



# TEACH Grant

## Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant

The TEACH Grant is a federally-funded program created to help pay college costs for students who are completing or plan to complete coursework needed to begin a career in teaching. These grants are available to eligible undergraduate, post-baccalaureate and graduate students who agree to serve as full-time teachers in high-need fields at schools that serve students from low-income families. The information below will help you understand the program qualifications and requirements.

### Applicant Qualifications:

A grant recipient must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Be enrolled<sup>1</sup> as:
  - an undergraduate student; or
  - a graduate student; or
  - a post-baccalaureate student in a program required by the state to obtain a teaching credential at a college that does not offer a bachelor's degree in education.
- Be enrolled<sup>1</sup> in or plan to enroll in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching.

<sup>1</sup> Not all colleges and universities participate in the TEACH Grant program. A list of TEACH Grant eligible colleges and universities can be accessed from the Scholarships & Grants section of our website at [www.iowacollegeaid.gov](http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov). If you are interested in the TEACH Grant, please contact the financial aid office at your school.

### Academic Standards<sup>2</sup>:

Applicants must meet one of the two following academic achievement requirements:

- Maintain a cumulative 3.25 GPA on 4.0 scale.
  - Eligibility for first-time, first-year college students is based on high school cumulative GPA.
- Score above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on at least one of the batteries in an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate program admissions test.

More information on how to locate percentiles for test batteries can be accessed from the Federal Grants section of our website [www.iowacollegeaid.gov](http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov).

<sup>2</sup> The academic achievement requirements described here do not apply to graduate degree candidates who are current teachers or retirees from another occupation with expertise in a high-need field, or former teachers pursuing a high-quality alternative certification.

**IMPORTANT!**

If you don't fulfill the teaching service, your TEACH Grants will become unsubsidized Direct Stafford loans that must be repaid with interest accrued from the first disbursement date of each grant.

### Application Process:

1. File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually.
2. Participate in TEACH Grant counseling before each annual award and before graduation. This must be done before completing the Agreement to Serve (ATS).
3. Complete a TEACH Grant ATS each academic year.

**Iowa College Student Aid Commission**

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## Award Amounts:

- Maximum of \$4,000 per year - amount is reduced for students enrolled less than full-time. New TEACH Grants first disbursed after March 1, 2013 must be reduced by 6.0 percent, resulting in a reduced maximum award of \$3,760.<sup>3</sup>
  - TEACH Grant plus other financial aid may not exceed cost of attendance (COA)
- Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate (non-graduate) combined aggregate total maximum of \$16,000
- Graduate aggregate total maximum of \$8,000

<sup>3</sup> On August 2, 2011, Congress passed the Budget Control Act of 2011, which put into place automatic federal budget cuts, known as a “sequester” to take effect if Congress failed to enact legislation to reduce the federal deficit by March 1, 2013. These budget cuts are now in effect.

## Additional Information:

### ○ High-Need Fields

The high-need fields<sup>4</sup> recognized for the TEACH Grant are as follows:

- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
- Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Reading Specialists
- Science
- Special Education
- Other teacher shortage areas identified by the state in which you will teach at the time you receive your TEACH Grant.

<sup>4</sup> The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) publishes a nationwide listing of teacher shortage areas in each state. You can access this list from the Scholarship & Grants section of our website at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov).

### ○ USDE-Designated Low Income Schools

The *Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory* allows you to search public and private elementary and secondary schools and educational services agencies serving low-income families, as designated by the USDE. Those schools meet the TEACH Grant requirement of schools that serve low-income students.

- You can access a link to this directory from the Scholarship & Grants section of our website at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov).

### ○ The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve

The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) provides the conditions under which the grant will be awarded and the teaching service requirements. According to the agreement, a grant recipient must:

- Serve as a full-time teacher for a total of at least four academic years within eight years of completing or withdrawing from a teaching program.
- Serve as a highly qualified teacher<sup>5</sup> at a USDE-designated low-income school or education service agency.
- Carry out the teaching service requirement within a high-need field.
- Provide certification of employment annually by completing the online TEACH Grant certification form or by downloading a form from the forms section at [www.dl.ed.gov](http://www.dl.ed.gov).
- Meet any additional requirements that the USDE deems necessary.

The TEACH Grant ATS also requires the recipient to acknowledge that the failure to complete the teaching service requirement will result in the total TEACH Grant award amount being converted to an unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loan, to be repaid with interest accruing from the first disbursement date of each grant.

<sup>5</sup> The USDE defines “highly qualified teacher” in Section 901 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*. You can access a link to this information from the Scholarship & Grants section of our website at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov). In Iowa, highly qualified means to hold an endorsement in the subject area taught.

## More Information

If you have questions after reviewing this guide, or if you would like more information on planning, preparing and paying for college, please contact us. You may reach us at:

Phone: 877-272-4456

Email: [info@iowacollegeaid.gov](mailto:info@iowacollegeaid.gov)

Website: [IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://IowaCollegeAid.gov)

