



Paying for College
Head to school with confidence.



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When it comes to paying for a college education, it's important to know and explore the financial aid options.

Thank you for contacting us about SunTrust private student loans.

Whether you're just beginning to research college financing programs or are considering graduate school, SunTrust is here to help. This kit will help guide you as you explore your financial aid options. It can also help you make smart decisions on borrowing and create an action plan to help you along the way.

With so many borrowing options available to students and their families, it's easy to be confused about the best way to finance a college education. Financial aid can include "free money," like grants and scholarship programs. If these sources have been exhausted, student loans can be a consideration. Federal and private student loans are two common borrowing options.

Getting an education means you're looking to the future and embracing a change for the better. SunTrust is proud to support you every step of the way on your journey as a student.

We're moving onward and upward, too, by sparking the onUp Movement. SunTrust is taking a stand against financial stress, providing inspiration and empowering you with the knowledge and tools you need to find your own financial confidence. This kit is a great place to start. If you still have questions about student loans after reviewing, please contact us directly.

We believe everyone can achieve the feeling that comes when you no longer have to worry about money. We'd love to help you get there.

Federal vs. Private Student Loans: Do you know the difference?

This chart can help you make sense of some of the key differences between federal and private student loans.

Federal student loans, also called Direct Loans, are low-interest loans made to students for the cost of education, minus any financial aid, and are funded by the federal government. If you need to borrow money to finance your education, start with federal student loans first. There are multiple types to consider:

Direct Subsidized Loans are available to eligible undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need. The federal government pays the loan’s interest while the student is in school at least half-time.

Direct Unsubsidized Loans are available to eligible undergraduate, graduate and professional students. Financial need is not a requirement, but the loan’s interest is paid by the student and not the federal government.

Direct PLUS Loans are available to graduate or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students. Financial need is not a requirement, but credit guidelines apply in determining eligibility.

Private student loans are offered by private lenders, like SunTrust Bank, and help bridge the gap between the cost of education and the financial aid received from grants, scholarships and federal student loans. SunTrust recommends that students exhaust all aid alternatives prior to applying for a private student loan.

Details about the private student loans offered by SunTrust can be found at [suntrusteducation.com/compare](https://www.suntrusteducation.com/compare).

Federal Student Loans (Direct Loans) ¹ Direct Loans (Subsidized/Unsubsidized)		Direct PLUS Loans	Private Student Loans	
For more detailed information on federal student loans, visit studentaid.ed.gov	Borrower	Student is the primary borrower and is responsible for repayment	Parent is responsible for Parent PLUS repayment	Student and cosigner, if applicable, are responsible for repayment
			Graduate or professional student is responsible for Grad PLUS repayment	
	Eligibility	Undergraduate or graduate students must attend a Title IV school at least half-time	Dependent undergraduate or graduate students must attend a Title IV school at least half-time	Undergraduate or graduate students must attend an eligible school at least half-time
		Eligibility is not based on credit history	Eligibility is not based on credit history	Eligibility is generally based on credit history; a cosigner is not always required, but most students, especially those without a substantial credit history, may need a credit-worthy cosigner to qualify
	Application Process	To apply, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be submitted	To apply, a FAFSA must be submitted	Student applies directly with the lender
				Completion of a FAFSA isn't required, but it's recommended that you exhaust all aid alternatives including scholarships, grants and federal student loans before applying for a private student loan
	Interest Rate	Rates are typically fixed and are set annually by the U.S. Department of Education ²	Rates are typically fixed and are set annually by the U.S. Department of Education ²	Rates are typically variable, based on credit history, and vary by lender and loan program
		Rates may be lower than interest rates for private student loans	Rates may be lower than interest rates for private student loans	
	Credit Review	No debt-to-income analysis or credit check is performed	No debt-to-income analysis is performed, but a credit report is reviewed	Comprehensive credit approval; many students will need a credit-worthy cosigner to qualify
	Loan Limits	Annual and aggregate limits set by the federal government are based on grade level and dependency status	May borrow up to the cost of attendance minus financial aid received	Borrowing limits vary by lender, loan program and cost of attendance
Repayment	Generally, you are not required to make payments while in school	Generally, you are not required to make payments while in school	Options vary by lender and loan program	
	Repayment begins six months after graduation, withdrawal from school or dropping below half-time	Repayment begins within 60 days of final disbursement		
	Up to 10 years to repay	Up to 10 years to repay		
Deferment	Multiple deferment options are available ³	Multiple deferment options are available ³	Deferment options vary by lender and loan program ⁴	
Forbearance	Multiple forbearance options are available, ³ but federal student loans typically offer forbearance intervals of up to 12 months at a time for up to a total of three years	Multiple forbearance options are available, but federal student loans typically offer forbearance intervals of up to 12 months at a time for up to a total of three years	Forbearance options vary by lender and loan program	
Consolidated	Federal student loans can be consolidated through the U.S. Department of Education, and any loan benefits will be honored	Federal student loans can be consolidated through the U.S. Department of Education, and any loan benefits will be honored	Consolidation is offered by various lenders	
Forgiveness	Federally insured against death and disability	Federally insured against death and disability	Not federally insured, but many lenders offer student loan protection in case of death/disability	

¹Effective July 1, 2010, federal student loans are only available directly from the U.S. Department of Education.

²For current federal loan interest rates, visit federalstudentaid.ed.gov or contact your school's financial aid office.

³Interest will continue to accrue during periods of deferment or forbearance, and it will be capitalized (added to the principal loan balance) at the end of each deferment or forbearance period.

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Planning for a private student loan.

When considering a private student loan, it is important to understand all aspects of the loan, the application process and its repayment requirements. Many students and families have the following questions.

How does a credit score impact a private student loan?

- When you apply for a loan, the lender will review your credit history.
- Your credit report is a detailed list of your credit history, including any loans and credit cards you have and your payment history. Your credit score, or FICO® score, appears in your credit report and summarizes the information into a single number. Lenders use this information when evaluating a request for credit.
- To help manage debt, as well as protect against identity theft, read your credit report at least once a year. You are entitled to a free credit report every 12 months from each of the three nationwide consumer credit bureaus. Request your free annual report at annualcreditreport.com, or call toll-free at 877.FACTACT (877.322.8228).

Do students need a cosigner?

- A cosigner is not always required, but most students—especially those without a substantial credit history—may need a credit-worthy cosigner to qualify.
- Some lenders offer an option to release a cosigner from the loan after certain criteria have been met. This criteria is determined by the lender, so be sure to ask.

What kind of interest rate is available on the loan?

- Interest rates are based on credit history and vary by lender and loan program.
- Many private student loans offer a choice of a variable or fixed interest rate. Variable rates may change monthly or quarterly, which means the monthly payment can increase or decrease as the rate changes.
- Fixed-rate loans have a set interest rate for the life of the loan.

What, if any, fees apply to the loan?

- Since fees can significantly add to the total cost of your loan, be sure to ask which apply to your loan.
- Private student loans may have origination fees based on your credit history. Some may have repayment fees that will be added to your loan balance once your loan enters repayment.
- Late fees may also be incurred if a payment is made after the due date.

Are any borrower benefits available?

- Some lenders offer borrower benefits that may lower the overall cost of the loan. For example, the interest rate may be lowered if the borrower makes monthly payments through automatic debit. The lender can help determine how to take advantage of any benefits.

What are the responsibilities of a private student loan borrower?

- The borrower and, if applicable, the cosigner is responsible for paying back your loan, even if the student doesn't graduate or cannot find a job after graduating.
- It is important to open and read all mail related to a student loan.
- The lender or servicer must be notified immediately if:
 - The student has a change in name, address, phone number or Social Security number
 - The student drops below half-time enrollment status
 - The student graduates, withdraws or transfers to another school
 - Loan payments cannot be made as scheduled
 - Deferment is needed

How can information on the loan be accessed?

- Most private loan lenders provide secure online access to your account.



How long is the loan repayment period?

- Repayment terms are usually set by the lender and range from 5 to 25 years.
- Some lenders offer the option to choose the repayment term.
- In general, a longer repayment term may allow for a lower monthly payment; however, the overall cost will be higher due to the interest you will pay.

Are deferment options available?

- Deferment options vary by lender and loan program.
- If the loan offers the ability to defer payments while in school, interest will accrue during any period of deferment.
- Interest payments can be made while in school and/or during the grace period. This will help reduce the total amount of interest that accrues on the loan.

How are payments made on the loan?

- Many lenders partner with loan servicers to manage private student loans after the loan proceeds have been disbursed. Servicers process payments and deferment requests, and they maintain all records and files.
- Shortly before the first loan payment is due, you should receive information from the loan servicer, including the monthly payment amount, due date and where to send it.
- It is very important to inform the lender and servicer of any changes in address and/or phone number, as well as enrollment status at school.

What happens if a payment is missed?

- If a payment is missed, additional charges may be incurred, such as late fees.
- Missing a payment will cause the loan to be delinquent. If payments are missed for a specified period of time, according to the loan agreement, the loan could go into default.
- Defaulting on a private student loan can result in consequences for both the student and cosigner, if applicable. The credit scores of the student and, if applicable, the cosigner could be negatively impacted.
- If there is difficulty making student loan payments as scheduled, the lender or servicer should be contacted immediately to discuss available options.

Does the loan offer deferment or forgiveness in the event of death or disability?

- Some lenders may forgive a private student loan in the event of borrower death or permanent disability.
- Ask the lender for their specific policies.

Helpful tips

- Be sure to keep all documents related to a private student loan, including a copy of the promissory note, disclosure statements showing details about the loan and the repayment information from the loan servicer.
- Whenever there are questions, contact the lender or loan servicer for assistance.

What are some of the features of a private student loan from SunTrust?

- Private student loans can help finance an education when federal student loans, scholarships and grants aren't enough to cover the full cost of college.
- SunTrust private student loans are available to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at least half-time at eligible institutions.
- Our loans offer the choice of fixed or variable interest rates, a graduation reward, ACH discounts and flexible repayment options.

Take the next step

If you've completed your research and are ready to apply, first determine if a SunTrust private student loan is available at your school.

Visit suntrustededucation.com/compare, choose a product and click to apply. The eligible school list is within the first page of the application.

Once you confirm your school is eligible, complete the easy online application. It includes helpful tips and tools, and your cosigner can apply online as well.



Student solutions for managing money.

One of the toughest lessons to learn is how to save and manage money so you can afford the things you need and want each semester. With a little organization and discipline, you can create good habits today that will help establish your financial future.

Things like following a budget, paying bills on time and responsible debt management can help you build a credit history and protect your credit score. Your score plays a large part in determining whether or not you'll be approved for a loan or credit card, and at what interest rate. The better your credit score, the lower your interest rate may be—and that could save you thousands on a loan or line of credit. Here are a few steps you can take to get started.

Create a budget and stick to it

- Map out a plan for your income and expenses each semester. Knowing where your money is going makes it easier to see what you've been spending. Sticking to the budget you set will help you pace your spending, and may help your money last longer.
- Check out the budget worksheet in the back of this brochure to help you see how much money you have to work with each month. Or, visit suntrustededucation.com to run the numbers on interactive calculators.

Pay your bills on time

- Many bills are available in "paperless" online formats. Sign up to receive email alerts when a new bill has arrived and/or is due. If you do get paper copies of bills, file them by the due date and pay them promptly to avoid late fees.
- An online bill pay service allows you to schedule payments to multiple providers from your bank account, and helps you avoid missing a payment. Many banks offer this service at no charge.
- If you have difficulty making your payments as scheduled, you should immediately contact your lender or servicer to discuss your available options.

Track your spending

- Create an envelope for receipts. Save things like credit card, debit card and ATM receipts to reconcile against your monthly statements.
- Sign up for a free budget management tool like mint.com. You'll be able to track your spending each month and even set goals like saving for a vacation or paying off debt.

File your documents

- Create dedicated file folders to store important documents—taxes/income forms, insurance policies, financial aid, warranties, etc. You can even subdivide the main folders by quarter and year.
- Store these folders in a safe place, as they contain your personal information.

Protect your credit

- Don't throw away documents that contain sensitive financial information. Either file them appropriately or shred them before discarding.
- Order a copy of your credit report once a year and check it for accuracy. At annualcreditreport.com, you can order your report from all three credit bureaus and monitor your activity.
- Once you've put a system in place to get and stay organized, you can begin thinking about better ways to save and spend your income.

Be smart about paying for your education

- Search every possible source for scholarships and grants, and take appropriate action.
- Make the most of the tuition you're paying. Are you taking a full course load? Challenging classes that will pay off in the future? Learn all you can—don't take the easy route.
- If you have a meal plan, use it! You're paying a lot of money for that privilege. If you're not using it, see if you can reduce your plan or cancel it.
- When possible, buy used textbooks from a local bookstore or online. Once your classes have ended, you can often sell them back.
- Look for student discounts. Lots of places in and around colleges and universities offer savings for students.

A little work can go a long way

- You shouldn't jeopardize your grades by devoting too much time to a job; however, holidays, breaks, weekends and evenings are great times to earn money. Some places offer benefits like employee discounts and even tuition support.

Look for creative ways to save

- See how much your bank is charging you. As a student, you may qualify for options like checking with no minimum balance and online and mobile banking.
- Clip grocery coupons or find them online. Some stores even offer double or triple coupons to increase your purchasing power.
- Shop around for cell phone deals or consider a pay-as-you-go phone. You could save hundreds of dollars while in school.
- Packing a lunch can save you up to \$7 a day. That’s \$35 a week, or \$1,820 per year.
- Use ATMs that don’t charge a fee. Walking an extra block or two could save you a lot of cash.
- Cut take-out meals in half by splitting them (and the costs) with a friend.
- Email instead of calling long distance. Or use social networking and instant messaging to stay in touch.
- Walk, bike or use public transportation instead of driving. Gas is expensive, and so is the wear and tear on your car.
- Go to the library instead of the bookstore. The books are free, and you won’t be tempted to buy a latte, either.

Get the most for your money when you spend

- Shop for free events. Check your local paper, entertainment venues or bulletin boards for the latest news.
- Sign up for daily deals on sites like Groupon or LivingSocial. You’ll receive email offers with deep discounts on things like meals and entertainment.
- Watch for sales. But don’t buy something you don’t need, just because it’s on sale. You didn’t save 40%—you spent 60%!
- Buy secondhand. Gently used household items and clothing are available for much less than retail prices.
- Rent a movie instead of going to the theater. Some rentals cost as little as \$1 a day, and you can make your own popcorn for less, too.
- Shop with a list of things you need, and don’t stray from it.
- If you need furniture, the best prices are always available in January. Take advantage of the yearly inventory cycles.

Use financial common sense

- Buy generic when it makes sense. Things like food, laundry detergent and over-the-counter medicines are cheaper than their branded counterparts.
- Skip bottled water. Buy a filtered pitcher or drink from the tap. You’ll help the environment, too.
- Don’t use a credit card when you could use cash. If you do use a card, consider one that pays you cash back on purchases, and pay your balance off each month.
- Save! Even if it’s just \$1 a day, try to put something in a savings account each week or month to earn interest and make your money work for you.

Choosing to pursue higher education is an important decision. SunTrust can help you make smart choices to keep you on the road to financial confidence.

Confidence starts here.

Going to college is a great time for personal growth. We’ll help you take steps to gain control over your money so you can focus on what matters to you. And truly live a life well spent.

Join the movement today at onUp.com



Find SunTrust on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter.



Certain restrictions and limitations may apply. SunTrust Bank reserves the right to change or discontinue this program without notice.

Program is subject to approval and may not be available in certain jurisdictions.

The information provided in this booklet is produced by SunTrust Bank and is not endorsed by or published on behalf of any higher education institution. SunTrust recommends students exhaust all aid alternatives including grants, scholarships and federal loans prior to applying for private loans.

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Monthly budget worksheet.

This worksheet can help estimate monthly income versus monthly expenses to see how much money is remaining. It’s important to know when bills are due and to always pay them on time or earlier. When payments are not made on time, you may damage your credit and incur extra late fees. Check out the interactive version of this worksheet at suntrusteducation.com.

Monthly income/other resources

From your job(s)	\$ _____
From your family	\$ _____
From scholarships/grants	\$ _____
From student loans	\$ _____
Other income	\$ _____
Monthly income/other resources subtotal	\$ _____

Monthly expenses

Rent/room and board	\$ _____
Gas, water, electric	\$ _____
Home/cell phone	\$ _____
Groceries	\$ _____
Car payment/insurance	\$ _____
Parking/tolls	\$ _____
Gas/car repairs/servicing	\$ _____
Entertainment/dining	\$ _____
Tuition	\$ _____
School fees/books	\$ _____
Credit card payment	\$ _____
Miscellaneous	\$ _____
Monthly expenses subtotal	\$ _____

Monthly net income

(Monthly income/other resources – monthly expenses) \$ _____

Monthly net income is what’s left of income after all expenses are paid. Consider preparing for the future and putting some of this into savings.

Savings

\$ _____

