For students in the Arts & Sciences graduate programs, Geisel School of Medicine Quantitative Biomedical Sciences graduate programs, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, Master of Health Care Delivery Science, Thayer School of Engineering, and The Dartmouth Institute, federal student loans are available to help meet educational costs.

**GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

To receive aid from the federal loan programs a student must:
- be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- be enrolled as a "regular" student in an eligible degree program;
- be enrolled at least half-time;
- maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and your graduate program.
- not owe a refund or repayment to any institution on federal Title IV funds (Federal Pell, FSEOG, SSIG), and not be in default on a Title IV loan (Federal Perkins, Federal Family Education Loan (FFELP) including Federal Direct/Stafford, Federal Direct PLUS, and Federal Consolidation Loan);
- be registered with the Selective Service System if required.

**FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS**

**Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan**
- A non-need-based loan available to all students who meet the general eligibility criteria. These loans are administered through the Federal Direct Loan Program and are funded directly by the federal government. Interest accrues while the student is enrolled.
- **2021-22 Interest Rate:** 5.284%
- **Fees:** 1.057% origination fee deducted from each disbursement
- **Annual Loan Limit:** $20,500. Limit may be higher for students enrolled in the MPH program through The Dartmouth Institute.
- **Aggregate Loan Limit:** $138,500 ($224,000 for the MPH program) is the maximum lifetime limit.
- **Grace Period:** Repayment of principal and interest begins six months after enrollment drops below half time.

**Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan**
- Graduate students may borrow up to the full cost of education minus any other financial aid. A credit check to determine the applicant’s credit eligibility is required. These loans are administered through the Department of Education and are funded directly by the federal government. Interest accrues while the student is enrolled.
- **2021-22 Interest rate:** 6.284%
- **Fees:** 4.228% origination fee deducted from each disbursement
- **Annual Loan Limit:** The full cost of attendance minus any other financial aid.
- **Aggregate Loan Limit:** none
- **Repayment:** begins 60 days after the final disbursement of the loan and extends to ten years. Payments can be deferred while you are enrolled, but interest will accrue on the balance.
DETERMINATION OF AID ELIGIBILITY

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated using the Federal Need Analysis Methodology with the information submitted on the FAFSA. The EFC is the amount the student can be expected to contribute towards college costs. The EFC measures financial strength based on the income and assets of the student, and, if married, the student's spouse. Students receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) directly from the federal processor showing their EFC.

The Financial Aid Office will then review the electronic version of the student's SAR, as well as all supporting documentation to determine a student's financial need. Financial need is defined as the cost of attendance minus the expected family contribution.

THE AWARD PROCESS

Students will receive a financial aid award letter listing their Cost of Attendance, EFC, and all available resources for which they are eligible. Students should review their award carefully and contact the Financial Aid Office if they have any questions.

LOAN INFORMATION

Loan funds are generally disbursed in equal payments coinciding with the beginning of each enrolled term. You must register and check-in for the term before your loans are disbursed.

Federal Direct and Graduate PLUS Loans

- All borrowers are required to complete a Loan Agreement/Master Promissory Note (MPN) for each loan and Loan Entrance Counseling.
- The application address is studentaid.gov. The MPN and entrance counseling are one-time requirements, not repeated in subsequent years.
- Students applying for Graduate PLUS Loans will need to complete a Graduate PLUS Loan application each year at studentaid.gov.

Private Educational Loans:

- Loans from private educational loan programs are scheduled to disburse equally by term unless the student requests another arrangement in writing. In cases where unequal disbursements are requested, student expenses for the period must equal or exceed the total aid received.
- Loan Applications should be submitted to the lender four weeks prior to the term to allow processing time.
  - It is important to confirm with your lender that funds are approved, and disbursement dates set prior to the beginning of the term.
  - Private educational loans are subject to terms set by lenders and usually include credit criteria. If a loan is denied by the lender, students must work directly with the lender to resolve the denial.
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Financial aid recipients must remain in good academic standing and maintain satisfactory quantitative standards or progression towards the degree (earn a certain number of credits within a specified number of terms) to retain eligibility for federal funds. Refer to the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies website for details.

Refunds and Repayments

Institutional refunds for tuition are determined by the time a student was enrolled prior to the date of withdrawal and are calculated as follows:

- 90% during the first week
- 75% during the second and third weeks
- 50% during the fourth week
- 25% during the fifth week

The amount of scholarship retained and/or the amount of repayment due to federal programs must be calculated in accordance with applicable regulations and formulas and are based on the percentage of earned charges. Scholarship and loan adjustments and return of federal funds are recorded to the student's account. Federal funds must be returned in the following order:

- Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans
- Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans.
- Institutional scholarship funds are generally retained in proportion to the percentage of earned charges. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Students have specific rights and responsibilities in applying for federal financial assistance.

Students have the following rights:

- to be informed of available financial aid programs and deadlines for submitting necessary applications and supporting documents;
- to expect that all reported financial aid information will remain confidential and will not be released without student consent;
- to know how financial need was determined and the data used in estimating educational expenses;
- to know what part of the financial aid package must be repaid. If a loan is awarded, students have the right to know the interest rate, total amount which must be repaid, repayment procedures, length of time allowed for repayment, and when repayment begins;
- to know the disbursement policy of their financial aid;
- to know the satisfactory progress guidelines for federal aid recipients.
Students have the following responsibilities:

- to complete all application forms accurately and to submit them to the appropriate office or processor;
- to submit all additional documentation, verification, corrections, and/or new information requested by the Financial Aid Office;
- to report to the Financial Aid Office a change in home and/or permanent address or in marital status;
- to report to the Financial Aid Office all sources of outside assistance;
- to use all financial aid to cover costs associated with attendance at Dartmouth College.

ONLINE CONSUMER INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURES

GRADUATE SPECIAL STUDENT

A "Graduate Special Student" is a non-degree seeking student. To receive aid from federal financial aid programs, the student must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in:

- courses that are necessary for the student to enroll in an eligible degree or certificate program; or
- a program that is required by a state for a professional credential or certificate for employment as an elementary or secondary teacher in that state.

Documentation of special student status will be required. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office.

QUESTIONS?

Our office hours are 9:00 to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 ET, Monday through Friday. Appointments are not necessary to meet in-person once we return to the office and resume post-pandemic operations. In the meantime, Zoom appointments can be scheduled by request.

We can be contacted by phone at 603-646-2451 during our office hours or email at financial.aid@dartmouth.edu.