

# TEACH Fact Sheet

## MBC Office of Financial Aid

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Based on your FAFSA or your program (or intended program) of study, it has been determined that you may be eligible for the new federal TEACH Grant. Because this grant has some terms and conditions that you have to meet in order to avoid having to repay it, we are not automatically packaging it with your other financial aid. However, by submitting the enclosed form, you may request that your eligibility for the TEACH grant be determined. If you are eligible, we will revise your financial aid award to include the TEACH grant.

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### Here are some important facts to know about the TEACH Grant before deciding whether to request it:

TEACH stands for "Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education." It is a new grant available through the Department of Education beginning in Fall 2008. Here are some important facts about this new program:

- ★ The TEACH grant works differently than a traditional grant does. In fact, it is more like a "forgiveness loan." In order to receive the TEACH grant, you must agree to fulfill certain conditions that, if not met, will cause the grant to **convert to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan**, with the interest back dated to the date of disbursement.
  - It is currently estimated that about **80% of students who receive the TEACH grant will eventually be required to pay it back.**
  - If the grant is converted to a loan, **it can NEVER be converted back to a grant.**
- ★ The TEACH grant is intended for students who will TEACH in a Title I (low income, generally urban or rural) school in a high-need subject area.
  - The Department of Education maintains a catalogue of these schools at the following web site:  
<https://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp>
  - High-need subject areas (a.k.a. "high need fields") are defined by the federal government as mathematics, science, a foreign language, bilingual education, special education, and reading specialist. These are subject to change only if the federal definition changes, which is rare but possible.
  - Other high need fields can be defined by the state and are subject to change.
- ★ Students will be required to teach in a Title I school in a high-need field for four of the eight years immediately following the completion of their licensure programs. **No partial credit will be earned for serving part, but not all, of the required four years.** Four years of service will be required regardless of how many years the grant is received.
- ★ TEACH grants are available to **bachelors and masters students only**; PBTL (post-baccalaureate teacher licensure) students are not eligible.
- ★ The TEACH grant provides up to \$4000 per year for a lifetime undergraduate total of \$16,000 and/or a graduate total of \$8000.
  - Students who are not full-time will receive the grant in a smaller, prorated amount.
  - TEACH grants do not count toward lifetime Stafford Loan limits
- ★ TEACH grants are not based on financial need, but you must file the FAFSA to be considered eligible.

- ★ To be eligible for the TEACH grant, you must have scored above the **75% percentile** on a nationally normed standardized admissions test **or** maintain a cumulative **3.25 GPA**.
  - First year undergraduate students may use their cumulative high school GPA.
  - First year graduate students may use their cumulative undergraduate GPA.
  - Transfer students may use the cumulative GPA from their prior college or university.
  
- ★ **If you are awarded based on a test score, you only have to maintain the minimum cumulative GPA required by the college to be in good academic standing and maintain Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress.**
  
- ★ **If you are awarded based on your cumulative GPA, your cumulative GPA will be checked each semester that you receive the grant; if your GPA falls below 3.25 at any point, the grant will be cancelled for future semesters.**
  
- ★ Students who are awarded the TEACH grant must complete TEACH grant counseling, which discusses the terms and conditions of the grant, **each year** that the grant is awarded.
  
- ★ Students who are awarded the TEACH grant must complete an electronic “Agreement to Serve” each year that they are awarded the grant. The Agreement to Serve (ATS) discusses the term of service to which the student is committing, the length of time of service, and the terms of the Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, which is what the “grant” will become if conditions of the ATS are not met.
  
- ★ Students have the right to request that their grant be converted to a loan earlier than eight years after the completion of their program if they become aware that they will not fulfill the conditions of the ATS. This will allow them to begin earlier payment of their loans and avoid unnecessary extra interest.
  
- ★ Students must complete the Request for TEACH Grant Funding to have their eligibility for the TEACH grant determined.
  - Eligibility may be partially determined by having a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25.
    - Current students must supply their current cumulative GPA
    - First year students must supply their cumulative high school GPA
    - Transfer students must supply their cumulative GPA from their most recent college work
    - Graduate students must supply their cumulative undergraduate GPA
  - Eligibility may alternately be determined by scoring above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on a nationally normed admissions test such as the ACT, SAT, or GRE (*not* the PTST Praxis).
    - This is *not* the same as your test score; percentiles vary from year to year. Consult your test score sheet to determine your percentile.
    - Students who wish to be considered based on test scores *must* provide their test scores to the Financial Aid Office.
  - This form must be completed each year you wish to apply for the TEACH grant.
  
- ★ Undergraduate students must also consult with their academic advisors before being awarded the TEACH grant. They must have the enclosed TEACH Grant Academic Advisor Acknowledgement completed by their advisor and return it to the Financial Aid Office before the TEACH grant will be awarded. This form must be completed only the first time the TEACH grant is awarded. It needs not be completed for subsequent awards.
  
- ★ Students should contact the Financial Aid Office if they have questions about the TEACH grant.