

Federal TEACH Grant

The federal TEACH (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education) Grant is available to students who plan to become teachers and agree to serve as full-time teachers at certain schools within certain high-need fields.

Basics

- A grant of up to \$4000 per year
- Recipients are required to teach as a **highly qualified teacher** in a **high need field** at a **low income school** for 4 years within 8 years of completing their program
- Grant will convert to loan (with retroactive interest) if the recipient does not fulfill the entire service obligation

Highly Qualified Teacher

- Read the government definition at: www.ed.gov/teachers/nclbguide/improve-quality.html

Highly Need Fields

- Mathematics
- Science
- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
- Other identified teacher shortage areas as of the time you begin teaching in that field. To access the listing, please go to: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.pdf
- Foreign Language
- Special Education
- Reading Specialist

Low Income-Serving School

- Listing of schools available at: <https://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp>
- Downloading to Excel may be the most helpful way to search the list

Student Eligibility Requirements

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](https://fafsa.gov)) annually, although financial need is not required.
- Be admitted and enrolled in a Master's program in the School of Education at SOU
 - Incoming Master's students: have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.25 or higher - OR - have scored above the 75th percentile on at least one battery of a nationally normed admission test (SAT or ACT)
 - Continuing Master's students: have an SOU cumulative graduate level GPA of 3.25 or higher OR - have scored above the 75th percentile on at least one battery of a nationally normed admission test (SAT or ACT)
- Complete the SOU TEACH Grant Application and submit to the Enrollment Services Center
- Complete TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling and electronically sign an Agreement to Serve (ATS) with US Department of Education annually (www.teach-ats.ed.gov)

Conversion to a Loan

- Failure to complete service obligation will cause grant to convert to a loan and interest will be calculated retroactively from the point funds were originally disbursed to you. The loan must be repaid as an Unsubsidized Direct Loan (see www.dl.ed.gov)
- If the loan is not paid, it will go into default and may result in adverse credit reporting, ineligibility for further federal aid, wage and tax return garnishment and/or litigation
- **Sample** repayment scenario
 - \$4,000 TEACH Grant disbursed September 16, 2009
 - Enrollment ends June 14, 2010
 - Retroactive interest at 6.8% = \$2,380
 - New principal balance after capitalization = \$6,380
 - Loan repayment approximately \$73/mo for 120 months
 - Total cost: approximately \$8,760

Determination will be made by the Financial Aid staff in the Enrollment Services Center, by reviewing the student's current academic record. There may be a need so supply additional information in order to document eligibility for the TEACH Grant. The SOU cumulative GPA must remain at or above a 3.25 to continue to receive the grant for future terms.



Enrollment Services Center
1250 Siskiyou Blvd
Ashland, OR 97520
T: (541) 552-6600 F: (541) 552-6614
esc@sou.edu

Federal TEACH Grant Application
20__ to 20__ Academic Year

Name _____ SOU ID# _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please read carefully and initial each section to document that you have read and understand your responsibilities associated with the TEACH Grant. You may contact the ESC for questions or clarification regarding the TEACH Grant.

- I have read and understand the enclosed information regarding the TEACH Grant.
I have accessed the My TEACH Grant website (www.teach-ats.ed.gov) and successfully completed my TEACH Grant Counseling and Agreement To Serve (ATS) on _____ (Date).
I understand that by accepting \$1 or more in TEACH Grant funds that I must fulfill my service obligation by serving as a highly-qualified teacher at a low-income elementary or secondary school in a high-need field in the majority of classes I teach.
I understand that for purposes of the TEACH Grant, high-need fields are: mathematics, science, foreign language, bilingual education, English language acquisition, special education and reading specialist. I have reviewed the Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing (www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.pdf) to review if my planned teaching area is considered a high-need field by a state. I understand that any field designated as high need by a state is valid only if I teach in a low-income school in that particular state that designated the field as a high-need field when I began receiving my TEACH Grant.
I have reviewed the Department of Education's directory of low-income schools (at www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp) and understand how to determine if a school meets the low-income designation for the TEACH Grant.
I understand that at the completion of each year of teaching service, I am responsible to submit certification of my service documented by the chief administrative officer of the school where I am teaching.
I understand that I must comply with the terms, conditions and other requirements of the TEACH Grant necessary for documenting, suspending, or discharging my service obligation, or for repaying the TEACH Grant funds as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan.
I understand that if I do not complete my service requirements within 8 years of completing or leaving my TEACH Grant eligible program, my TEACH Grant will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan which I am required to repay. If my TEACH Grant is converted to a loan, I understand that interest will be added retroactively to the loan amount calculated at 6.8% per year from the date that each TEACH Grant was initially disbursed (repayment example on next page).
I understand conditions such as a felony conviction or failure to be admitted into a teacher education program could preclude me from completing my service obligation and thus would convert my TEACH Grant to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan



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I understand I have the right to request a suspension (of up to 3 years) of the 8 year period of time I have to complete my service obligation. I understand that my request will only be approved under qualified exceptions such as those pertaining to a condition covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), such as the birth of a child, caring for a spouse, child, or parent with a serious medical condition or due to my own serious health condition. Additionally, I may request a suspension due to a call to active duty status in the US Armed Forces or National Guard for more than 30 days. I understand that my request for a suspension must be made prior to any condition that would convert my TEACH Grant into a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan.

I understand that my TEACH grant will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan if any of the following occur:

- I request that the TEACH grant be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan.
I fail to notify the US Department of Education within 120 days of ceasing enrollment that I am employed, or still plan to pursue employment, as a full-time teacher per the terms of the Agreement to Serve (ATS).
Within 1 year of ceasing enrollment (not completing my TEACH Grant eligible program), I have not requested and been determined eligible for a suspension of the 8 year period for completing my service obligation, have not re-enrolled in a TEACH grant-eligible program or I have not begun my teaching service obligation per the ATS.
I do not actively confirm my intention to satisfy the terms of the ATS with the U.S. Department of Education at least annually.
I fail to begin or maintain qualifying employment within a timeframe that would allow me to complete my teaching service obligation per the ATS.

I understand that once a TEACH grant has been converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan; it cannot be converted back to a grant.

I understand that if my TEACH grant is converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan and I fail to make all required payments on-time and/or default on the loan, the likely consequences of that default include adverse credit reports, wage garnishment, federal offset of tax refunds and litigation.

Federal TEACH Grant Program Agreement

I am currently enrolled in the following eligible program: (please specify)

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and completed the necessary steps to apply for a Federal TEACH Grant and that I have not knowingly presented false information in this application. I understand that I can contact the SOU Enrollment Services Center for additional information about the federal TEACH Grant.

Signature Date

Financial Aid Office Use Only
Cumulative GPA GR/PB/UG Term/AY ATS COD PFs
Approved Denied Revision sent: By: