

Walden University Federal TEACH Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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1. What is the Federal TEACH Grant?

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

2. Why is Walden offering the Federal 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 Federal 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.

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

In exchange for receiving a Federal 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 Federal TEACH Grant must teach for at

least four (4) academic years within eight (8) calendar years of completing the program of study for which they received a Federal 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 amount of the Federal TEACH Grant that he/she received will be converted to a Federal 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:** Federal TEACH Grant recipients will be given a 6-month grace period prior to entering repayment if a Federal TEACH Grant is converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

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

Students' application for the Federal TEACH Grant will begin to be processed approximately seven (7) days after the start of their first course. An award decision will be made approximately one (1) 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 Federal 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.

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 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 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 Federal 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 Program with a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) *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 Federal 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 Office of Admissions.

9. Which program(s) require clinical experience?

The only degree program that is required to have a clinical experience is the Teacher Preparation Program with a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.). 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 (LOA), is the student reported to the government as no longer enrolled at the university? Will the Federal TEACH Grant turn into a loan?

Any Walden student can take a Leave of Absence (LOA) for up to six (6) months. During that time, they are reported to the U.S. Department of Education's Clearinghouse as enrolled and they do not use up their grace period on their federal loans. However, if the student does not return after six (6) months, they are considered withdrawn and their Federal TEACH Grant will be turned into a loan. Please review [Walden University's Student Handbook](#) for detailed information about taking a Leave of Absence (LOA).

These are the parameters that the Office of the Registrar has been using for all students. Federal TEACH Grant students will be treated the same.

11. Which programs at Walden are eligible for Federal TEACH Grant?

Students must be enrolled in one of the following Walden Programs* of Study designated as Federal TEACH Grant eligible (these programs are administered by Walden's Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership):

Current Programs:

Teacher Preparation Program with a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) †

- Special Education (K-Age 21)

M.S. Education‡ with a specialization in one of the following:

- Elementary Reading and Literacy (PreK-6)
- Elementary Reading and Literacy (PreK-6) (accelerated)
- Elementary Reading and Mathematics (Grades K-6)
- Elementary Reading and Mathematics (Grades K-6) (accelerated)
- Mathematics (Grades K-6)
- Mathematics (Grades 5-8)
- Mathematics and Science (Grades K-8)
- Science (Grades K-8)
- Special Education (Non-Licensure) (Grades K-12)
- Special Education (Non-Licensure) (Grades K-12) (accelerated)
- Teaching English Language Learners (Grades K-12)

Other programs no longer offered to new students:

Special education endorsement programs

- Emotional/Behavioral Disorders (K-12)
- Learning Disabilities (K-12)
- Emotional/Behavioral Disorders (K-12) with an M.S. in Education with a specialization in special education
- Learning Disabilities (K-12) with an M.S. in Education with a specialization in special education

Teacher Preparation Program with a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.)

- Special Education, Emotional/Behavioral Disorders (K-12)
- Special Education, Learning Disabilities (K-12)
- M.S. in Education‡ with a specialization in one of the following:
 - Mathematics (Grades K-5)
 - Mathematics (Grades 6-8)
 - M.T. Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 3)

Certificate programs

- Graduate Certificate in Special Education (Non-Licensure)
- Graduate Certificate in Elementary Reading and Literacy
- Graduate Certificate in Science (Grades K-8)

*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.

†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.

‡**Please note:** While Walden is regionally accredited, the M.S. in Education specializations listed in this section are not “state-approved” and will not lead to initial licensure or endorsement in a state that requires the completion of a “state-approved” program. Individuals entering the Federal 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 Federal TEACH Grant.

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.

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 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 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; 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.

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, e.g. 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 M.A.T 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 if 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.

FAQ for returning students that have already completed their FAFSA

1. Can I apply for a Federal TEACH Grant if I have already completed my FAFSA?	6. When does disbursement occur?
2. Are there any other forms I need to complete to apply for the Federal TEACH Grant?	7. What are the SAP (satisfactory academic progress) requirements for the Federal TEACH Grant?
3. When will I be awarded my aid?	8. Can I check my financial aid status on-line?
4. How will I be notified if I receive an award?	9. If I drop a class, change a program, or only register for one class, will my aid be affected?
5. What do I do after I receive my award notification?	10. Must I be certified in a high-need field in order to fulfill the service agreement?

1. Can I apply for a Federal 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 Federal TEACH Grant?

Yes, you must complete the Institutional Federal TEACH Grant Application (IFTGA) 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 the Federal TEACH Grant 2-3 weeks after the start of the term.

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

Upon determining the student's eligibility for the Federal TEACH Grant, the financial aid office emails an award notification.

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

You must review and accept your award through the myFinAid portal.

6. When does disbursement occur?

Once you accept your award, the disbursement generally occurs 14 business days after the start of the term.

7. What are the SAP (satisfactory academic progress) requirements for the Federal TEACH 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 the myFinAid portal for financial aid updates.

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

Yes, your Federal TEACH Grant may be decreased if enrollment status changes. If Walden makes changes to your financial aid award, you will be notified via email. Also, if you change your program (or fail to meet any other terms) to a non-Federal TEACH Grant eligible program, your Federal TEACH Grant will convert into a Federal Direct 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 requires 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.