



## **Graduate PLUS Loan Instructions 2016-17**

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 expanded the federal PLUS program to offer graduate and professional students the same benefits as the traditional PLUS loan for parents, which allows borrowing up to the entire cost of school, minus any other financial aid. All loan funds received under the program must be used to pay for the cost of attending a graduate school.

### **LOAN INFORMATION**

1. Interest rate is currently fixed at 5.31%.
2. A minimum of a 4.272% origination fee is deducted, by the federal government, from the gross amount of the loan.
3. Payments begin 60 days after the latest disbursement (may receive deferment if enrolled half-time).
4. The borrower is required to undergo a credit evaluation based on criteria set by the U.S. Department of Education.

**To apply for the Graduate PLUS Loan, complete the steps below.**

#### **(1) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (if not completed previously)**

*Federal regulations require a student to have their Federal Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loan eligibility determined prior to determining eligibility for the Graduate PLUS Loan.*

1. Go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).
2. Lakeland University's school code is 003854.

#### **(2) Online Pre-approval\***

1. Go to [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)
2. Click on the green "Log In" button and fill in the requested information.
  - a. You will need your FSA ID. This is the same FSA ID that you used to sign the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
3. Choose "Log In" after the information has been entered.
4. Click on "Apply for a PLUS Loan."
5. Click on "Complete PLUS Request for Graduate/Professional Students" to start the pre-approval process. (This link is located under the "Select the type of Direct PLUS Loan Request you would like to preview or complete" section.) If you are approved, you will need to follow the next steps to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and the loan entrance counseling specifically for the Graduate PLUS Loan (if not previously completed).

#### **(3) Graduate PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN)**

1. On the StudentLoans.gov webpage, click on "Complete a Master Promissory Note."
2. Click on "Complete PLUS MPN for Graduate/Professional Students" to begin the process. (This link is located under the 'PLUS MPN for Graduate/Professional Students' section.)

#### **(4) Graduate PLUS Entrance Counseling (for first-time borrowers)**

1. On the StudentLoans.gov webpage, click on "Complete Counseling."
2. In the Entrance Counseling row, click on "Start Entrance Counseling."
3. In the Select Schools to Notify section, please be sure to add Lakeland University. Our school code is 003854.
4. In the Select the Student Type section, please be sure to select "I am completing entrance counseling to receive Direct Loans as a graduate or professional student" to begin the process.

*\*If you do not have online access, please contact the financial aid office.*

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