

WILLIAM D. FORD FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN INSTRUCTIONS

To borrow a Direct Loan, you must first complete the [FAFSA](#) and indicate John Jay College (Federal Code #002693) on the application. ***Federal Direct Loans cannot be offered or certified until the Financial Aid Office receives the results of your 2025-2026 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid,) collected any required documents and determined your information to be correct.***

If you have not already done so, complete and submit a 2025-2026 FAFSA at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

Step 1: New borrowers, **complete Direct Loan entrance counseling** at <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/>:

- Next to your academic career level (Undergraduate or Graduate) log in using your FSA ID username, verified email address or mobile number and enter your FSA ID password. If you do not have an FSA ID, you will be able to create one.

Step 2: New borrowers, **sign your Master Promissory Note (MPN)** electronically at <https://studentaid.gov/mpn/>:

- Next to your academic career level (Undergraduate or Graduate) log in using your FSA ID username, verified email address or mobile number and enter your FSA ID password.
- Select **Subsidized/Unsubsidized** for the MPN type. (It is recommended that **graduate** students exhaust their eligibility for an unsubsidized loan before applying for a Graduate PLUS Loan at www.studentaid.gov.)

Step 3: You may receive a Direct Loan offer for Fall 2025/Spring 2026 after submitting your 2025-2026 FAFSA. You can **accept, reduce or decline** your 2025-2026 Federal Direct Loan offer by accessing the Self-Service Student Center in CUNYfirst as follows:

- Sign into your CUNYfirst account at <https://home.cunyfirst.cuny.edu>.
- Click on the Student Center tile.
- Click on the Financial Aid tile.
- Select your college of enrollment and 2025-2026 Financial Aid year.
- Select the Award Summary
- Accept, reduce or decline your Federal Direct Loan offer.

If you do not receive a loan offer or need a loan that includes Summer 2025, you may apply by completing the Summer 2025/Fall 2025/Spring 2026 Direct Loan Processing Form on CUNYFirst as follows:

- Log in to CUNYFirst at <https://home.cunyfirst.cuny.edu>.
- Select the 'Student Center' from the drop down.
- Select the 'Financial Aid,' tile
- Select 'Direct Loan Processing Form'. (You must read and accept the disclaimer before you can access the loan form.)
- Enter 'JJC01' for the Institution and '2026' for the Aid Year.
- Complete the form for all terms in the award year (Summer 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026) that you intend to register for **at least 6 credits** and need a Direct Loan.

Note: Thoroughly review your request for accuracy. You cannot adjust this form once it is submitted.

You must accept your Direct Loan offer or submit an application by the school's [deadline](#).

For more important information regarding federal student loans see page 2.

Basic Eligibility Criteria for a Direct Loan

Some of the basic eligibility requirements are that you must:

- be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen;
- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a degree program;
- be registered for **at least six credits** for the semester(s) of the loan;
- not be in default on a federal student loan;
- maintain [satisfactory academic progress](#) in college.

Direct Subsidized Loans

Direct Subsidized loans are need-based loans available to undergraduate students. The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest while you are enrolled at least half-time and during grace and deferment periods.

Direct Unsubsidized Loans

Direct Unsubsidized loans are not need-based and are available to both undergraduate and graduate students. The borrower is responsible for paying the interest on the loan during all periods. Any interest that is not paid will be capitalized.

Annual Direct Loan Limits

	Dependent Students	Independent Students
0-29 Units Completed	\$5,500 (Maximum Subsidized = \$3,500)	\$9,500 (Maximum Subsidized = \$3,500)
30-59 Units Completed	\$6,500 (Maximum Subsidized = \$4,500)	\$10,500 (Maximum Subsidized = \$4,500)
60+ Units Completed	\$7,500 (Maximum Subsidized = \$5,500)	\$12,500 (Maximum Subsidized = \$5,500)
Graduate Students		\$20,500 (Unsubsidized only)

Note: All undergraduate annual loan amounts are subject to proration.

Loan Fee

An origination fee is deducted from each loan disbursement. For loans with a first disbursement date on or after 10/01/2020 and before 10/01/2026, the fees are listed below. Further information about loan fees is available at <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates#fees>.

Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans	Direct PLUS Loans
1.057% Loan Fee	4.228% Loan Fee

Interest Rates

The interest rates for Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans and Direct PLUS Loans first disbursed on or after July 01, 2025, and before July 01, 2026 are listed below. Further information regarding interest rates can be found at <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates>.

Undergraduate Student	Graduate or Professional Student	Parent Borrower and Graduate or Professional Student
6.39% Fixed	7.94% Fixed	8.94% Fixed
Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans	Direct Unsubsidized Loans	Direct PLUS Loans

Increase, Decrease or Cancel a Direct Loan

Contact the Financial Aid Office's Direct Loan Department for further instructions at directloans@jjay.cuny.edu.

Loan Repayment

Repayment of your loan begins 6 months after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment. If you are temporarily unable to make payments, you may be able to avoid default by contacting your Direct Loan servicer to find out if you are eligible for a deferment or forbearance. **You are required to complete exit counseling at <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/> when you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment.** Additional information regarding repayment can be found <https://studentaid.gov/h/manage-loans>.