



2026-2027 TEACH Grant Information Sheet

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides \$4,000 annual grants to students who plan to become teachers. As a condition for receiving a TEACH Grant, students must agree to teach full-time in a high-need field, for at least four academic years at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves low-income families. The grant recipient must complete the required four years of teaching within eight years of completing (or otherwise ceasing to be enrolled in) the course of study for which a TEACH Grant was received. If a grant recipient does not meet that obligation, the TEACH Grant funds received are converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that must be repaid with interest.

A full-time TEACH Grant recipient may receive four scheduled awards of \$4,000 each, or a total of \$16,000, for the student's first baccalaureate. Baccalaureate programs after the first baccalaureate are not eligible. A graduate student may receive two scheduled awards, or a total of \$8,000, for a master's degree program. Students who are enrolled less than full-time have the same maximums, though the annual awards will be smaller: for example, a student enrolled half-time in a master's program could receive an annual award of up to \$2,000 for each of the four years it would take to complete the program.

A TEACH Grant, in combination with other assistance the student receives, cannot exceed the cost of attendance; if it does, the aid package must be reduced and aid such as loans may need to be returned. The student must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve or Repay (Agreement) that describes the service obligation requirements before receiving a TEACH Grant for an award year and must complete initial counseling prior to receiving the first TEACH Grant and subsequent counseling before receiving each subsequent TEACH Grant. If the student subsequently fails to meet the TEACH Grant service obligation requirements, the TEACH Grants will be converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans that the student must repay in full, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.

TEACH Grant Eligible Program:

A TEACH Grant-eligible program is an eligible program that is designed to prepare an individual to teach as a highly qualified teacher in a high-need field and lead to a baccalaureate or master's degree (including 2-year programs of study that are acceptable for full credit toward a baccalaureate degree).

Approved fields are those that have been identified as high-need by the federal government, a state government, or a local education agency, which is included in the annual [Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing \(Nationwide List\)](#). The following **high-need fields** apply to undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in a degree-seeking teaching program at NLU:

- Bilingual and ESL Education
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- Learning Behavior Specialist
- Mathematics
- Reading
- Secondary Education
- Science (including Social Studies and Computer Science)
- Special Education

**** The high-need areas are subject to change based upon updates of the Department's Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide listing for 2026-2027.**

If you are not enrolled in one of the programs noted you can still be considered for the TEACH Grant if you are admitted to an NCE degree program for teachers, agree that you understand you need to teach full-time in a high-need subject and at a school listed on the Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory in order to fulfill the service obligation and meet other GPA eligibility requirements noted in this document. Failure to fulfill the service obligation will result in the grant being converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accrued from the date of grant disbursement.

Programs Ineligible for the TEACH Grant:

- Director of Special Education
- Teacher Leader Endorsement
- Teacher Leadership Program (MED, EDS)
- Any other program that does not lead to teacher licensure to teach in the classroom.

General Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Meet the basic eligibility criteria for the Federal student aid programs
- 2) Full admission to a TEACH Grant-eligible degree
- 3) 2026-2027 FAFSA completion
- 4) Not be in default on a student loan
- 5) Complete TEACH Grant Counseling and Agreement to Serve form each year you receive the grant
- 6) Agree to teach in a high-need subject and in a school listed on the Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory full-time for at least four years within eight years of graduating or ceasing enrollment in the program for which the TEACH Grant was received

Specific Undergraduate Eligibility Requirements:

1) New Students with 15 or fewer transfer hours must have a:

Test score above the 75th percentile on one or more portions of a college admission test; **OR**, cumulative high school GPA of 3.25 or higher

- Creates eligibility for freshmen year of study; after that must maintain a cumulative NLU GPA of 3.25 or higher through the most recently completed term to remain eligible

2) New Transfer Students with 16 or more transfer hours must have a:

Test score above the 75th percentile on one or more portions of a college admission test; **OR**, cumulative transfer GPA of 3.25 or higher

- Must maintain a cumulative NLU GPA of 3.25 or higher through the most recently completed term to remain eligible

3) Continuing NLU Students must have a:

Test score above the 75th percentile on one or more portions of a college admission test; **OR**, cumulative NLU GPA of 3.25 or higher

- Must maintain a cumulative NLU GPA of 3.25 or higher through the most recently completed term to remain eligible

Specific Graduate Student Eligibility Requirements:

1) New Students must have a:

Test score above the 75th percentile on at least one battery of either the Miller Analogies Test or Graduate Record Exam creates eligibility for entire program of study; **OR**, cumulative Undergraduate/Graduate GPA of 3.25 or higher

- Creates eligibility for the first term; after that must maintain a cumulative NLU GPA of 3.25 or higher through the most recently completed term to remain eligible

2) Continuing Students must have a:

Test score above the 75th percentile on at least one battery of either the Miller Analogies Test or Graduate Record Exam creates eligibility for entire program of study; **OR**, a cumulative NLU GPA of 3.25 or higher

- Must maintain a cumulative NLU GPA of 3.25 or higher through the most recently completed term to remain eligible

Exceptions to the Academic Qualifications:

- Current certified teachers pursuing a master's degree are not required to meet the eligibility requirements noted above. Substitute teachers must teach full-time at one or more low-income schools in a high-need field.
- Individuals working in a high-need field who are pursuing a master's degree are exempt from the academic qualifications noted above. Substitute teachers need to teach full-time at one or more low-income schools in a high-need field.

Students who do not meet the academic criteria and are not exempt from the Academic Qualifications:

If a student doesn't meet the GPA or test score requirements s/he can reapply for the grant after the first term grades are posted as long as the cumulative NLU GPA is 3.25 or higher.

Award Amounts:

There are both annual and aggregate limits associated with the TEACH Grant. Award amounts are prorated based on enrollment status per term.

Award Maximum per Year:

Award Amounts for grants that disburse on or after October 1, 2020 and before October 1, 2027 are based on the following enrollment statuses:

- Full-time (12+ hours per term undergraduate, 6+ hours per term graduate), \$3,772.00
- Three-quarter-time (9-11 hours per term undergraduate, 4.5+ hours per term graduate), \$2,829.00
- Half-time (6-8 hours per term undergraduate, 3-4 hours per term graduate), \$1,886.00
- Less-than-half-time (1-5 hours per term undergraduate, 1-2 hours per term graduate), \$943.00

Students may receive more than one annual limit of TEACH Grant funding in an academic year and second annual awards would be subject to the award amounts based on the disbursement date

Aggregate Limits:

- Undergraduate and post-baccalaureate: \$16,000
- Graduate: \$8,000

TEACH Grant Recipient Requirements:

1. Must serve as a full-time teacher for at least four years within eight years of completing or ceasing enrollment in the program for which the TEACH Grant was received
2. Must teach at a low-income school. School must be listed on the **Teacher Cancellation Low Income Directory**: <https://studentaid.gov/app/tcliDirectorySearch.action>
3. Must be a highly qualified teacher in a high need field as defined and listed on **U.S. Department of Education's annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing (Nationwide Listing)**. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/pol/tsa.html> ** and teach the majority of the instructional day in a high-need field.

High-Need Fields Include:

- Mathematics;
- Science, including, but not limited to, computer science;
- Foreign language;
- Bilingual education;
- Other high-need fields that are listed in the **U.S. Department of Education's annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing (Nationwide Listing)**. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/pol/tsa.html> **
- English language acquisition;
- Special education;
- Reading specialist; or

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 are teaching at the time you begin teaching in that field, even if that field is later removed from the Nationwide List; or at the time you signed your Agreement or received your TEACH Grant, even if that field is no longer designated as high-need when you begin teaching.

Steps to Receive the TEACH Grant:

1. Complete 2026-2027 FAFSA
2. Complete the NLU TEACH Grant Application: <https://nl.edu/form-repository/teach-grant-online-application/>
3. Sign the TEACH Grant Authorization form included with your financial aid notification letter
4. Complete the TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling for each year the grant is received: www.studentaid.gov
5. Complete a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve or Repay (Agreement) for each year the grant is received: www.studentaid.gov
 - The TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling and TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve or Repay (Agreement) review the service obligation and require an acknowledgment from the student that they understand that if they do not fulfill the service obligation they must repay the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, with interest accrued from the date the grant funds were disbursed

TEACH Grant Exit Counseling:

You must complete TEACH Grant Exit Counseling when you graduate or cease enrollment in the program for which the grant is received: <https://studentaid.gov/app/teachExitCounseling.action#!/teachExit/launch>.

Service Obligation:

For each TEACH-Grant-eligible program for which you receive TEACH Grant funds, **you must**:

- 1) 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;
- 2) perform the teaching service as a highly qualified teacher at a low-income school or educational service agency, in a high-need field. 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;

- 3) provide ED with documentation of your progress toward completing your service obligation;
- 4) report to TEACH Grant Servicer within 120 days of ceasing enrollment to avoid conversion of TEACH Grant into Unsubsidized Loan, with interest, charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement;
- 5) contact your TEACH Grant servicer at least once each year, to confirm that you intend to satisfy your service obligation.
- 6) complete/return the TEACH Grant Certification Form per the instructions on the form; link to TEACH Grant Certification Form: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/teachgrantcertificationofqualifyingteaching.pdf>
- 7) meet the requirements of your service obligation, else all TEACH Grant funds you received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. You must repay this loan in full, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement

TEACH Grants Can Convert Into Loans:

If you do not meet the requirements of your service obligation, all TEACH Grants you received will be converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans. You must repay these loans in full, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.