

Federal Direct Stafford Loan Limits:

The maximum amount you can borrow each year in Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans depends on your grade level and on whether you are a dependent student or an independent student.

Am I a DEPENDENT or an INDEPENDENT student?

“Dependent” student is an undergraduate student who is under the age of 24, not married or head of a household. Both the student and his or her parents must provide their information on the Free Application for Student Federal Aid (FAFSA). The parents and the student must each have their own ID and Password.

“Independent” student is at least 24 years old or married or the head of a household or enrolled in graduate level courses. Only the student must provide their information on the Free Application for Student Federal Aid (FAFSA).

Am I an UNDERGRADUATE OR GRADUATE STUDENT?

Whether you are considered an undergraduate or a graduate student is dependent upon the grade level of the courses you are taking. It is not determined by the highest grade level you have previously enrolled. An “Undergraduate student” is attending years 1, 2, or 3 of Silesia’s six year program.

*A “Graduate student” is attending years 5 or 6 of Silesia’s six year program **OR***

A “Graduate student” is attending the “Advanced Transfer Program, (4 year program).

The following table shows the maximum amount of money you may borrow each academic year in Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans as well as the total or aggregate amount you may borrow:

Direct Stafford Loan Limits (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)			
	Undergraduate students		Graduate students
	Dependent ¹	Independent ²	
1st-year	\$5,500 (\$3,500) ³	\$9,500 (\$3,500)	\$20,500 (\$8,500 ⁴) for each year
2nd-year	\$6,500 (\$4,500)	\$10,500 (\$4,500)	
3rd- and 4th-year	\$7,500 (\$5,500)	\$12,500 (\$5,500)	
Aggregate	\$31,000 (\$23,000)	\$57,500 (\$23,000)	\$138,500 ⁵ (\$65,500)

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¹Except those whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS loan.

²These limits also apply to dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS loan.

³The numbers in parentheses represent the maximum amount that may be subsidized.

⁴Graduate and professional students are not eligible to receive Direct Subsidized Loans for loan periods beginning on or after July 1, 2012.

⁵The aggregate amounts for graduate students include loans for undergraduate study.

The actual loan amount you are eligible to receive for an academic year is determined by your school and may be less than the maximum annual amounts shown in the chart above. The aggregate limits include both Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans and any subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford Loans received through the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program.

With a Direct PLUS Loan, a graduate/professional student or the parent of a dependent student can borrow up to the cost of the student's attendance minus other financial aid the student receives.