



Federal Direct PLUS Pre-Approval

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

If a parent borrower is denied or not eligible to receive a Federal Direct PLUS Loan, the student may qualify for additional Federal Direct Student Loan - Unsubsidized. Please note the parent borrower must be the student's biological or adoptive parent. A stepparent may be the borrower only if their income and assets were used on the dependent student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid. A legal guardian is not considered an eligible borrower.

If the parent borrower is denied/not eligible (*see Situations for PLUS Denial below*) for the Federal Direct PLUS Loan, the student must complete a [Request for Additional Federal Direct Student Loan](#) form in order for additional loan to be processed. Please note that if one parent is denied/not eligible and another parent is approved, the additional unsubsidized loan cannot be authorized. In addition, if the parent who was denied/not eligible for the loan later becomes eligible to receive this loan, any non-disbursed unsubsidized loan based on the original denial will be cancelled.

If a student is determined to be eligible for the additional unsubsidized loan amounts under one of the below situations, the situation must be re-examined prior to certifying additional unsubsidized loan amounts in subsequent academic years.

Maximum Additional Loan (Per Academic Year)

- Freshmen (0-29 credits) \$4,000
- Sophomore (30-59 credits) \$4,000
- Junior (60-89 credits) \$5,000
- Senior (90+ credits) \$5,000

Situations for PLUS Denial

Based on Parent's Credit History

Parents may check if they would be credit approved for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan through the United States Department of Education. If parent is credit approved, this does not mean they are obligated to take the loan. The parent borrower may complete the process to determine credit eligibility (Step 1) outlined at [Federal Direct PLUS Loan Application Process](#). The credit decision will be provided at the end of the process. If credit is denied, the parent will be given options to appeal the decision or apply with an endorser. If you wish to have the student receive additional loan based on the denial do not select the appeal or endorser options.

Based on Parent's Default or Overpayment of Federal Aid

If a parent has defaulted or has an overpayment of federal aid the student may apply for additional loan.

Based on Other Exceptional Circumstances

If one of the following conditions exist the student may apply for additional loan. The parent's unwillingness to borrow a loan is not a valid reason. Supporting documentation will be required to verify circumstance.

- Parent is receiving payments under one of the following federal or state public assistance or disability programs.
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Food Stamps (SNAP)
 - Supplemental Security Insurance
 - Social Security Disability Benefits (If your parent is receiving Social Security Disability Benefits, the documentation must state the benefit is based on disability.)
- Parent is incarcerated.
- Parent has filed for bankruptcy and has provided a letter from the bankruptcy court stating that as a condition of the bankruptcy filing, they may not incur any additional debt.
- Parent is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident or is not able to provide evidence from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service that they are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident.