

**GRADUATE Federal Direct PLUS Loan Authorization – 2016/2017**

Please complete and submit this form to the Office of Financial Support and Scholarships at UNO. You may want to keep a copy of this document for your records.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's NUID#: \_\_\_\_\_

1. You must have completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2016-2017 before you can apply for the Graduate PLUS Loan. If you have not done so, please fill one out electronically at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
2. You must have previously borrowed your annual Graduate Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan limits for the academic year (\$20,500) and/or have reached your graduate level Federal Stafford loan aggregates (\$138,500 total) before you are awarded the Graduate PLUS loan.
3. You must complete, or have previously completed a Direct Loan PLUS Master Promissory Note (DL PLUS MPN) in order for this application to be processed. Please complete the DL Grad Plus MPN by following the instructions at: <https://studentloans.gov> Note: You will be required to use your U.S. Department of Education FSA ID to complete an electronic MPN.
4. How much would you like to borrow? 

\$ _____
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(must be exact dollar figure)
5. Once the authorization is processed by UNO, your credit will be run to check for adverse credit history. This credit check is run by the U.S. Department of Education and if you are denied, you will receive written notice of the credit review. If you are denied, you have the ability to obtain a qualified endorser or appeal the denial. If you do so, you must complete PLUS Counseling online at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov).
6. I would like the loan for the following academic time period (only check one box):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall 2016 & Spring 2017 Semesters 8/22/2016 – 5/5/2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fall 2016 Semester only 8/22/2016 – 12/16/2016

<input type="checkbox"/>	Spring 2017 Semester only 1/9/2017 – 5/5/2017
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Upon receipt of this document, the staff in the Office of Financial Support and Scholarships at UNO will calculate your maximum eligibility and may reduce your requested amount accordingly.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS MUST BE ENROLLED IN AT LEAST FOUR CREDIT HOURS TO RECEIVE THIS LOAN.**

By completing this form, I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize the University of Nebraska at Omaha to certify my eligibility for the Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan. I authorize the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to investigate my credit record and report information about my loan status to persons and organizations permitted by law to receive that information. I authorize the University of Nebraska at Omaha to credit my loan proceeds to my student account. Unless authorization is on file, once the tuition, fees, and room and board posted on my student account is paid, any credit balance will be issued as a paper check or via direct deposit if elected via the Cashiering/Student Accounts Office.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan Important Information**

### **Who is eligible for the Graduate PLUS loan?**

Graduate students enrolled in at least 4 credit hours (half-time status). You must borrow all of your Direct Stafford Loan eligibility prior to applying for PLUS (reach annual and/or aggregate Stafford loan limits).

### **What is the current interest rate?**

6.31%

### **When does the government pay my interest?**

You pay all interest charged over the course of your loan term. Interest may be paid periodically or capitalized.

### **Is there a charge for this loan other than interest?**

For loans first disbursed 10/01/15 to 9/30/16, the loan origination fee is 4.272%.

For loans first disbursed 10/01/16 to 9/30/17, the loan origination fee is 4.276%.

### **When do I begin repayment?**

Your Graduate PLUS Loan will be placed into deferment while you are enrolled at least half-time and for an additional six months after you cease to be enrolled at least half-time. If your loan is deferred, interest will accrue on the loan during the deferment. You may choose to pay the accrued interest or allow the interest to capitalize when the deferment period ends. Your loan servicer will notify you when your first payment is due.

### **Is there a credit check for PLUS loans?**

Yes, graduate student borrowers of Graduate PLUS loans are subject to a credit check of "adverse" credit history by the U.S. Department of Education. No debt to income ratios are applied, and a lack of a credit history is not considered "adverse".

### **What happens if I apply for a Graduate PLUS loan and have been determined to have "adverse" credit history?**

If you are found to have an adverse credit history, you may still borrow a PLUS Loan if you get an endorser who does not have such a history. An endorser is someone who agrees to repay the loan if you do not. You may also be able to appeal your denial with the U.S. Department of Education.

### **Do I need to complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note?**

Borrowers accepting Graduate PLUS Loan funds for the first time must complete Direct Loan Entrance Counseling for Graduate Students and a Master Promissory Note at [StudentLoans.gov](http://StudentLoans.gov). Master Promissory Notes are valid for ten years unless you pursue an endorser for your originally denied PLUS loan.

### **If I document extenuating circumstances or obtain an endorser due to my "adverse" credit history, must I complete PLUS Counseling?**

If you successfully appeal an adverse credit history or obtain an endorser, you must complete PLUS Counseling prior to the Federal Direct PLUS loan being disbursed. PLUS Counseling is an online informational session for PLUS borrowers. Once the PLUS Counseling session is completed, applicants will be provided a financial summary that includes loan balances, income expenses, and repayment plan details based on information provided during the counseling session. Note that PLUS Counseling is only required for applicants found to have an adverse credit history who have appealed their denial or obtained an endorser; it is optional for approved borrowers.