

FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS

[StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)

The U.S. Department of Education is the lender and federal loan funding is available to eligible U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens. There is no requirement to demonstrate financial need and students must be enrolled at least half time with a minimum of 6 units. If you choose not to pay the interest that accrues while you are in school or during your grace period, the interest will be added to your principal balance. After you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time enrollment, you will have a six-month grace period before you are required to begin repayment. Students are offered flexible repayment plans and options to postpone loan payments if they are having trouble making payment.

1. Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan

- Fixed interest rate of 6.54% (For loans first disbursed between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023)
- 1.057% loan origination fee
- Graduate students are guaranteed up to \$20,500 per academic year.

2. Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan

- Fixed interest rate of 7.54% (For loans first disbursed between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023)
- 4.228% loan origination fee
- The maximum loan amount is the student's cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received.
- Minimal credit check – no adverse credit
 - If you have adverse credit history, you may have the option to file an appeal or to obtain an endorser.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL AID

Please complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* on the web at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

- The federal school code for UCI is **001314**.
- You may file your FAFSA prior to receiving acceptance into the program.
- You will report income information from the tax year two years prior to the academic year.
 - If you will be filing a tax extension, you may estimate your income on the FAFSA.

RESPONSIBLE BORROWING

- Take only what you really need.
- Keep track of how much you're borrowing.
- Understand the terms of your loan and keep copies of your loan documents (Master Promissory Notes and Loan Disclosure Statements).
- Keep in touch with your loan servicer. To find out who your loan servicer is, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1.800.433.3243.