Federal Student Loan Limits: Effective July 1, 2026

Amounts are maximums. Your actual eligibility may be lower based on your enrollment level, cost of attendance, and other financial aid.

Annual and Aggregate Limits

Learner category	Annual limit	Aggregate limit	Subsidized maximum
Dependent undergraduate · Year 1	$5,500	$31,000	$3,500 per year
Dependent undergraduate · Year 2	$6,500	$31,000	$4,500 per year
Dependent undergraduate · Year 3 and beyond	$7,500	$31,000	$5,500 per year
Independent undergraduate* · Year 1	$9,500	$57,500	$3,500 per year
Independent undergraduate* · Year 2	$10,500	$57,500	$4,500 per year
Independent undergraduate* · Year 3 and beyond	$12,500	$57,500	$5,500 per year
Graduate (Direct Unsubsidized only)	$20,500	$100,000†	Not eligible
Professional (Direct Unsubsidized only)	$50,000	$200,000†	Not eligible
Parent PLUS (per dependent undergraduate)	$20,000	$65,000‡	Not applicable

* Includes dependent undergraduates whose parents cannot obtain a Direct PLUS Loan. The undergraduate subsidized aggregate maximum is $23,000 for both groups.

† Only Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans you borrowed as a graduate or professional learner count toward these aggregates. Undergraduate loans and Grad PLUS loans do not. If you reach the aggregate, you may borrow again after repaying part or all of your loans.

‡ Includes all prior Parent PLUS borrowing for that dependent learner, including at other schools. Repayment does not restore eligibility.

Lifetime Maximum

Limit	Amount	What it includes
Lifetime maximum, all student borrowing	$257,500	Undergraduate, graduate, and professional loans, including Grad PLUS. Parent PLUS is excluded.

Repayment, forgiveness, or discharge does **not** restore eligibility under the lifetime maximum.

Important Notes

- **Grad PLUS:** Graduate and professional learners can no longer borrow Grad PLUS for periods of instruction beginning on or after July 1, 2026. A limited exception applies to learners who were enrolled in their program as of June 30, 2026 and had a Direct Loan made for that program before July 1, 2026. It lasts through the learner's expected time to credential, and prior loan limits apply during that time. Contact Financial Aid for details.
- **Graduate nursing:** Graduate nursing programs (such as MSN and DNP) use the Graduate limits, not the Professional limits.
- **Less than full-time enrollment:** Annual limits may be reduced if you are enrolled less than full-time. Contact Financial Aid before changing your enrollment.