assistance via regular mail, secure fax, SHUAwards upload, or in person as it contains personally identifiable information.

5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06825 203-371-7980 (phone) 203-365-7608 (secure fax)

Borrowing Parent PLUS Loans – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between a Parent PLUS loan and an alternative education loan?

The Direct Parent PLUS loan is a credit-based loan program with the [U.S. Department of Education](#) for parents of eligible dependent undergraduate students. The parent is the borrower responsible for repayment. Repayment responsibility cannot be transferred to the student. As a federal loan, the Parent PLUS loan carries a fixed interest rate, deferment options, and various repayment plans. Alternative education loans are available via state agencies, private lenders, such as banks or credit unions. Sacred Heart University has a list of alternative education lenders available via [elmselect.com](#). Depending on your credit, these loans may have competitive interest rates. Typically, the student applies for an alternative education loan with a creditworthy co-signer who does not necessarily have to be the parent.

Who can borrow a Parent PLUS Loan?

The borrower must be the biological or adoptive parent of the student. Direct Parent PLUS loan borrowers must obtain a credit approval via an [electronic application](#) on [studentaid.gov](#). Both the parent and the student must meet [general eligibility requirements](#) for federal aid. The student needs to submit a [FAFSA](#).

What if I am not approved for the Parent PLUS Loan?

If you are credit denied, you have the option of obtaining a creditworthy [endorser](#) (co-borrower). Alternatively, you can [appeal the credit decision](#) with the U.S. Department of Education. Students whose parents are denied the Parent PLUS loan may be eligible for additional federal student loan eligibility.

How much should I borrow?

Direct Parent PLUS loans can be processed for up to your student's remaining cost of attendance. Refer to your student's Financial Aid Disclosure in [SHUAwards](#). The PLUS loan may only be used to pay for education-related expenses. Your student can authorize you access to their [Student Account online](#) to determine semester billed tuition and fee costs. Need help planning for the academic year? [Contact us!](#)

What are the interest rates and fees?

PLUS Loans have a [fixed interest rate](#) of 8.94%. The origination fee is 4.228%.

What actions need to be completed for loan processing?

You will need a [credit approval](#) via [studentaid.gov](#). Credit approvals are valid for 180 days. Parent borrowers must use their FSA ID to log in and complete a [Parent PLUS MPN](#). The [Annual Parent Loan Acknowledgment \(optional\)](#), which will display the parent's accumulated total of federal loans borrowed. **If you would like us to waive this optional Annual Parent Loan Acknowledgment document, please email us at sfa@sacredheart.edu.** It will not display the student's borrowing history. The parent certifies the amount to borrow on the Parent PLUS Loan Certification form. Encourage your student to review [SHUAwards](#) for any outstanding documentation. Your student will receive periodic emails if forms are missing or incomplete.

How and when will my loan disburse?

Loans are typically divided into equal installments for each semester. The student must initiate attendance, be enrolled at least half-time, and be maintaining satisfactory academic progress to be eligible. All requests related to aid eligibility must be received. After the add/drop period, the PLUS loan will post to your student's account. Once posted, you will receive a disbursement notification from the Office of Student Accounts.

If I over-borrowed, when will I receive a financial aid refund?

If your Direct PLUS loan exceeds your student's billed charges for the term, a financial aid refund will be issued within 14 days of aid disbursement. For more information, refer to the [Student Accounts Credit Balance Processing](#) webpage. You may elect to have the credit held for future academic year charges.

How do I modify, cancel, or return a portion of my loan?

To increase a loan amount, you may submit an additional Parent PLUS Loan Certification form. Note: if your credit approval has expired, you will need to obtain a new [credit approval](#). You may request a modification or cancellation to a future term by [emailing SFA@sacredheart.edu](mailto:SFA@sacredheart.edu). For returns back to the lender, send your written request to either [SFA](#) or to Student Accounts within 120 days of your PLUS loan's disbursement date.

What happens to my loan if my student adds, drops, or withdraws from classes?

Changes in your student's enrollment status may impact financial aid. If your student drops below 6 credits, they will be ineligible for federal loan disbursement. Students are encouraged to review [our FA Withdrawal Policy](#) and to go over the changes with their Financial Aid Counselor. Failed attendance and course withdrawals affect your student's [satisfactory academic progress](#), which may also impact aid eligibility.

Do I have to make payments on my loan while my student is enrolled?

If you decide to defer payments while your child is enrolled at least half-time (6 or more credits), payments will not be required, but interest will accrue during this time. It is advised that you at least pay the interest. Accrued interest will be capitalized (added to your loan's principal balance). If you do not request a deferment, payments are due after the PLUS loan is fully disbursed. There are no prepayment penalties.

When does my Parent PLUS Loan need to be repaid?

If not deferred, your repayment date will begin 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. If you elected to defer payments, the repayment date will be after a 180-day grace period following your student's graduation, withdrawal from courses, or when your student drops below 6 credits. During this grace period, you are not required to make payments though interest will continue to accrue.

How do I repay my loans?

After your loans disburse, you will be assigned a federal loan servicer who will manage the repayment of your Parent PLUS loans. You will be automatically assigned to the 10-year standard repayment plan. However, there are several [repayment plans](#) available to Direct Loan borrowers. Contact your loan servicer for information on the different repayment strategies.

Where can I find out how much I have borrowed?

Please visit the [Federal Student Aid website](#) and log in with your FSA ID. The My Aid page will display your loan history for all federal loans. Private loans are not included.

Who do I contact with loan questions?

We are here to help! Contact Student Financial Assistance via email at sfa@sacredheart.edu or by phone at 203-371-7980. For specific information about your loan repayment, reach out to your federal loan servicer.