TEACH Grant Exit Info Workshop

Presented by Christina Goodeill
Financial Aid Advisor
California State University, Stanislaus
Workshop Overview

- TEACH Grant Service Obligation requirements
- Annual certification – reporting your teaching status each year
- Completing less than a full year of teaching service
- Employed by multiple employers
- Circumstances under which a TEACH Grant will convert
- After a TEACH Grant converts to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- TEACH Grant – New Policies
TEACH Grant Teaching Requirements

To Fulfill your teaching obligation, your certification form must indicate that:

1. you have taught as a full-time teacher
2. in a high-need field and
3. at a school serving low-income families and students.

- The high-need field must be listed on the certification form at the time you begin teaching or must have been listed on the federal or state high-need fields list at any time that you received a TEACH Grant.

- The school must be a qualifying school at the time you begin teaching. If the school or educational service agency where you teach is listed in the TCLI Directory during all or any of your teaching years but is later removed from the TCLI Directory, your subsequent years of teaching at that school will still fulfill your service obligation.
The TEACH Grant exit counseling will provide you with important information regarding

- Certifying your teaching service obligation
- Requesting a suspension or discharge of your obligation
- Identifying low-income schools and high need fields
- Circumstances under which a TEACH Grant will convert to a loan
- Terms and Conditions after a TEACH Grant converts to a loan

- TEACH Grant exit counselling and PDF is available online at: TEACH Grant Exit Counseling
Service Obligation

- Each service obligation begins only after you complete the program for which you received the TEACH Grant.

- Unless you have received a temporary suspension of the eight-year obligation period, or your TEACH Grant obligation has been discharged, you must keep the TEACH Grant Servicer informed of your progress toward satisfying your service obligation by certifying your employment each year by your due date.

- The current TEACH Grant Servicer is: The Mohela Servicing Center 1-888-866-4352. Press option 8 for Direct Loans.
New Policy – Standardized Annual Deadline

A standardized annual certification date has been adopted to simplify the annual certification process for recipients.

- October 1st of each year, Mohela Servicing Center will notify all TEACH Grant recipients subject to the annual certification requirement how to submit their documentation of progress towards completing their TEACH Grant service obligation.

- Read more about the new deadline policy: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach#annual-certification-date
The TEACH Grant’s Agreement to Serve or Repay states that TEACH Grant recipients must submit documentation (TEACH Grant Certification form) each year showing:

1. that they have completed a year of qualifying teaching service,
2. or they do not have qualifying teaching service but still intend to satisfy their service obligation.

- The annual certification deadline that will apply to all TEACH Grant recipients is Oct. 31st each year.

- Exception – Students who have not taught for a full and complete year, will not be required to submit their annual certification form until (and no later) than the following October 31st deadline or at the end of the academic year that they taught for one full year.
Annual Certification

- The TEACH Grant Certification form:
  - Is a document that is completed and signed by both you and your employer each year so that you can receive teaching credit.
  - Once the online portion of the certification process is done on the Mohela website, print out the paper certification form and bring it to your employer to complete and submit back to Mohela via fax or by uploading to your web account.
  - It is advised that you set up your Mohela Servicing Online account once you leave the program for which you received the TEACH Grant.
The Annual Certification Process page 1 - Student section

- **Section 1 and 2** - completed on the student’s web account.
- **Section 3** - Print the Certification form out, sign it, then bring it to your employer to complete and sign.
Section 4 should be completed by your employer.

Tip: Question 1 – The name of the school must match the name listed in the Low-Income Directory.

Corrections on the form made with whiteout must be initialed by employer for processing.

Contact Mohela Servicing Center if you need assistance completing the form.
The Annual Certification Process - Contact information

- Contact Mohela Servicing center for help completing the TEACH Grant Certification form at 1-888-866-4352.

- When you are ready to submit your certification form, it is not recommended to submit it through the mail, as this could take up to 2 weeks longer or more for processing.

- It is recommended to scan and upload your completed form to your web account for quicker and secure processing.
Annual Certification Tips

Certification Forms submitted incomplete will not be processed by Mohela Servicing Center, and you will be at greater risk of having your grant converted.

- Submit your Certification Form early every October to allow Mohela Servicing Center time to notify you of a problem or error on your form.
- Keep record of all contact with Mohela Servicing Center, including when and how you’ve submitted your Certification Forms.
- If you have problems or questions on completing the Certification Form, contact Mohela Servicing Center directly and early for the most accurate information.
TCLI School Directory

• The school you teach at **must** be listed on the TCLI directory the first year that you are certifying your teaching service.

• If the school later falls off the TCLI directory in a subsequent year, your school will still meet the certification requirements.

• The TCLI is updated each year between late August and early September.
  
  • For TCLI directory questions, email TCLIdirectory@cde.ca.gov
TEACH Grant Award pause

- If you are a previous TEACH Grant recipient but did not receive a TEACH Grant for a subsequent semester and have continuous enrollment, your TEACH Grant obligation only begins after you withdrawal or complete the program for which you received the TEACH Grant.

- However, if you left school and are returning to another eligible program, you should contact Mohela Servicing Center to request a suspense of your teaching obligation.
Completing Less than a Full Year

One of the requirements to fulfilling your service obligation is to be teaching full-time.

If you do not complete a full school year of qualifying teaching service, but complete at least one-half of a school year, it can be counted as one of your four required years of teaching if your employer considers you to have fulfilled your contract requirements and you were unable to complete the school year due to:

1. a condition that is a qualifying reason for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA); or
2. a call or order to active-duty status
3. You were residing in or were employed in a federally declared major disaster area.
Multiple Employers

If you taught at more than one qualifying school during a school year, that year of teaching will count as one of your required years of teaching service if:

- you provide Mohela Servicing Center with a certification form from the multiple school employment officials involved confirming that the combined teaching is the equivalent of one school year of full-time employment;

  \textit{and}

  - more than half of the classes that you taught were in high-needs fields.
After School - Suspending your TEACH Grant

You may request a temporary suspension of your service obligation period if you’re temporarily unable to teach because you:

1. Returned to school and are enrolled in another TEACH grant eligible program.
2. A condition that is a qualifying reason for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.
3. A call or order to active-duty status.
4. Are residing in or are employed in a federally declared major disaster area.

Suspensions are granted for one-year increments, not to exceed a combined total of three years.

- TEACH Grants may be also discharged in cases of death, permanent disability or extended military service.
Conversion to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan

A TEACH Grant that a student received will be converted to a loan under any of the following conditions:

1. The recipient requests that their grants be converted into a loan.
   -or-
2. The recipient does not begin or maintain qualifying teaching within a timeframe that would allow the recipient to complete their required four years of teaching within the eight-year service obligation period.

- If grants are converted, the student will be charged interest going back to the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.
After your TEACH Grant Converts to a Loan

- TEACH Grants converted to a loan, in most cases, cannot be converted back into a grant.
- When a TEACH Grant is converted to a loan, the fixed interest rate will be the rate that was in effect for federal loans on the date of the grant’s disbursement.
- At the time the grant converts to a loan, the student will be given a 6-month grace period before the 1st payment becomes due and the opportunity to pay the interest that accrued from the disbursement date until the conversion date. If the student does not pay this interest, it will be capitalized when the loan enters repayment.
- A converted TEACH Grant will not count toward your aggregate loan limits, but it will be subject to the other terms and conditions that apply to the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan program.
TEACH Grant Servicer - Mohela Servicing Center

- TEACH Grant recipients should always contact the Mohela Servicing Center annually after completing their program to either certify their teaching service or determine if they need to request a suspension of their service obligation.

- It’s important that recipients keep the Mohela Servicing Center informed of their current contact information.

- Students can set up a Mohela account and check their paperless inbox on the Mohela website for certification notifications and any other updates.

- Contact the Mohela Servicing Center:
  Toll free: 1-888-866-4352
  https://Mohela.com
TEACH Grant Resources

Department of Education website: https://studentaid.ed.gov

Mohela Servicing Center https://www.mohela.com

TEACH Grant Exit Counseling:
California State University, Stanislaus
Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
TEACH Grant Department
209.664-6571
cgoodeill@csustan.edu

https://studentaid.gov/teach-grant-program

Stan State TEACH Grant website:
https://www.csustan.edu/financial-aid-scholarship/financial-aid-basics/teach-grant