

MARIAN UNIVERSITY®

Federal Student Loan Changes

For Graduate and Professional Students



Changes Effective: July 1, 2026*

*Students enrolled and borrowing before this date may continue under current rules during their 'expected time to credential' (up to 3 years or until graduation).

Graduate Student: Enrolled in a program that awards a master's or doctoral degree (not a professional degree).
Professional Student: Enrolled in a degree program awarding a professional credential (e.g., DO, DNP).

Elimination of Grad PLUS Loans

Graduate and Professional Students will not be eligible for Federal Direct PLUS Loans for any period starting on or after July 1, 2026.

Annual Loan Limits

Graduate Students (non-professional): \$20,500/year • **Professional Students** (e.g., DO, DNP): \$50,000/year

Aggregate Borrowing Caps

Graduate-only: \$100,000 • **Professional-only:** \$200,000 total, including any prior grad or professional borrowing
Total federal student loan borrowing capped at \$257,500 (includes undergrad + grad/professional unsubsidized loans).

Repayment Plan Changes

- **New Borrowers** (loans disbursed on/after July 1, 2026): **Choose Fixed-Term Plan** or **Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)**.
- **Current Borrowers** may stay in existing plans: Standard, IBR, Graduated, Extended, or opt into RAP.
- Borrowers in ICR, PAYE, or SAVE must switch to a new plan by July 1, 2028, or be auto-enrolled into RAP.

Exceptions for Current Students

- Applies to students enrolled and borrowing for a current program, prior to July 1, 2026.
- Permits continued borrowing under current rules for up to 3 years or until program completion.
- Limited to the same program; **new programs follow new rules**.

What This Means For You

- If you're starting a new program or have not borrowed before July 1, 2026, new limits and loan rules apply.
- If you're already in a program and have borrowed before that date, you may continue under current rules for a limited time.
- New borrowers may need to explore private loans, scholarships, or institutional aid to cover costs beyond federal limits.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? CONTACT US.

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