2016-17 Federal Direct PLUS (Parent) Loan Information Sheet

The Direct PLUS (Parent) Loan is available to parents/step-parents of dependent students who are attending at least half-time (6 units). The interest rate on the PLUS Loan is 6.84% for 2015-16. The 16-17 rate will be determined by July 1, 2016.

How do I apply for a PLUS Loan?

- Each year, your student must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Your student will be sent an award offer, which will include the maximum PLUS Loan that you may borrow. This amount is the student cost of attendance (determined by the Financial Aid Office) less all other aid awarded.
- Complete the 2016-17 Direct PLUS Loan Application. A new application must be completed every year.
- Please include your email address on the application if you would like to receive correspondence via email.

What happens next?

- After receiving your completed Direct PLUS Loan Application, your information will be forwarded electronically to the Direct Loan Processor for approval (beginning in July).
- Borrowers are subject to a credit check by the U.S. Department of Education to determine credit-worthiness. The credit check determines if the borrower has an adverse credit history. Adverse history could include being 90 days or more past due in the repayment of a debt, having been in default or foreclosure on a loan, or having had a bankruptcy discharge or write-off of a federal education debt during the last five years.
- A free copy of your credit report is available at www.annualcreditreport.com.
- Once approved, if you need to complete a master promissory note the Financial Aid Office will send you a letter or email directing you to the appropriate website. Generally, the MPN only has to be completed once during your student’s undergraduate program.

How will the PLUS Loan be disbursed?

Academic year PLUS Loans are disbursed to your student’s account in two equal installments, usually at the beginning of each semester. Summer PLUS Loans require an additional Direct PLUS Loan Application.

When does interest begin to accrue?

Interest begins to accrue 30 days after the first disbursement. The Direct Loan Servicer will send you quarterly interest statements. After your first disbursement is made, your loan will be assigned to a servicer. Your servicer's contact information will always be available to you through the National Student Loan Data System website.

When do I have to start repaying my PLUS Loan?

The first payment of principal and interest on a PLUS Loan is due sixty days after the loan has been fully disbursed. This means that if you apply for an academic year loan for 2016-17, the loan will be fully disbursed after the Spring installment, and your first payment will be due March 2017 or later. Delayed Repayment Option: If requested, repayment can be delayed until six months after your student drops below half-time or graduates. You must request this by contacting your Loan Servicer.

What are my options if I do not qualify for or cannot afford a PLUS Loan?

If your loan is denied due to adverse credit, you will have the opportunity to contact the Direct Loan Servicing Center to pursue a co-signer or endorser for the loan. If you decline this option, your student may pursue additional Unsubsidized Direct Loan funding. If your loan is approved on credit but you are unable to afford the minimum monthly payment of $50, your student may pursue additional Unsubsidized Direct Loan funding if the parent portion of your student’s Expected Family Contribution (EFC, calculated by the federal FAFSA processor) is zero. In either case, your student must contact our office to request the additional funding. The student’s eligibility is limited by grade level ($4,000 max additional for freshman/sophomore; $5,000 max additional for junior/senior).

When will I find out if I qualify for the PLUS Loan?

Loan processing will begin around July 1, 2016. The SSU Financial Aid Office will not know if your loan has been approved until AFTER your loan has been submitted electronically to the Direct Loan Processor beginning July 1 and after.
**2016–17 DIRECT PLUS LOAN APPLICATION**

**Instructions:** Provide both student and parent information. Return signed application to the Financial Aid Office for processing: Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609 Fax (707) 664-4242 Note: This form must be completed each academic year you wish to apply for the PLUS Loan.

*NOTE: Please PRINT or TYPE legibly or form will be returned.*

**Student Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name (Print)</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>SSU ID</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Parent Information: Please provide complete information for one parent or step-parent only.**

- **Loan Amount Requested:**
  - □ Maximum allowed
  - □ $________________________ Specify amount

- **Loan Period Requested:**
  - □ Academic Year 2016-2017
  - □ Fall 2016 only
  - □ Spring 2017 only
  - □ Summer 2017 only

- **Parent’s Social Security #: __________________________**
- **Parent’s Date of Birth: _____/_____/______**

- **Name of Parent:**
  - Last  First  MI

*Please Note:* Make sure you write your name exactly as you did when you applied for your FSA ID.

- **Relationship to Student:**
  - □ Mother
  - □ Father
  - □ Other (please specify) __________________________

- **Citizenship Status:**
  - □ U.S. Citizen or National
  - □ Permanent Resident or other eligible non-citizen (A#) __________________________
  - □ None of the Above

- **Driver’s License #/State:**
  - License # / State

Are you (the parent) currently in default on an educational loan or do you owe a refund on a federal student grant?
- □ No
- □ Yes

- **Parent’s Permanent Mailing Address:**
  - ____________________________________________________________
  - City  State  Zip

- **Parent’s Telephone Number:**
  - Home __________________________
  - Mobile __________________________

- **Parent’s email address:** (optional)

Please add the **finaid@sonoma.edu** address as a known sender so that our email does not go into your SPAM or Junk Mail folder.

I authorize the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education to investigate my credit record and report information concerning my credit to the proper persons or organizations.

- **Parent/Step-Parent Signature:**
- **Date:**

**For Office Use Only**

Processed by: __________________________ Date: ______________