

Federal TEACH Grant Information Sheet

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH Grant) is a federal grant program for students who plan to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.

The TEACH Grant provides up to \$4,000 per year. In exchange for receiving the 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 your program of study for which you received a TEACH Grant.

IMPORTANT: If you fail to complete this service obligation, all TEACH Grant funds 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. You will be charged interest from the date the grant(s) was disbursed.

Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for the TEACH Grant at Dominican University, you will need to meet the following requirements:

- The student must be pursuing a Master's Degree.
- Complete the 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov> and provide all supporting application materials that may be required while reviewing your FAFSA.
- Be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Be enrolled in a program of study designated as TEACH Grant eligible. Eligible programs are those that prepare a student to teach in a high need field.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) on college coursework to receive a grant for each subsequent term.
- Complete the Federal Teach Grant Entrance Counseling requirement online at <https://studentaid.gov>
- Complete the online Federal TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) at <https://studentaid.gov>
- Complete Dominican University's *2021-2022 Application for Federal TEACH Grant Consideration* and submit the form to Dominican University's Financial Aid Office.

TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay

Each year that you receive a TEACH Grant you must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay (service agreement) that is available electronically on a Department of Education website. The TEACH Grant service agreement specifies the conditions under which the grant will be awarded, the teaching service requirements, and includes an acknowledgement by you that you understand that if you do not meet the teaching service

requirement you must repay the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized loan, with interest accrued from the date the grant funds were first disbursed.

Teaching Obligation

To avoid repaying the TEACH Grant with interest you must work as a highly-qualified, full time teacher in a high need subject area for at least four years at a school serving low income students. You must complete the four years of teaching within eight years of finishing the program for which you received TEACH Grant funds, although you may complete multiple four year obligations simultaneously under certain circumstances. Specific definitions of these terms are included below.

Highly-Qualified Teacher

You must perform the teaching service as a highly-qualified teacher, which is defined in federal law.

Full-Time Teacher

You must meet the state's definition of a full time teacher and spend the majority (at least 51 percent) of your time teaching one of the high-need subject areas. Elementary teachers who teach many subjects would not be able to fulfill their service agreement.

High-Need Subject Areas

- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
- Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Reading Specialist
- Science
- Special Education
- Additional teacher shortage areas listed in the Department of Education's Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing.

Schools Serving Low-Income Students

Schools serving low-income students include any elementary or secondary school that is listed in the Department of Education's Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits.

Documentation

You must respond promptly to any requests for information or documentation from the U.S. Department of Education, even if they seem repetitive. These requests will be sent to you while you are still in school as well as once you are out of school. You will be asked regularly to confirm that you either still intend to teach or that you are teaching as required. You must provide documentation to the U.S. Department of Education at the end of each year of teaching.

If you temporarily cease enrollment in your program of study or if you encounter situations that affect your ability to begin or continue teaching, you will need to stay in touch with the U.S. Department of Education to avoid your grants being converted to loans before you are able to complete your teaching obligation.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Failure to complete the teaching obligation, respond to requests for information, or properly document your teaching service will cause the TEACH Grant to be permanently converted to a loan with interest.

Once a grant is converted to a loan it can't be converted back to a grant!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about requirements associated with TEACH Grant, visit <https://studentaid.gov/myDirectLoan/launchTeach.action> .

For information about applying for a TEACH Grant, contact Dominican University Financial Aid Office 708-524-6809.