

TEACH Grant Program

What is the TEACH Grant Program?

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides grants of up to \$4,000 per year to students who agree to teach for four years

highly qualified teacher in a high-need field and that leads to a bachelor's or master's degree, or is a postbaccalaureate program. A two-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree is considered a program that leads to a bachelor's degree. A postbaccalaureate program

is for students who have already earned a bachelor's degree;

does not lead to a graduate degree;

is treated as an undergraduate program; and (in the case of a TEACH-Grant-eligible postbaccalaureate program)

is made up of courses required by a state in order for you to receive a certification or license to teach in an elementary or secondary school in that state.

A postbaccalaureate program is **not** TEACH-Grant-eligible if it is offered by a school that also offers a bachelor's degree in education.

Schools that participate in the TEACH Grant Program determine which of the programs they offer are TEACH-Grant-eligible. A program that is TEACH-Grant-eligible at one school might not be TEACH-Grant-eligible at another school. Contact the financial aid office at the school you are attending (or that you plan to attend) to find out which programs at that school are eligible.

What is the *TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve*?

Each year that you receive a TEACH Grant, you must sign an *Agreement to Serve* on ED's TEACH Grant page at [StudentLoans.gov/myDirectLoan/launchTeach.action](https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/launchTeach.action). The *TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve* explains the terms and conditions of the service obligation you must agree to fulfill as a condition for receiving a TEACH Grant. By signing the *Agreement to Serve*, you agree to these terms and conditions and acknowledge your understanding that if you do not fulfill the service obligation, the TEACH Grant funds you received will be converted to a loan that you must repay.

What are the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant service obligation?

In exchange for receiving a TEACH Grant, you must agree to these terms:

For each TEACH-Grant-eligible program for which you receive TEACH Grant funds, you must serve as a full-time teacher for a total of at least four academic years within eight years after you complete or otherwise cease to be enrolled in the program for which you received the TEACH Grant.

You must perform the teaching service as a highly qualified teacher at a school or educational service agency serving low-income students. The term "highly qualified teacher" is defined in Section 9101(23) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* and in Section 602(10) of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*.

Your teaching service must be in a high-need field.

You must provide ED with documentation of your progress toward completing your service obligation.

If you do not meet the requirements of your service obligation, all TEACH Grant funds you received will be converted to a loan that you must repay.

Can a TEACH Grant service obligation ever be suspended or canceled?

You may request a temporary suspension of the eight-year period for completing your TEACH Grant service obligation if

you enroll in a TEACH-Grant-eligible program or 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);

you experience a situation that is a qualifying reason for leave under the *Family and Medical Leave Act*; or

in connection with a war, military operation, or national emergency, you are called or ordered

- to active duty status for more than 30 days as a member of the armed forces reserves or
- to service as a member of the National Guard on full-time National Guard duty.

Suspensions are granted in one-year increments,