



Your Financial Aid Options at SCU

The Leavey School of Business strongly believes in doing everything we can to help make your graduate business education affordable. If you are interested in applying to either our Online MBA or Online MS in Marketing program but are unsure of your financial aid options, please consult this guide for an overview and a brief breakdown of the steps required to apply for federal financial aid.

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans

These loans are **unsubsidized**, meaning that students who are awarded them are responsible for repaying all interest. Interest on a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan begins accruing as soon as the loan is disbursed.

To be eligible for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, you must:

- Remain enrolled **at least half time**
- Create an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov
- Submit a [FAFSA](https://fafsa.gov) **each year** to determine eligibility

Students are **not required to demonstrate financial need** to be eligible for a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan. The borrowing limit for these loans is **\$20,500 per academic year**.

Graduate PLUS Loans

Graduate PLUS Loans (or “Direct PLUS Loans”) are issued by the U.S. Department of Education to graduate and professional students. Students must repay all interest on Graduate PLUS Loan awards, which begins accruing as soon as the loan is disbursed.

To be eligible for a Graduate PLUS Loan, you must:

- Remain enrolled **at least half time**
- Create an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov
- Submit a [FAFSA](https://fafsa.gov) prior to applying for the loan
- Apply directly at studentloans.gov
- Submit a credit check as part of your application
- Reapply each year you would like to receive funds

Students are not required to demonstrate financial need to be eligible for a Graduate PLUS Loan. Students may borrow up to the cost of attendance with these loans.



Origination Fees and Interest Rates for the 2019-2020 Academic Year

Students who are awarded either a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan or a Graduate PLUS Loan are responsible for paying an origination fee to the lender for initiating the loan as well as interest. Both the origination fee and the interest rate are percentages of the total amount of the loan as follows:

Loan Type	Origination Fee	Interest Rate
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	1.062%	6.08%
Graduate PLUS Loan	4.248%	7.08%

Typical Federal Loan Timeline

The following is a list of typical steps students encounter as they move through the federal financial aid application and award process:

1. The student completes the Graduate PLUS Loan application and/or FAFSA.
2. Santa Clara University receives the FAFSA after it has been processed (1-3 days).
3. A Financial Aid Counselor at SCU reviews the application for eligibility.
4. The student is notified when an award letter is posted.
5. The student either accepts or declines the award.
6. Awarded funds are applied to tuition and fees.
7. Any funds in excess of tuition and fees may be applied as credits toward educational expenses.

Private Loans

Graduate business students may also apply for private student loans to help fund their Santa Clara education. While we cannot offer comprehensive information about private loans as many private lenders have different attributes and requirements, the following is a list of ways in which private loans typically differ from federal student loans:

- Issued by a **private institution** such as a bank, lender, or credit union
- May have a **fixed or variable interest rate**
- Repayment **may be required while the student is still in graduate school**
- Most private lenders **require a cosigner**

Still Have Questions?

If you have questions about the financial aid process at the Leavey School of Business that are not answered in this brief guide, don't hesitate to reach out to your [Admissions Advisor](#). If you're ready to apply for aid now, get a head start on your [FAFSA](#) to give yourself the best chance of being awarded funds!