

Important Information 2026-2027

Pell Grant Eligibility Changes

- **SAI Threshold:** Students are ineligible if their SAI is equal to or greater than twice the maximum Pell Grant award. This threshold is \$14,790 for 2026-27.
- **Foreign Earned Income:** Foreign earned income exclusions reported on the FAFSA will be added to the applicant's adjusted gross income for eligibility determination.
- **Full Scholarship Rule:** Students receiving non-federal scholarships and waivers that meet or exceed their Cost of Attendance are no longer eligible for Pell Grants.

FAFSA/SAI Asset Calculation Changes

These changes can impact eligibility by altering the SAI calculation:

- **Expanded Asset Exclusions:** Certain assets are excluded from the SAI calculation, potentially increasing aid eligibility:
 - Net worth of a family-owned business with 100 or fewer full-time employees.
 - Net worth of a family farm where the family resides.
 - Net worth of a family-owned commercial fishing business.

Key Changes to Federal Student Loans

- Beginning July 1, 2026, loan limits will be prorated depending on enrollment level, similar to grant funding. This means **new borrowers** enrolled **less than full time** will only be able to borrow loan amounts in direct proportion to their credit load, with a minimum half-time enrollment requirement.

We expect to receive further information from the Department of Education regarding exact proration amounts.

- **Parent PLUS Loans** For new loans made on or after July 1, 2026, borrowing is capped at **\$20,000 annually** and **\$65,000 in aggregate** per dependent student, a major change from previous rules that allowed borrowing up to the full cost of attendance.
- **Graduate PLUS Loans** This program will be eliminated for new borrowers starting July 1, 2026.
- **New Graduate/Professional Limits**
 - New graduate students (non-professional degrees) will have annual unsubsidized loan limits of **\$20,500** and an aggregate limit of **\$100,000**.
 - New professional students (e.g., in medicine or law) will have annual limits of **\$50,000** and an aggregate limit of **\$200,000**.
 - A new overall lifetime limit of **\$257,500** for all federal loans (excluding Parent PLUS) applies to new borrowers after July 1, 2026.
- **Repayment Plans** The number of income-driven repayment (IDR) plans is being reduced from five to two: a new **Standard Repayment Plan** (10-25 year fixed payments) and a new **Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)**, an income-based plan with a 30-year forgiveness timeline. The existing SAVE, PAYE, and ICR plans will be phased out by July 1, 2028.

Direct Student Loan Programs

Effective for Loans with a First Disbursement on or after July 1, 2026 but before July 1, 2027

All subsidized and unsubsidized loans made to undergraduate students will have a fixed interest rate of **TBD**. All unsubsidized Loans for Graduate students will have a fixed interest rate of **TBD** and PLUS loans for Parents will have an interest rate of **TBD**

- For loans with a first disbursement on or after July 1, 2026:
October 1, 2026, the lender withholds **TBD** from the borrowed amount for loan origination fees, prior to disbursement.
- For loans whose first disbursement date is on or after July 1, 2026:
October 1, 2026, the lender withholds **TBD** from the borrowed amount for loan origination fees, prior to disbursement

In-State Tuition Match Program for Out of State Students

SUNY's four-year colleges are matching the in-state tuition of the flagship public universities in 8 states to make it easier for students from around the country to get a great education in New York.

If you live in one of the states listed below, all you have to do is apply to a participating [SUNY External link](#) campus, and they'll match the tuition and fees of your state's flagship. It's that easy.

Connecticut: UConn - Storrs

Pennsylvania: Penn State - University Park

New Jersey: Rutgers - New Brunswick

Massachusetts: UMass Amherst

Vermont: UVM - Burlington

New Hampshire: UNH - Durham

Illinois: University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

California: UC Berkeley