



Student Loan Options for Graduate Students

The chart below highlights the student loan options for graduate students. The Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan (**highlighted in blue**) is the loan referenced on your financing letter. For detailed information on these loans visit simmons.edu/sfs/gr

| | Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan | Federal Direct PLUS Loan | Private Education Loans |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Enrollment Requirements | Minimum half-time (5 credits) enrollment | Minimum half-time (5 credits) enrollment | Enrollment minimums vary by lender |
| Maximum Yearly Amount | Up to \$30,750* | Total cost minus other aid | Total cost minus other aid |
| Interest Rate | 4.30% fixed ** | 5.30% fixed** | Varies by lender and credit worthiness of applicant |
| Origination Fee | 1.059% of loan | 4.236% of loan | Varies by lender |
| Credit Based | No | Yes (most students will pass without a co-signer) | Yes (most students will be required to add a co-signer) |

*\$30,750 if enrolled in three consecutive terms in the academic year (ex: fall, spring, summer)

** These are 2020-2021 rates. Rates are set each July 1st

When determining your financing, it is important to **first calculate your billed costs**.

| @Simmons program | Tuition per credit | Program fee | Example: Full Time MSW (9, 11, 10 credits for first 3 terms) | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Behavior Analysis | \$1,110 | \$116 | | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 |
| Nursing (DNP) | \$1,410 | \$168 | Tuition (credits x \$1,110) | \$ 9,990 | \$ 12,210 | \$ 11,100 |
| Nursing (MS, RN-MSN) | \$1,210 | \$168 | Program Fee | \$ <u>60</u> | \$ <u>60</u> | \$ <u>60</u> |
| Social Work | \$1,110 | \$60 | Total Billed Cost | \$ 10,050 | \$ 12,270 | \$ 11,160 |
| | | | Less Unsubsidized loan | (\$10,142) | (\$10,142) | (\$10,142) |
| | | | Less Scholarship | (\$ 1,000) | (\$ 1,000) | (\$ 1,000) |
| | | | Out of pocket payment/credit | (\$ 1,092) | \$ 1,128 | \$ 18 |

To determine billed costs, use this example as a guide

- ✓ multiply your credits per term by the tuition rate for your program.
- ✓ Add in your program fee
- ✓ Subtract Loan & scholarship

The origination fee is **deducted** from the amount you borrow (borrow \$10,250, net \$10,142 applied to your bill)

*See the other side for additional loan options for tuition and living expenses



Once you have determined your billed costs you may decide:

- To decrease your federal direct unsubsidized loan; OR
- You need to apply for an additional loan to help cover billed costs and/or living expenses.

To estimate additional borrowing needs:

1. Calculate out of pocket billed costs (from other page)
2. Determine unmet living and personal expenses
3. Add up "total estimated costs" to determine maximum additional loan eligibility

| Example: | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Full Time MSW (9, 11, 10 credits) | | | |
| | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 |
| Out of pocket payment (from other side) | \$ 0 | \$ 1,128 | \$ 18 |
| Living expenses | \$ 5,972 | \$ 5,972 | 5,972 |
| Personal Expenses/Books | \$ 2,260 | \$ 2,340 | \$ 2,300 |
| | | | |
| Total estimated additional borrowing limits per term | \$ 8,232 | \$ 9,360 | \$ 8,250 |
| Maximum additional loan eligibility | \$25,842 | | |

These are standard estimates for living & personal expenses determined by the institution. You are eligible to borrow loans to cover these expenses if you need to.

Before Making Your Financing Decisions

- Figure out a **budget** before you borrow. Often times, without a budget, students overestimate what they'll need and borrow more than necessary.
- Utilize **payment plans** for help with cash flow. Payment plans allow you to spread your billed costs over the year in monthly payments. Find more information on the billing & payment section at simmons.edu/sfs/gr
- If you decide to borrow additional money, remember that there are different types of educational loans. Research the **interest rate**, **loan fees**, and **repayment schedules** of each loan so you can make an informed decision.
- Most loans will **accrue interest** while you're in school. Consider paying the interest while you're attending school to reduce the payments that will be due after you graduate.
- If borrowing more than the unsubsidized loan, **limit to one PLUS or Private loan** for the entire year.