



Financial Aid Office

TEACH Grant Program

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides federal grants of up to \$4000 per year, for a maximum of \$16,000 for undergraduate students and \$8,000 for graduate students. In exchange for receiving a TEACH Grant, you must agree to serve as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income students. As a recipient of a TEACH Grant, you must teach for at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing or ceasing to be enrolled in the program of study for which you received a TEACH Grant.

IMPORTANT: If you fail to complete this service obligation, all amounts of TEACH Grants that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. You must then repay this loan to the U.S. Department of Education with interest from the date of disbursement of each grant.

To receive a TEACH Grant, you must:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Meet the general eligibility requirements for federal student aid programs as described at <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements>.
- You must be studying in a designated high need field when you receive the grant.
- Meet certain academic achievement requirements (generally, scoring above the 75th percentile on a college admissions test or maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25)
- Complete online counseling that explains the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant service obligation at <https://studentaid.gov/app/launchTeach.action>. You must complete counseling each year that you receive a TEACH Grant.
- Once approved, sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve at <https://studentaid.gov/app/launchTeach.action>.
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate, post baccalaureate, or graduate student in one of the following Eastern University programs:

Teacher Certification Programs:

- English as a Second Language (K-12)
- Foreign Language (French, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese) (K-12)
- Secondary Education – Biology (7-12)
- Secondary Chemistry Education (7-12)
- Secondary Math Education (7-12)
- Special Education (Pre K-8 and 7-12)
- Reading Specialist (K-12)

Undergraduate Degree Programs:

- BS in Early Childhood Education (Pre K-4)
- BS in Middle Level Education (4-8)

Graduate Degree Programs:

- M.Ed. in TESOL
- M.Ed. in Special Education
- M.Ed. in Reading

To meet your service agreement for the TEACH Grant and avoid loan repayment, you must teach the **majority of classes** in a high need field as identified below:

- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
- Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Reading Specialist
- Science
- Special Education
- Other identified teacher shortage areas as of the time you begin teaching in that field

The teacher subject shortage areas (not geographic areas) are listed in the Department of Education's *Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing*. To access the listing, visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.html>. **If you plan to teach in a high-need field that is included in the *Nationwide List*, that field must be listed for the state where you teach either at the time you begin your qualifying teaching service or at the time you received a TEACH Grant.**

Low-Income Schools

To count for your service requirement, the school you teach in must be listed in the *U.S. Department of Education's Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits*. To access the Directory, please visit <https://tsa.ed.gov/#/reports>, and click on the "Search" button.

TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve

Each year you receive a TEACH Grant, you must electronically sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve on the U.S. Department of Education's website at <https://studentaid.gov/app/launchTeach.action>. This agreement specifies the conditions under which the grant will be awarded, the teaching service requirements, and includes an acknowledgment by you that you understand that if you do not meet the teaching service requirements your TEACH Grant converts to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, with interest accrued from the date the grant funds were disbursed. Specifically the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve will require the following:

- You must serve as a full-time teacher for a total of at least four academic years within eight calendar years after you completed or withdrew from the academic program for which you received the TEACH Grant.
- You must perform the teaching service as a highly-qualified teacher at a low-income school. The term highly-qualified teacher is defined in section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or in section 602(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Your teaching service must be in a high-need field.
- You must comply with any other requirement that the U.S. Department of Education determines to be necessary.
- If you do not complete the required teaching service obligation, TEACH Grant funds you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan that you must repay, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.

Exit Counseling

Students who are graduating or leaving their TEACH Grant program must complete TEACH Grant Exit Counseling online at <https://studentaid.gov/app/teachExitCounseling.action#!/teachExit/launch>.

TEACH Grant Service Obligation Suspension or Cancellation

You may request a temporary suspension of the eight-year period for completing your TEACH Grant service obligation based on the following situations:

- Your enrollment in a TEACH-Grant-eligible program or your enrollment in a program that a state requires you to complete in order to receive a certification or license to teach in that state's elementary or secondary schools. For example, if you received a TEACH Grant for an undergraduate program and you later enroll in a graduate program for which you would be eligible to receive a TEACH Grant, you could receive a suspension of the eight-year period for completing your service obligation for the undergraduate program while you are enrolled in the graduate program.
- A condition that is a qualifying reason for leave under the [Family and Medical Leave Act](#).
- A call or order to active duty status for more than 30 days as a member of the armed forces reserves, or service as a member of the National Guard on full-time National Guard duty under a call to active service in connection with a war, military operation, or national emergency.

Suspensions are granted in one-year increments, not to exceed a combined total of three years for the first two conditions listed above, or a total of three years for the third condition. If you receive a suspension, the eight-year period for completing your service obligation is put "on hold" during the suspension period. For example, if you receive a one-year suspension after two years of the eight-year period for completing your service obligation have elapsed, you would have six years left to complete your service obligation when the one-year suspension period ends.

Your TEACH Grant service obligation may be canceled (discharged) if you die or if you become totally and permanently disabled as defined at <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/disability-discharge>.

If you are called or ordered to qualifying military active duty for a period that exceeds three years, you may also receive a **discharge** of some or your entire four-year teaching requirement.

TEACH Grant Application Process:

1. Complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the current aid year at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.
2. Complete the U.S. Department of Education's Initial Counseling for the Teach Grant at <https://studentaid.gov/app/launchTeach.action>
3. Complete and sign an Agreement to Serve at <https://studentaid.gov/app/launchTeach.action>
4. Print and sign the Eastern University [TEACH Grant Request Form](#), and submit the signed statement to the Eastern University Financial Aid Office.
5. If approved, students will be contacted via email.