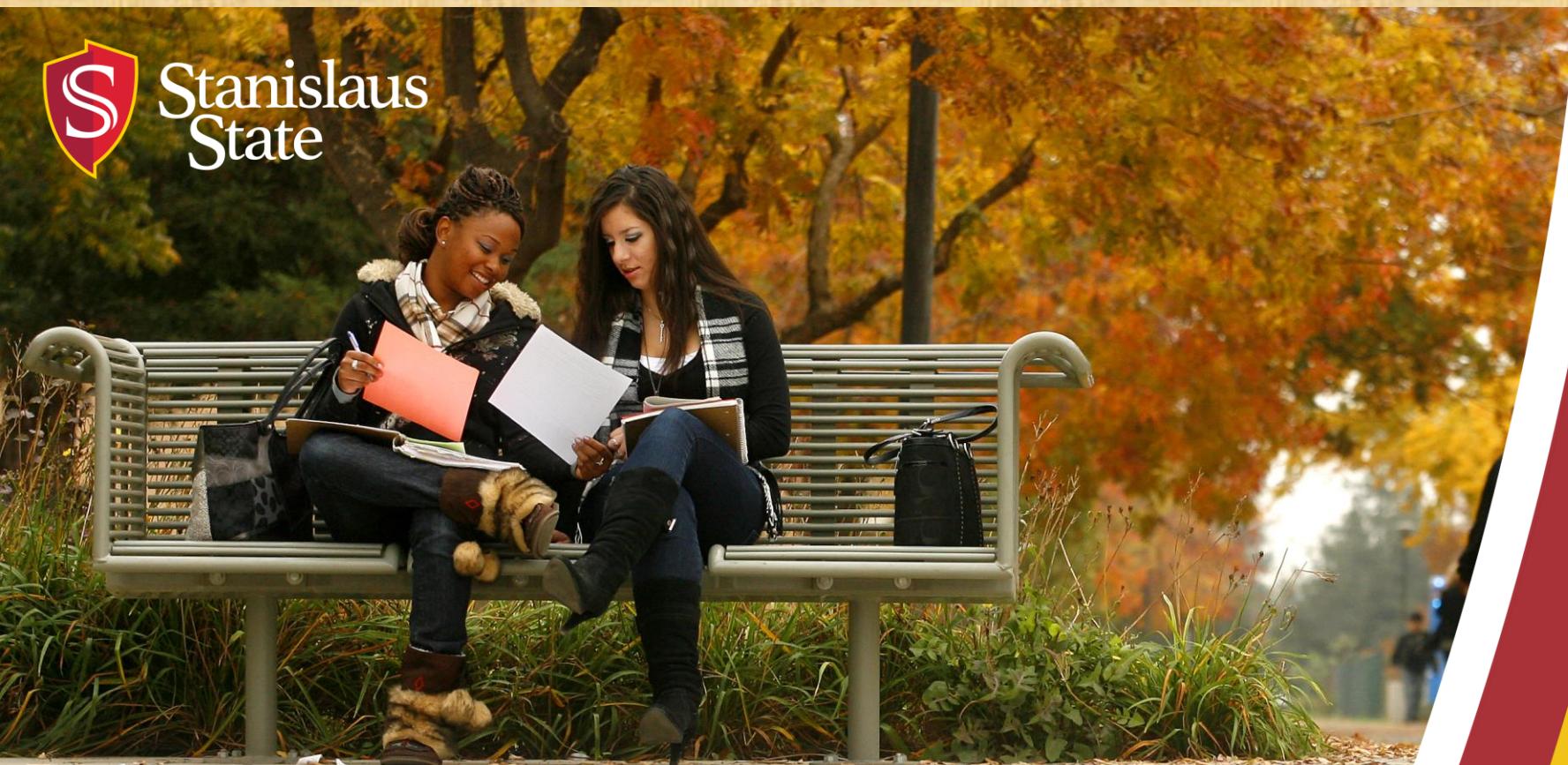




Stanislaus  
State



# TEACH Grant Info Workshop

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# **What is the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH Grant)?**

A federal program that provides grants of up to \$4,000 a year to students who are completing or plan to complete coursework needed to begin a career in teaching.

As a condition for receiving the TEACH Grant, students must complete the TEACH Grant Counseling and sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve in which they agree to teach

- in a high-need field;
- at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves students from low-income families;
- for at least four complete academic years within eight years after completing the course of study for which they received the grant.

## **TEACH Grant Awards**

If a student is enrolled full time, they can receive up to \$4000 each year in TEACH Grant funds, up to a maximum of:

- \$16,000 for undergraduate and/or post baccalaureate study

*and*

- \$8,000 for graduate study

## **Who can get a TEACH Grant?**

Students must meet the basic eligibility criteria for the federal student aid program and must also do the following:

- Complete a FAFSA;
- Be enrolled in a TEACH Grant eligible program;
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25;
- Complete the TEACH Grant counseling;
- Sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve

# **Terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant service obligation**

In exchange for receiving the TEACH Grant, students must agree to the following:

- Students must serve as a full-time teacher for a total of at least four years, within eight years, after they complete the program for which they received TEACH Grant.
- Students must perform the teaching service at a low-income school or educational service agency.
- The teaching service must be in a high-need field.
- Students must provide the Department of Education with documentation of their progress toward completing their service obligation.

***IMPORTANT: If the student does not meet the requirements of their service obligation, all TEACH Grant funds they've received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. They must repay the loan in full, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement. All terms and conditions are explained in the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve.***

# What are the 2019-2020 high-need fields?

To fulfill their service obligation, students must teach at least four years, within eight years, in one of the following high-need fields:

- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition,
- Foreign Language,
- Mathematics,
- Reading Specialist,
- Science,
- Special Education,
- **as well as** - any other field that is included in the annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing: <https://tsa.ed.gov/#/reports>
  - 2019-2020 California Teacher Shortage areas include: Language Arts, Special Education, Mathematics, Science, and Elementary Education Core Subjects.

## Teaching in a high-need field

If a student is planning to teach in a high-need field that is included in the Nationwide Listing, that field must be listed for the state where they teach either:

- At the time the student begins their qualifying teaching service in that field (even if the field later loses its high-need designation for the state where you are teaching);

**or**

- At the time the student received a TEACH Grant (even if the field is no longer designated as high-need for the state where they are teaching at the time they begin their qualifying teaching service in that field).

# **Identifying schools or educational agencies that serve low-income students.**

To fulfill their service obligation, students must teach at least four years, within eight years, at an elementary or secondary school or educational service agency serving low-income families:

- What factors do states use to determine if a school is eligible to be a low income school?
  - ✓ The school must be a public or other nonprofit elementary or secondary school.
  - ✓ The school must be in a school district of a Local Educational Agency (LEU) that is eligible each year for assistance under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).
  - ✓ The number of children enrolled in the school who meet a measure of poverty under Section 1113(a)(f) of the ESEA must exceed 30% of the total enrollment of that school.
- ❖ Students can search the Teacher Cancellation Low-Income Directory:  
<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/tcli.action> for qualifying schools and agencies.

## **TEACH Grant Counseling and Agreement to Serve**

Students must complete the TEACH Grant counseling and sign a new Agreement to Serve each year that they receive the TEACH Grant.

- Signing an Agreement to Serve each year does not obligate the student to multiple service obligations, but is a requirement to be reviewed and offered a new TEACH Grant award for the new academic year.
- A student is only required to fulfill one teaching service obligation (4 years of teaching service) for each academic program for which they received a TEACH Grant.

# TEACH Grant Awarding Process

1. Once you complete both the online TEACH Grant counseling and Agreement to Serve, the financial aid office will be notified that you have requested the grant, and we will begin the review process.
2. The review process will be completed within two weeks, and you will then receive an email communication regarding your TEACH Grant eligibility status.
3. If you are eligible for the grant, it will be added to your award package as offered and you will then need to accept the offer via your StanState student center.
4. Soon after the grant disburses, the TEACH Grant servicer (FedLoan Servicing Center) will send you a welcome letter that will give you information on creating an account with them and outline the terms of the obligation.

## **After School – Exit Counseling**

Upon completing their program, students will be assigned and must complete the TEACH Grant exit counseling.

The TEACH Grant exit counseling will provide students with important information regarding

- requesting a suspension of their obligation's eight-year period,
  - identifying low income schools and high-need fields,
  - reporting their teaching status each year,
  - circumstances under which a TEACH Grant will convert to an unsubsidized loan.
- ❖ TEACH Grant exit counseling is available online on the Studentloans.gov website at:  
<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/teachExitCounseling.action#!/teachExit/launch>

## After School – Initial Certification

Students must initially certify with the Department of Education's TEACH Grant Servicer (FedLoan Servicing Center) within 120 days.

- Each Service obligation begins only after the student completes the academic program for which they received the TEACH Grant.
- After completing each year of the required 4 years of service, the student must complete and submit the TEACH Grant Certification form to the FedLoan Servicing Center by their due date to receive credit for that one year of service.
- If a student is not teaching, they must still annually certify with an "intent to satisfy" their teaching service obligation.

# After School – Annual Certification

The TEACH Grants Agreement to Serve states that TEACH Grant recipients must submit documentation 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.
- Starting in 2019, the new annual certification date that will apply to all TEACH Grant recipients is Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Each year at the beginning of October, the TEACH Grant servicer will notify students and tell them how to submit their documentation.
  - If recipients do not submit their documentation of progress or certification of intent by Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, and do not respond to reminder notices from FedLoan Serving, all TEACH Grants that the recipient received will be converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans that they must then repay with interest.

# Fulfilling the Teaching Service Obligation

In many circumstances the teaching service that a student completes may fulfill their service obligation for the 1st and all or part of the 2nd service obligation.

Example:

A student completes an academic program (e.g. Undergraduate program) for which they received the TEACH Grant and then immediately enrolls in another academic program (e.g. Teaching Credential program) for which they will receive the TEACH Grant, before they begin teaching. They request and receive a suspension of the eight-year period for completing their service obligation for the first program while they are enrolled in the second program. After completing the second program, they must complete four years of qualifying teaching service that will fulfill their service obligation for each program.

- Teaching service completed during the student's 2nd academic program can only be applied to fulfilling the 1<sup>st</sup> service obligation.
- Teaching service completed after the 2nd academic program is completed, can be applied to fulfilling both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> service obligation.
  - ❖ 4 years of teaching service must be completed within 8 years

# **After School - Suspending your TEACH Grant**

Students may request a temporary suspension based on the following situations:

- 1.** A student received a TEACH Grant for an undergraduate program and later enrolls in an eligible graduate 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.

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.*

## **After School – Unable to Certify**

If the student did not complete the TEACH Grant program of study, they must do one of the following within 1 year after they leave:

- Qualify for a temporary suspension of the period for completing their service obligation; or
- Re-enroll in another TEACH Grant eligible program of study; or
- Begin qualifying teaching service

If the student does not meet one of these requirements, their TEACH Grants will be converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans. Once the grant is converted to a loan, it may not be converted back to a grant.

# **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:

- The student requests that their grants be converted into a loan.
- The student didn't complete the program for which they received the grant and within 120 days of ceasing enrollment they failed to notify FedLoan Servicing Center.
- The student didn't complete the program for which they received the grant and within one year of ceasing enrollment they did not reenrolled in another eligible program.
- The student completed the academic program for which they received the grant, but did not confirm to the FedLoan Servicing Center at least once a year that they intend to satisfy their service obligation.
- The student completed the academic program for which they received the grant, but did not begin or maintain qualifying employment as a teacher.

## New Policy – Conversion Reconsideration

ED has finalized a process that provides an opportunity for certain TEACH Grant recipients whose TEACH Grants were converted to Direct Unsubsidized Loans to request consideration of the conversions.

Recipients can request reconsideration if:

- They are meeting TEACH Grant service requirements within the eight-year service obligation period, but did not comply with the annual certification requirement.
  - Service requirements are:
    - ✓ Serve as a full-time teacher for 4 academic years within 8 years
    - ✓ Serve as a highly qualified teacher at a low-income school.
    - ✓ Serve in a high need-field

# FedLoan Servicing Center

- TEACH Grant recipients should always contact the FedLoan Servicing Center within 120 days of completing their program to determine if they need to request a suspension, an intent to satisfy or receive their first annual certification due date.
  - It's important that recipients keep the FedLoan Servicing Center informed of their current contact information.
  - Students can set up and periodically check their paperless inbox on the FedLoan website for certification notifications and updates.
- ❖ Contact the FedLoan Servicing Center:  
Toll free: 1-800-699-2908  
<https://myfedloan.org/borrowers/special-programs/teach-grants>

# TEACH Grant Resources

**Department of Education website:**

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach>

**Stan State TEACH Grant website:**

<https://www.csustan.edu/financial-aid-scholarship/teach-grant>

**Teacher Shortage Nationwide Listing:**

<https://tsa.ed.gov/#/reports>

**Low Income School Directory:**

<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/tcli.action>

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