

# Direct Stafford Loans – Annual and Aggregate Limits

It is very important that you monitor the total amount of Federal loans you have borrowed as you progress through your program. There are limits on the maximum amount you are eligible to receive each academic year (annual loan limit) and in total (aggregate loan limits). The cumulative amount that a student can borrow through the years is called the aggregate limit. A student who exceeds the aggregate loan limit is ineligible to receive any Title IV funding, including the Federal Pell Grant. The actual amount you can borrow each year depends on your year in school, whether you are a dependent or independent student, and other factors, and may be less than the maximum amounts shown in the loan limit chart. Your school will determine what types of loans and how much you may borrow. Below please find loan limits set by ALL Title IV schools.

The following chart provides maximum annual and aggregate (total) loan limits for subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Stafford Loans.

Year	Dependent Undergraduate Student (except students whose parents are unable to obtain PLUS Loans)	Independent Undergraduate Student (and dependent students whose parents are unable to obtain PLUS Loans)	Graduate and Professional Degree Student
<b>First Year 0-29 credits</b>	\$5,500—No more than \$3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$9,500—No more than \$3,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$20,500—As of July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2012, this amount is unsubsidized only.
<b>Second Year 30-59 credits</b>	\$6,500—No more than \$4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$10,500—No more than \$4,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	
<b>Third Year and Beyond 60+ credits</b>	\$7,500—No more than \$5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$12,500—No more than \$5,500 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	
<b>Maximum Total Debt from Stafford Loans (aggregate loan limits)</b>	\$31,000—No more than \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$57,500—No more than \$23,000 of this amount may be in subsidized loans.	\$138,500—The graduate debt limit includes Stafford Loans received for undergraduate study.

Note: These annual loan limit amounts are the maximum yearly amounts you can borrow in both subsidized and unsubsidized loans. You can have one type of loan or a combination of both. Because you can't borrow more than your cost of attendance minus any other financial aid you'll get, you may receive less than the annual maximum amounts. Also, the annual loan limits assume that your program of study is at least a full academic year.

Borrowers can access their loan limits by logging into the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) at [http://www.nsls.ed.gov/nsls\\_SA/](http://www.nsls.ed.gov/nsls_SA/). NSLDS is the U.S. Department of Education's central database for student aid.