Steps to apply for a Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Application Procedures

The Office of Financial Aid certifies Graduate PLUS through the Federal Direct Loan Program. Federal funds are borrowed directly from the Department of Education. The Graduate PLUS Loan is available to a graduate student who is matriculated in a degree program and enrolled in at least six (6) credits and does not have adverse credit history. A Co-terminal student is not eligible to participate in this program because he/she is not considered a graduate student for financial aid purposes. **The student must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to participate in this program. Please visit [http://www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) to complete the 2016-2017 FAFSA.**

Application Procedures – NEW!!

Once logged into [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) (using your FSA ID and password), select the “Apply for a PLUS Loan” on the home page. You are encouraged to review needed items for this process by selecting the “View What You Need” link.

Under the heading Direct PLUS Loan Request for Graduate/Professional Student Borrowers click on the **Complete PLUS Request for Graduate/Professional Students button.**

NOTE: If you HAVE borrowed under the Graduate PLUS loan program while attending RPI there is nothing more you need to do. If you HAVE NOT borrowed under the program previously while attending RPI, then you will need to complete a Graduate PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note (see below) and participate in entrance loan counseling session.

Sign your Master Promissory Note (MPN)

If approved for a Graduate PLUS you must complete a Graduate PLUS Master Promissory Note (MPN). You may complete your MPN by visiting [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). You will need your FSA ID and user password to complete the MPN online. The Master Promissory Note is a legal document in which you promise to repay your loan(s) and any accrued interest and fees to the U.S. Department of Education. It also explains the terms and conditions of your loan(s). The MPN is valid for up to 10 years. It must be completed in order for your Direct Loan funds to be disbursed to your student account. Rensselaer will be informed electronically when you have successfully completed this requirement.

a. Go to [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)

b. Sign in “Manage my Direct Loan”

c. Click “Complete Master Promissory Note”

d. Follow the instructions, but be aware that if you exit the Direct Loan website before submitting your signed MPN, you will have to start the process over.

Complete Entrance Counseling

All first time borrowers in the Direct Loan program must complete an Entrance Counseling session. This can be done via the Internet and takes about 20 minutes. There is a quiz at the end of each section so that you may demonstrate that you understand the information being provided. You can print a copy of the verification page for your records as proof that you completed the session. Rensselaer will be informed electronically when you have successfully completed this requirement.

a. Go to [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)

b. Sign in “Manage My Direct Loan”

c. Click on “Complete Entrance Counseling”
If the Graduate PLUS application is denied, the borrower has three options:

1. Request a review of the credit check due to inaccurate information on your credit report. Contact Direct Loan Applicant Services at 1-800-557-7394.

2. Provide an endorser. The endorser must pass a credit check and sign a promissory note. Contact Direct Loan Applicant Services at 1-800-557-7394.

3. Not pursue the Graduate PLUS loan. No further action.

Additional Information
The current fixed interest rate in the Graduate PLUS program is 6.31%. Repayment begins 60 days after the funds are disbursed unless the borrower requests a deferment which allows no payments to be made while the student is enrolled, but interest on the loan is capitalized if not paid by the borrower during the deferment. Federal regulation requires that a 4.272% origination fee is deducted from the gross amount borrowed if disbursed prior to 10/1/2016.

Submission of the Department of Education online Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Request Form does not guarantee approval for the amount you request. Eligibility is subject to change based upon completion of required documents, our review of the student's other financial aid, and approval from the U.S. Department of Education. Requested PLUS loan amounts will not be considered for billing purposes until we receive approval/denial notification from the U.S. Department of Education or approximately two weeks after the semester for which the funds are intended, whichever comes first.