

Federal Direct Loan Program Maximums

The U.S. Department of Education sets borrowing limits for the Federal Direct Loan program. The following chart provides annual and aggregate limits.

Year	Dependent Undergraduate	Independent Undergraduate*	Graduate and Professional**
Freshman <i>0-24 credits earned</i>	\$5,500 —No more than \$3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans	\$9,500 —No more than \$3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$20,500 / Academic Year
Sophomore <i>25-54 credits earned</i>	\$6,500 —No more than \$4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$10,500 —No more than \$4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	
Junior & Senior <i>55+ credits earned</i>	\$7,500 —No more than \$5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$12,500 —No more than \$5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	
Aggregate Loan Limits (maximum loan debt) **	\$31,000 —No more than \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$57,500 —No more than \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$138,500 —No more than \$65,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.

* These limits also apply to dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow under the PLUS program. Parent must apply for PLUS loan and be denied to receive additional unsubsidized amount.

** The graduate aggregate loan limit includes loans borrowed as an undergraduate. The Department of Education no longer awards students subsidized loans for Graduate or Professional degrees.