Students who need loans in order to meet the costs of their education should first consider loans in the Federal Direct Loan Program which consists of the Direct Stafford Loan (subsidized and unsubsidized), the Direct PLUS Loan (for Parents and Graduate/ Professional Students).

DIRECT PLUS LOAN FOR GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

The Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate/Professional Students is a loan in addition to the Direct Stafford Loans students apply for. It does not reduce eligibility for the Direct Stafford Loan. The amount borrowed by the applicant is limited to the cost of attendance minus other financial aid including the Direct Stafford Loans. Borrower must have applied for their annual loan maximum eligibility under the Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program before applying for a Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate/Professional Students.

Eligibility

- Borrower must complete the FAFSA.
- Borrower must be enrolled at least half-time (3 credits graduate/doctoral; 6 credits law) and meet satisfactory academic progress. Please go to **www.stu.edu/financialaid** and select "General Information" to obtain a complete handout on the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress.
- Borrower must be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or permanent resident.
- Borrower must first apply for his/her annual loan maximum eligibility under the Direct Stafford Loan Program.
- Borrower must meet credit requirements.

Interest Rate

Interest rate is fixed at 7.9%.

Fees

- An origination fee of 3.00%.
- A federal default fee of 1.00% may be charged by the U.S. Department of Education.

Annual Loan Amounts

The annual loan limit is the cost of attendance, minus other financial aid, as certified by the student's school.

Aggregate Loan Amounts

There is no aggregate loan limit on the Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate/Professional Students.

Grace Period

There is no grace period; however, borrowers are not required to make payments while enrolled in school at least half-time. Interest begins accruing after the first disbursement. Your lender can provide more details.

Repayment

- Repayment begins 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed; however, the loan will be deferred while the borrower is enrolled at least half-time.
- Borrower can request forbearance to align repayment with Direct Stafford Loans.
- The standard repayment term is 10 years with a $50 minimum monthly payment.
- Borrowers may choose from several payment plans including Standard, Graduated, Income-Sensitive, and Extended. The U.S. Department of Education can provide more details for each repayment option.

Checklist for Applying for a Direct PLUS Loan for Graduate/Professional Students

- Complete the FAFSA.
- First-time borrowers at STU must complete the Loan Entrance Counseling at **www.stu.edu/faforms**.
- Complete a Direct PLUS Loan MPN with the U.S. Department of Education.
- Complete the Direct PLUS Loan Request Form indicating loan amount and authorizing Saint Thomas University to request a credit check for pre-approval.
- Enroll for a minimum of three credits (graduate/doctoral) or six credits (law).