

## Guide to PLUS Loan Counseling

If your credit decision was denied for the Graduate Plus Loan, you may still receive a Direct PLUS Loan by obtaining an **endorser** who does not have an adverse credit history or being approved through appealing the credit decision by Documenting Extenuating Circumstances with the Federal Student Aid Office. Effective March 29, 2015 students will be required to complete a PLUS Counseling in addition to the regular Entrance Counseling. This guide has been created to assist you with the step by step instruction on how to complete this process online set by Federal Student Aid Office. *(This Plus Counseling is only required to be completed by the Student only)*

**Step 1 – Log-in to <https://studentaid.gov/> with your FSA ID & Password**  
FSA Office Phone Number 1-800-557-7394.

An official website of the United States government. Help Center English | Español Log In | Create Account

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### You Are America's Smartest Investment

The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid provides more than \$120 billion in financial aid to help pay for college each year.

[Log In](#) [Create Account](#)

- Corinthian/Manriquez Court Case
- Complete the FAFSA® Form
- Explore Ways to Lower Payments
- Learn About Loan Forgiveness
- Find Out How to Make a Payment

**Considering School**  
*I'm thinking about going to college or a career school.*

**In School**  
*I'm in the process of earning a degree or certificate.*

**Parent**  
*I want to help my child pay for college.*

**In Repayment**  
*I have loans I need to repay.*

### Getting ready for college can be easier than you think.

It's never too early—or too late—to explore your options for college or career school. This site discusses key steps in preparing for college and provides resources that can help you along the way.

POPULAR TOPICS

- Get Checklists for Academic and Financial Preparation
- Choose a School
- Learn About Grants, Work-Study, Loans, and Scholarships
- Estimate Your Aid

**Step 3- Select APPLY FOR AID & select Complete PLUS Credit Counseling**

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- Section Overview
- Apply for a PLUS Loan
- Complete the FAFSA® Form
- Apply for a Grad PLUS Loan
- FAFSA Deadlines
- Apply for a Parent PLUS Loan
- Filling Out the FAFSA Form
- Endorse a PLUS Loan
- Reviewing and Correcting Your FAFSA Form
- Appeal a Credit Decision
- Renewing Your FAFSA Form
- Complete PLUS Credit Counseling**

Step 4- Click on Start

COMPLETE COUNSELING

PLUS Credit Counseling

What is PLUS Credit Counseling?

PLUS Credit Counseling will help students and parents understand the obligations associated with borrowing a PLUS loan and assist them in making careful decisions about taking on student loan debt.

PLUS Credit Counseling is required if the U.S. Department of Education has informed you that you have an adverse credit history and you have:

- Obtained an endorser or
- Documented extenuating circumstances to the satisfaction of the U.S. Department of Education

PLUS Credit Counseling can be completed voluntarily at any time. If PLUS Credit Counseling is completed voluntarily and you are determined to have an adverse credit history by the U.S. Department of Education within 30 days of PLUS Credit Counseling completion, your PLUS Credit Counseling requirement will be considered to be fulfilled.

Complete PLUS Credit Counseling

START

Who should complete this?

- Eligible graduate/professional students
- Parents of eligible dependent undergraduate students

How long will it take?



The entire counseling process must be completed in a single session. Most people complete counseling in 20-30 minutes.

What do I need?

- [Details on your income, financial aid, and living expenses](#)

[Return to the Counseling selection page](#)

Step 5- Select for Graduate/Professional Student and start

PLUS CREDIT COUNSELING

Select PLUS Credit Counseling Type

I am completing PLUS Credit Counseling to receive Direct Loans as a:

Parent of an eligible dependent undergraduate student(s)

START

Parents must be logged in with their own FSA ID.

Graduate/Professional Student

START

Students must be logged in with their own FSA ID.

Graduate/professional students should apply for Unsubsidized loans up to their full eligibility using the Subsidized/Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note.

Step 5- Begin the Counseling and complete all sections

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## PLUS CREDIT COUNSELING FOR GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

1 Your Loans & Their Impact

2 Avoid Default

- Credit Check Information
- Loan Summary
- Income and Non-School Expenses
- Repayment Plans
- Financial Summary


### Credit Check Information

You have no current declined credit reasons on file.

### Loan Summary

Current Balance displays what you've already borrowed as reflected in NSLDS. Projected Loans are what you plan to borrow for this year and future years to pay for your educational expenses.

Choose "Add/Edit" to access tools that help estimate school costs or adjust your current balance.



**Add Loans You Borrowed As A Student  
(Your Loans)**


**ADD LOANS**

### Income and Non-School Expenses

#### Monthly Budget

#### Income and Expense Overview

Completing this section will give you an idea of how repaying your loans will impact your monthly budget.



**Estimate Your Projected Income and Expenses**

**ADD INCOME AND EXPENSES**

### Repayment Plans

#### Monthly Loan Payment

Below are the repayment plan options for the loans you may take out and any loans you have already received. Select the repayment plan that works best with your budget.

**Your Loans**

Show payment estimated under Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

**Final Step of the PLUS Counseling-** Please make sure to complete a New Graduate PLUS MPN once your endorser or your credit appeal has been approved. Please allow 2-3 business days for the electronic notification to be received by FIU. We can only disburse the loan funds once the student has completed all required documents.