

The federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) is offered by the Department of Education. The loan is in the parent's name. Alternative loans are offered by several different lenders. The loan is in the student's name along with a co-signer.

The table below highlights some of the differences between the two loan programs. Feel free to contact the Office of Student Financial Assistance for additional information.

	Parent Loan	Alternative Loan
Interest Rate	Fixed at 7%; rate is set annually every July 1 by Department of Education	Variable or fixed rate products. Rate is provided after an application has been submitted.
Fees	4.272% fee is set annually every September by Department of Education	Typically zero fees; check with lender to be informed.
Loan Limits	Up to cost of attendance minus financial aid awarded.	Amount is determined by lender; maximum is up to cost of attendance minus financial aid awarded.
Application Process	Apply each year online at www.studentloans.gov . Master promissory note (MPN) also needs to be completed for new borrowers.	Apply each year through lender's web site. Transy provides a lender list which can be accessed online at https://choice.fastproducts.org/FastChoice/home/198700
Credit Requirements	Credit check is required.	Applicants and/or co-signers must meet minimum income and debt-to-income ratio requirements.
Repayment	Repayment begins 60 days after the loan has been fully disbursed. Repayment may be postponed until after student graduates; contact servicer for more information.	Typical repayment begins after student graduates unless other option chosen.
Additional Requirements	Student must have FAFSA on file.	None unless notified by lender.