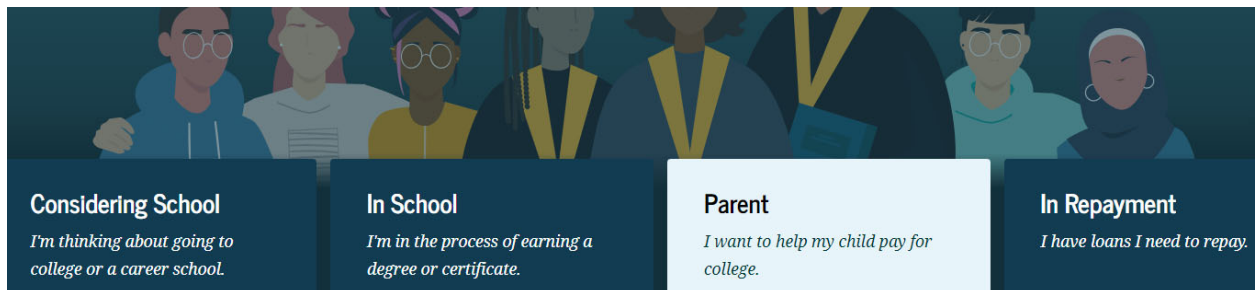


How to Apply for a PLUS Loan

If you are a dependent student pursuing an undergraduate program your parent may be able to pursue a PLUS loan through the Department of Education. Since the parent is the borrower of the loan (not the student); the parent must apply for the loan. More information about the PLUS loan for parents can be found at: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/plus/parent>. ***If you are a dependent undergraduate student and your parent is NOT interested in borrowing a loan in his/her own name, then you should review “Private Loans for Students – How to Apply.”***

Parents of dependent students- follow these steps to apply:

- If you have placed a security freeze on your credit file, you must lift or remove the freeze at each credit bureau before completing the application.
- Parent borrower goes to the <https://studentaid.gov/> website. Click on *Parent – I want to help my child pay for college*. Select “Apply for a Parent PLUS Loan.”



- Parent borrower logs in using his/her own FSA ID and password. Do NOT use the student's login information. If this is the first time you are logging into the new studentaid.gov website you may need to confirm your information with the Department of Education before continuing to your studentaid.gov dashboard.
- Select “Apply for a Parent PLUS Loan” under the popular topics. Login to proceed with completing and submitting the application. A credit check will be completed during the process. Specify the amount being requested on the application. Remember loans are evenly distributed between fall and spring terms less the 4.228% origination fee that the Department of Education deducts.

Direct PLUS Loan Application for Parents



- If denied the parent has several options (e.g. obtain an endorser, appeal the credit decision or the parent could decide not to pursue the loan. If not pursuing approval, the student may be eligible for additional unsubsidized loan funding).
- After you complete the PLUS loan Application, you will need to return to the dashboard and select “Complete Loan Agreement for Parent PLUS Loan.” The “Loan Agreement” is the required Master Promissory Note (MPN) that is your agreement to repay the loan. If you have completed a PLUS loan MPN for the student in a previous year, a new one generally will not be required unless the loan was approved with the use of an endorser.

Notes:

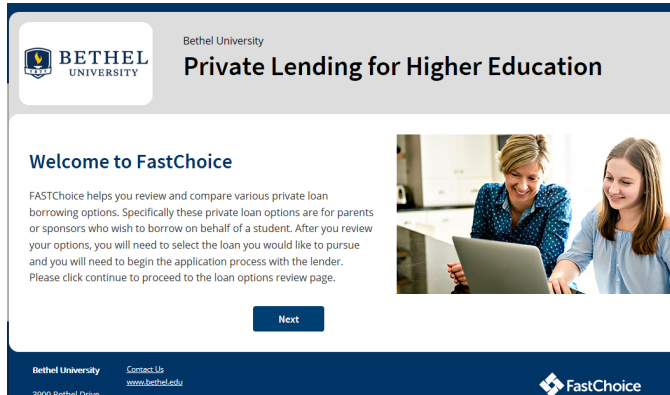
Independent students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree are not eligible for PLUS loans. These students can pursue “Private Loan” options. Students pursuing Graduate degrees have the option of either “Private Loans” or the Graduate “PLUS Loan.”

Graduate students who want to pursue a PLUS loan in their own name can select “In School” after logging into the studentaid.gov website. The option to “Apply for a PLUS loan for Graduate School” and “Complete MPN (i.e., Loan Agreement)” will be listed there. Graduate students pursuing a PLUS loan must also complete Loan Entrance counseling as a graduate or professional student if this has not been done in the past.

Private Loans for Parents – How to Apply

While private loans are generally borrowed by students, a few lenders have options where the parent can be the borrower on a private loan. For parents who have good credit, sometimes the terms and interest rates on these loans may be more favorable than the Federal Parent PLUS loan.

Parents may review private loan options for parents at:
<https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/905800/2>



The screenshot shows the top section of a web page. At the top left is the Bethel University logo. To its right, the text reads "Bethel University" and "Private Lending for Higher Education". Below this is a "Welcome to FastChoice" section. It contains a paragraph of text explaining that FASTChoice helps review and compare private loan options for parents or sponsors. To the right of the text is a photograph of a woman and a young girl looking at a laptop. Below the text is a blue button labeled "Next". At the bottom of the page, there is a dark blue footer with the Bethel University logo, contact information (3900 Bethel Drive, Contact Us, www.bethel.edu), and the FastChoice logo.

Click Next and review various options. You can link directly to the lender’s website to apply online.

If your parent is NOT interested in borrowing a loan in his/her own name, then you should review “Private Loans for Students – How to Apply.”

Private Loans for Students – How to Apply

Students may pursue private loan options to help cover their educational expenses. Bethel has compiled a preferred lender list as a starting point to help student's evaluate borrowing options.

- Go to FastChoice: <https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/905800> and click on the Undergraduate – Preferred Lenders Option if you are a CAS or CAPS student, then click “Next” to access the list of preferred lenders. If you are enrolled in the Graduate School or Seminary select the Graduate Option.



Bethel University

Private Lending for Higher Education



Please Select the Appropriate Option

Begin by choosing the option below that best matches your situation.

[Undergraduate - Preferred Lenders](#)

Loan options for undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students. You are not limited to the lenders listed.

- Evaluate and compare loan programs. Link directly to the lender's website and apply online with the lender of your choice.
- Complete the loan process with your lender. All lenders will require a self-certification form which they will provide. Some will require proof of identity or income. You may be required to obtain a co-signer to secure funding. All requested information must be provided to your lender before your loan can be processed.
- Your lender will contact Bethel to request school certification on your loan.
- If you select a lender that is not on our preferred lender list please email us at finaid-loans@bethel.edu with the name of your lender, the lender's phone number, the amount you are requesting and the term(s) that you are requesting the loan for. Follow your lender's application instructions.

Questions? Contact the Financial Aid Office

Email: finaid-loans@bethel.edu

Phone: 651-628-6241

LOAN COMPARISON CHART*

Type of Loan	Borrower	Fees	Make Payments While in School?	Interest Rate 2024-25	Standard Repayment
Direct Subsidized Loan	Undergraduate Student	1.057%	No	6.53% Fixed	up to 10 years
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Undergraduate Student	1.057%	Interest accrues, Optional in-school payment	6.53% Fixed	up to 10 years
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Graduate Student	1.057%	Interest accrues, Optional in-school payment	8.08% Fixed	up to 10 years

*Rates and fees are as of 7/1/2021.

PLUS/Private Loan Eligibility*					
Type of Loan	Borrower	Fees	Make Payments While in School	Interest Rate 2024-25	Standard Repayment
Direct PLUS	Parent of Undergraduate Student or a Graduate Student	4.228%	Yes, but may request deferment if student is enrolled ½ time	9.08% Fixed	Up to 10 years
Private Loans	Student is typically the borrower- typically requires credit-worthy co-signer. Some lenders may offer private loan for parent borrowers.	Varies	Interest accrues, Optional in school payment	Varies based on market and credit score	Varies (10+ years)