

Graduate	Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loans	Federal Direct Grad PLUS Loan	College Access Loan (CAL) TX Residents ONLY	Private Education Loan	Why it is Important
Who is the borrower?	Student is the borrower	Student is the borrower	Student (must be a Texas resident) *Co-signer needed in most cases	Student *Co-signer needed in some cases	Whoever is listed as the borrower is liable for the debt. The cosigner is equally liable.
Who is the lender?	U.S. Department of Education	U.S. Department of Education	State of Texas	Multiple options available: Private Lending for Higher Education	You will have a long relationship with the lender you select.
Co-signer	No co-signer required	Student borrower can add an endorser if their credit is not sufficient.	Not required if borrower receives a favorable credit evaluation.	Not required if borrower's credit is sufficient; definite benefit to add a co-signer as it will likely improve the interest rate.	While all of these loans place the student as primary borrower, the co-signer is liable as well.
Can the co-signer be "released" from the loan?	Not applicable	No	No	Varies; student must make a certain number of payments on time and pass a credit check to release the co-signer.	Co-signers may be more agreeable to co-signing if there's an opportunity to be removed from debt obligation in the future.
Loan limit per year	\$20,500 per year	Student's estimate Cost of Attendance (COA) as determined by UTA minus other financial aid the student receives.	Student may not borrow less than \$100 and or above the COA minus all other financial resources.	Student's estimate Cost of Attendance (COA) as determined by UTA minus other financial aid the student receives.	Most students borrow from a combination of loan programs to meet their needs.

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Interest rate	Fixed at 8.083% for the life of the loan, unless consolidated, for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2024 and before July 1, 2025. Subject to change on July 1 of each year.	Fixed at 9.083% for the life of the loan, unless consolidated, for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2024 and before July 1, 2025. Subject to change on July 1 of each year.	Fixed 5.85% for the life of CAL applications received on or after September 1, 2023. Fixed 6.05% for the life of CAL applications received on or after August 1, 2024.	Varied and fixed rates available depending on borrower's and/or the co-signer's credit score(s).	Borrowers and co-signers are encouraged to consider all options. It's possible to obtain a lower rate on a private loan compared to the federal and state fixed options with a good credit score. If you intend to repay the loan early, it may be wise to select a lower rate on a private loan.
Interest capitalization	Interest capitalized (calculated and added to the principal) upon entering repayment and again after any period of deferment or forbearance.	Interest capitalized (calculated and added to the principal) upon entering repayment and again after any period of deferment or forbearance.	Interest is never capitalized.	Varies by lender; most capitalize upon entering repayment and again after any period of forbearance.	The more often interest is capitalized, the more it will cost to pay off the loan.
Loan fee (deducted from disbursement)	1.057% for all borrowers for loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 2020 and before October 1, 2024. Subject to change on October 1 of each year.	4.228% for all borrowers for loans first disbursed on or after October 1, 2020 and before October 1, 2024. Subject to change on October 1 of each year.	No origination fee will be assessed for all approved borrowers.	Varies, but most private loans do not have upfront fees.	Federal loans have fees, which are deducted from the loan disbursements, while most private loans do not.
Application Process	Student will accept the loan(s) on the MyMav portal . Student can complete their Master Promissory Note (MPN) online at studentaid.gov .	Parents can apply online at www.studentaid.gov .	Apply online at www.hhloans.com . Loan process is about 3-4 weeks.	Apply online with the lender of your choice. Private Lending for Higher Education	Almost all education loan processes are now online. It is critical that you keep track of when additional steps must be completed—watch your email!

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Credit requirements	No credit requirement	No debt to income ration or credit is used, but cannot have any adverse credit history.	Experian Vantage Score of 650 or higher is required for approval.	Varies based on lender, most require a minimum of three years of positive credit history.	With private loans, a borrower or co-signer's credit history helps determine the interest rate.
Consolidation	Federal Direct Consolidation through the U.S. Department of Education	Federal Direct Consolidation through the U.S. Department of Education	Cannot be consolidated with other types of loans.	A few lenders offer private refinance loans to assist borrowers with multiple private loans; usually cannot be consolidated with federal loans.	Refinancing is primarily a helpful tool for students with multiple loans of the same type held by different lenders or servicers.
Loan repayment plans	Multiple repayment plans including some income-based plans are available. More info at www.studentaid.gov	Multiple repayment plans including some income-based plans are available. More info at www.studentaid.gov	Ten and 20 year repayment plans are available depending on loan balance; graduated and income-sensitive are also available.	Traditionally, private loans have repayment periods of 10-25 years based on loan balance, typically split in equal monthly payments.	Private loans tend to have fewer repayment choice than federal or state loans.
Postponement of payments	Deferments for in-school enrollment, unemployment, military service and economic hardship and forbearances are available.	Deferments for in-school enrollment, unemployment, military service and economic hardship and forbearances are available.	A list of deferment forms are available at www.hhloans.com under "Forms".	Some private loans have deferments and forbearances. See promissory note for details.	No one expects to be unemployed or need to postpone payments, but these options can be crucial if you need them.
Cancellation loan forgiveness	Loans cancel upon death or disability of the student borrower. Some forgiveness options are available for certain public service careers.	Loans cancel upon death or disability of the parent borrower. Some forgiveness options are available for certain public service careers.	Loan is cancelled upon death or total and permanent disability of student borrower.	Some lender do forgive loans in the event of the borrower's death or total and permanent disability. See promissory not for details.	If the unexpected occurs, it's helpful to know remaining loan balances can be forgiven.