

Private Education Loans

A number of private outside agencies offer students alternative sources for financing their education. Alternative Loans are credit-based, private student loans. With an alternative student loan, you may borrow up to the full cost of your education, less other aid. Unlike federal loans, the terms of private loans are set by the individual lenders. The interest rate and fees are determined by your credit history, your debt-to-income ratio and that of your co-signer. Generally, borrowers with better credit histories receive better loan terms.

Borrowing can be costly. We recommend you consider borrowing only if you have exhausted all other options.

Only borrow what you need. Make a budget for yourself to keep your debt within manageable limits.

Students are encouraged to investigate the option of an alternative loan very cautiously and thoroughly. Be aware, that some lenders will require payment while you are enrolled in school. Other lenders will let you defer payment, but interest will accrue and be added to your balance. You will owe more than you borrowed once you leave school.

The Office of Financial Aid will process a loan with any lender you have selected as long as you are eligible for the loan. The maximum loan amount your financial aid office can certify is the cost of attendance minus any other aid received.

Before applying for these loans it is important for you to ensure that you have reviewed all of your federal loan options and eligibility. Prospective borrowers should note that they may qualify for loans or other assistance under the federal Title IV programs and the terms and conditions of loans under the federal Title IV programs may be more favorable than those of private education loans. Federal loans generally have better benefits and lower, fixed interest rates. We encourage you to consider the Federal PLUS/Grad PLUS Loan (depending on your academic level) before applying for a private loan.

The Application Process

The application process for alternative student loans includes a credit check. Your lender is also required to provide you with disclosure statements detailing your interest rate and confirming your acceptance of the loan.

Once the loan is approved, your lender will contact Mount Mercy University to request loan certification. After your loan has been certified, most lenders will then send the funds to MMU electronically, and the funds will be applied to your student tuition account. Any credit balance remaining will be refunded to you.

A few lenders will send the loan funds to Mount Mercy University via paper check. You must endorse the check before the funds can be applied to your student account. We will notify you when the check is ready for endorsement.