

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1. What is the TEACH Grant?

The TEACH (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education) Grant is awarded by Walden University to masters students who are completing or intend to complete coursework to begin a career in teaching and who agree to serve as a highly qualified full-time teacher in a high-need field at a low-income school for a minimum of 4 years.

The grant provides up to \$4,000 a year in aid to students. Eligible graduate students may receive no more than \$8,000 in total TEACH Grants.

### 2. Why is Walden offering the TEACH Grant?

This is a great opportunity for aspiring or current teachers who are now teaching, or want to teach, in a high-need field in a school that serves low-income students. These students will be able to receive funds toward their education that they may not otherwise receive.

The TEACH Grant aligns with Walden’s mission of effecting positive social change. Teachers will be able to take advantage of this grant to further their education in order to serve in low-income schools teaching high-need subjects.

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### 3. What does a student need to do in exchange for receiving the TEACH Grant?

In exchange for receiving a TEACH Grant, students 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. (For a listing of schools and teaching fields that qualify, visit the [Nationwide List for the State](#) in which you intend to teach.) Recipients of a TEACH Grant must teach for at least 4 academic years within 8 calendar years of completing the program of study for which they received a TEACH Grant.

**4. What happens if a student does not fulfill his/her teaching obligation?**

If a student fails to complete this service obligation, the full amounts of the TEACH Grants that they received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford Loan (Direct Unsubsidized Loan). Students must then repay this loan to the U.S. Department of Education. Students will be charged interest from the date the grant was disbursed. Please note: TEACH Grant recipients will be given a 6-month grace period prior to entering repayment if a TEACH Grant is converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

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**5. When will students find out if they will be awarded the TEACH Grant?**

Students' applications for the TEACH Grant will begin to be processed approximately 7 days after the start of their first course. An award decision will be made approximately one month after the start of the student's program of study (new students) or after the start of the next course in which the student is applying for the TEACH Grant (current students).

**6. Which students need to have an incoming 3.25 GPA from their previous institution?**

The only students who need to have an incoming cumulative GPA of 3.25 are those students who enroll in the Minnesota state-approved\* Teacher Preparation Program with a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) *and* are enrolling in this program directly from their undergraduate degree program. If they have work experience in any field after their undergraduate degree, they are classified by the U.S. Department of Education as a "career-changer" and they do not have an incoming GPA requirement.

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**7. Which students need to maintain a 3.25 GPA at Walden?**

The only students who need to maintain a GPA of 3.25 are those students who enroll in the Teacher Preparation Program with a M.A.T. *and* are enrolling in this program directly from their undergraduate degree program. If they have work experience in any field after their undergraduate degree they are classified by the U.S. Department of Education as a "career-changer" and they do not need to maintain a 3.25 GPA.

**8. Which students need to prove that they have expertise in a field in order to be eligible for the TEACH Grant? How do they prove that they have expertise?**

The only students who need to prove that they have expertise in a field are those students who enroll in the teacher preparation programs with a Master of Arts in Teaching AND they are classified as "career changers" (meaning that they are enrolling in Walden's program straight from their undergraduate degree program and they have had work experience after their undergraduate degree program).

We will ask these students to answer the following question on the Institutional TEACH Grant application: *Please describe how your previous personal, professional, or educational experiences*

*will prepare you to become a Special Education or Early Childhood Education teacher.*

This question will be assessed by the Admission's Office.

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#### 9. Which program(s) require clinical experience?

The only degree program that is required to have a clinical experience is the teacher preparation programs with an MAT. This program does meet the federal requirements because it has the requisite 10 week clinical experience. The other degree programs at Walden are not required to have a clinical experience since they do not lead to initial teacher licensure.

#### 10. If a student goes on Leave of Absence, is the student reported to the government as no longer enrolled at the university? Will the TEACH Grant turn into a loan?

Any Walden student can take a leave of absence for up to 6 months. During that time, they are reported to the Department of Ed's clearinghouse as enrolled. The student is reported as enrolled and they do not use up their grace period on their federal loans. Students can take the LOA as many times as they want while at Walden. However, if the student does not return after 6 months, they are considered withdrawn and their Grant will be turned into a loan.

These are the parameters that the Registrar's office has been using for all students. TEACH grant students will be treated the same.

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#### 11. What programs at Walden are eligible for TEACH Grant?

- **Minnesota state-approved\* special education endorsement programs with an M.S. in Education with a specialization in special education**
  - Emotional/Behavioral Disorders (K–12)
  - Learning Disabilities (K–12)
- **Minnesota state-approved<sup>†</sup> Teacher Preparation Program with a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)**
  - Early Childhood Education (Birth–Grade 3)
  - Special Education, Emotional/Behavioral Disorders (K–12)
  - Special Education, Learning Disabilities (K–12)
- **M.S. in Education<sup>‡</sup>, with a specialization in one of the following:**
  - Elementary Reading and Literacy (PreK–6)
  - Elementary Reading and Mathematics (Grades K–6)
  - Mathematics (Grades K–5)
  - Mathematics (Grades 6–8)
  - Science (Grades K–8)
  - Special Education (Non-Licensure) (Grades K–12)

\*Not applicable in all states. Walden University's endorsement programs are approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching for endorsement or add-on licensure in Minnesota.

Candidates for this program must already hold a valid P–12 teaching license. Note that in some states endorsements or add-on licensure can be awarded by passing a state-specified test, rather than completion of a course-based program. Walden’s enrollment advisors can provide individuals with guidelines and other information about endorsements. It remains the individual’s responsibility to understand and comply with the out-of-state endorsement requirements for the state in which he or she seeks to be endorsed.

<sup>†</sup>Walden University’s teacher preparation program is approved by the Minnesota Board of Teaching for licensure in Minnesota. Walden’s enrollment advisors can provide individuals with guidelines and other information about licensure. It remains the individual’s responsibility to understand and comply with the out-of-state licensure requirements for the state in which he or she seeks to be licensed.

<sup>‡</sup>Please note: While Walden is regionally accredited, the M.S. in Education specializations listed above are not state approved as initial licensure or endorsement programs in a state that requires the completion of a state approved program. Individuals entering the TEACH grant program are responsible for ensuring they can meet their state’s licensure requirements upon graduation in order to teach in a high-need field and therefore satisfy the conditions of the grant.

Prospective Alabama students: Contact the Teacher Education and Certification Division of the Alabama State Department of Education at 1-334-242-9935 or [www.alsde.edu](http://www.alsde.edu) to verify that these programs qualify for teacher certification, endorsement, and/or salary benefits.

Prospective Washington state students are advised to contact the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at 1-360-725-6320 or [prof.educ@k12.wa.us](mailto:prof.educ@k12.wa.us) to determine whether Walden’s programs in the field of education are approved for teacher certification or endorsements in Washington state. Additionally, teachers are advised to contact their individual school district as to whether this program may qualify for salary advancement.

Walden University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org); 1-312-263-0456.

#### **12. Must I be certified in a high-need field in order to fulfill the service agreement?**

Most likely. You must review your state’s requirements for how to become highly qualified in a high-need field. If it required you to obtain full state certification, then you should review your state’s teacher certification requirements for that high-need field. If you are already certified in a high-need field, then you can serve, or continue to serve, in that area upon graduation.

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#### **13. Which Walden programs will allow me to be certified in a high-need field?**

It depends on your state. States typically fall into one of three categories in their requirements for certification in a new teaching area.

1. Certification can be obtained by passing a content knowledge exam, like Praxis II
2. Certification can be obtained by completing specific coursework in the area and passing a content knowledge exam, or
3. Certification can be obtained only by completing a program approved by the state's teacher certification agency ("state approved" program).

The MAT programs and the special education endorsement programs are "state approved" for teacher licensure. The M.S. in Education specializations are not "state approved" certification or endorsement programs. They may meet some coursework requirements or help you with content knowledge exams.

You must review your state's highly qualified and teacher certification requirements for the high-need field you intend to serve. Make certain you are able to meet the service agreement.

**14. Can I fulfill the service agreement as an elementary teacher? I teach reading to my students for more than half the day.**

Unless your state has designated elementary as a high-need field, teachers intending on fulfilling the service agreement by serving as elementary teachers must be cautious. Elementary teachers who teach many subjects to the same set of students (traditional elementary teachers) would not be able to fulfill their service agreement. The U.S. Department of Education will accept only exceptions to the traditional model. For example, math specialists hired at the elementary levels could qualify, but they would likely teach math all day long to different cohorts of students or on an individual basis. Traditional elementary teachers would need to move into a high-need field like reading, special education, secondary science, etc.

You must review your state's highly qualified and teacher certification requirements for the high-need field you intend to serve. Make certain you are able to meet the service agreement.

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## FAQ for returning students that have already completed their FAFSA

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2. <a href="#">Are there any other forms I need to complete to apply for the grant?</a>	7. <a href="#">What are the SAP (satisfactory academic progress) requirements for this grant?</a>
3. <a href="#">When will I be awarded my aid?</a>	8. <a href="#">Can I check my financial aid status on-line?</a>
4. <a href="#">How will I be notified if I receive an award?</a>	9. <a href="#">If I drop a class, change a program, or only register for one class will my aid be affected?</a>
5. <a href="#">What do I do after I receive my award notification?</a>	10. <a href="#">Must I be certified in a high-need field in order to fulfill the service agreement?</a>

### 1. Can I apply for a teach grant if I have already completed my FAFSA?

Yes, however, you need to complete the FAFSA for the correct academic year.

### 2. Are there any other forms I need to complete to apply for the grant?

Yes, you must complete the Institutional TEACH Grant Application (ITGA) and any other forms requested.

### 3. When will I be awarded my aid?

Students will be awarded once all documents have been completed and reviewed by your academic advisor, admissions office and the financial aid office. If all documents have been received in a timely fashion, students are generally awarded Teach Grants 2-3 weeks after the start of the term.

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### 4. How will I be notified if I receive an award?

Upon determining the students eligibility for the teach grant, the financial aid office emails an award notification.

### 5. What do I do after I receive my award notification?

You must accept your award. You must complete the Award Acknowledgement Form and return it to the Financial Aid Office in order to accept awards.

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### 6. When does disbursement occur?

Disbursement generally occurs 14 business days after and you have accepted your award and the start of term.

### 7. What are the SAP (satisfactory academic progress) requirements for this grant?

As for all financial aid, graduate students need to maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA (some students enrolled in the Teacher Preparation Program with a Master of Arts in Teaching program are required to maintain at least a 3.25 at Walden) and need to meet the 67% completion rate.

### 8. Can I check my financial aid status on-line?

Yes. Please check your Walden Financial Aid Page for important messages.

**9. If I drop a class, change a program, or only register for one class will my aid be affected?**

Yes, your grant may be decreased and you will be notified via email if Walden makes changes to your financial aid. Also, if you change programs (or fail to meet any other terms) to a non-TEACH grant eligible programs, your grant will convert into an unsubsidized loan with interest accruing and capitalized from the date of the original disbursement.

**10. Must I be certified in a high-need field in order to fulfill the service agreement?**

Most likely. You must review your state's requirements for how to become highly qualified in a high-need field. If it required you to obtain full state certification, then you should review your state's teacher certification requirements for that high-need field. If you are already certified in a high-need field, then you can serve, or continue to serve, in that area upon graduation.

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