

Radford University
Education Loan Comparison Chart
2011-2012

Questions	Federal Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan	Federal Parent/Graduate PLUS Loan	Alternative/Private Loan
How do I apply?	Complete the FAFSA and applicable loan documents as requested by the school	Complete the FAFSA and a PLUS loan application (available on-line or paper)	Online application through a lender you chose,
What additional documentation is required?	The student will be required to complete an Entrance Interview and a Master Promissory Note	The parent will be required to complete a Master Promissory Note	Approved applicants will be required to minimally complete a self-certification form
Whose name is the loan in?	Student	Parent	Student, but a co-signer will most likely be required
Is a credit check required?	No	Yes	Yes
Is a co-signer required?	No	No, but can be used if your application is denied	Varies by lender, but is generally required
How much can I borrow?	The limits are established by Congress and vary based on your academic level. Freshmen can borrow up to \$5500.	A parent can borrow up to the students full cost of attendance RU FAO will only certify the loan for cost minus all other aid	A student can borrow up to the full cost of attendance RU FAO will only certify the loan for cost minus all other aid
What is the interest rate?	Under current federal regulations loans disbursed after July 1, 2010 and before June 30, 2011 the subsidized loan rate will be 4.5% and the unsubsidized loan rate will be 6.8%.	Under current federal regulations the loan has a fixed rate of 7.9%	Interest rates vary by lender and do not have a government cap or federal protection on the rate.
Are there any loan fees?	Yes, for 2010-2011 the loan fee is 0.5%	Yes, for 2010-2011 the loan fee is 4%	Varies by lender
Can the loan be deferred?	Yes, as long as you remain enrolled at least half time	Yes, arrangements can be made with the Department of Education loan servicer, interest will continue to accrue	Yes, but interest will be accruing on the loan from the date of disbursement
When does repayment begin?	Six months after you graduate or cease to be enrolled at least half time	Sixty days after the final disbursement unless arranged otherwise with Dept of Ed	Varies by lender, but generally, after graduation or cease to be enrolled at least half time.
Are there any repayment incentives?	The federal government offers multiple repayment options, deferment and forbearance, and loan forgiveness programs	The federal government offers multiple repayment options, deferments and forbearance	Varies by lender
Can the loan be cancelled?	In some situations the loans can be cancelled and should be discussed with loan servicer	In some situations the loans can be cancelled and should be discussed with loan servicer	In most situations these loans cannot be cancelled, but varies by lender
Where can I learn more?	Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans (Link to Federal Direct Loan Page)	Parent PLUS Loan (Link to Parent PLUS Loan Page) Graduate PLUS Loan (Link to Graduate PLUS Loan Page)	Alternative Loans (Link to Alternative Loan Page)