



STUDENT FINANCIAL PLANNING

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consisting of several vertical lines of varying heights and widths, and several orange circles of different sizes arranged in a cluster.

## TEACH GRANT

**Teacher Education Assistance for College and  
Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program**

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW....

- The U.S. Department of Education's (the Department's) TEACH Grant program provides grant funds to postsecondary students who are completing or plan to complete coursework that is needed to begin a career in teaching, and who agree to serve for at least four years as a full-time, highly qualified teacher in a high-need field, in a school serving low-income students. The annual statutory amounts are as follows: eligible full-time students may receive up to \$4,000 (check percentage reduction from statutory award amount) per year in TEACH Grant funds, up to a maximum of \$16,000 for undergraduate study, and \$8,000 for graduate study. Award amounts are decreased based on enrollment hours. The annual amount is subject to change based on federal sequestration.
- If you receive a TEACH Grant but do not complete the required four years of teaching service within eight years after completing the coursework for which you received the grant, or if you otherwise do not meet the requirements of the TEACH Grant Program, all TEACH Grant funds that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan that you must repay in full, with interest, to the Department. Once a TEACH Grant is converted to a loan, it cannot be converted back to a grant.



# TEACH GRANT ADJUSTED AMOUNT 2022-23

## TEACH Grant Awards

Award Year	Impacted Awards	Statutory Maximum Scheduled Award Amount	Percentage Reduction from Statutory Award Amount	Dollar Reduction Amount from Maximum Award Amount	Adjusted Maximum Award Amount
2022-2023	First disbursed on or after October 1, 2021 and before October 1, 2022 (FY 22 Sequester)	\$4,000	5.70%	\$228.00	\$3,772
	First disbursed on or after October 1, 2022 and before October 1, 2023 (FY 23 Sequester)	\$4,000	5.70%	\$228.00	\$3,772



# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be admitted as a degree-seeking student in the Mercer Tift College Of Education
- Must be classified as a junior/senior (minimum 60 earned semester hours) or enrolled in an approved master's degree program
- Must be seeking a B.S, M.A.T or M.Ed. degree, at Mercer, in one of the following majors:
  - Foreign Language Education -Spanish
  - Mathematics (Middle Grades or Secondary)
  - Science (Middle Grades or Secondary-Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Computer Science or Physics)
  - Special Education
  - Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)
  - Reading Specialist
  - Any other field that has been identified as high need in the annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing
- Students enrolled outside the Tift College of Education must appeal for permission to receive the TEACH Grant based on an identified high need field.
- Must not have a prior undergraduate or master's degree
- Must maintain a minimum 3.25 Mercer GPA (checked at the end of each semester)
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Eligible Non-Citizen
- Must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Financial Aid



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

Before receiving a TEACH Grant you must complete the following forms, in this specific order:

- Must complete TEACH Grant counseling (<https://studentaid.gov/teach-grant-program>) that explains the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant service obligation
- Must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (<https://studentaid.gov/teach-grant-program>)



# WHAT IS A TEACH GRANT ELIGIBLE PROGRAM?

- A TEACH Grant eligible program is a program of study that is designed to prepare you to teach as a highly qualified teacher in a high-need field and that leads to a bachelor's or master's degree.
- A post baccalaureate program is **not** TEACH Grant eligible if it is offered by a school that also offers a bachelor's degree in education. \*\*The post baccalaureate Teacher Certification program at Mercer is not eligible for TEACH Grant.
- Schools that participate in the TEACH Grant Program determine which of the programs they offer are TEACH Grant eligible. A program that is TEACH Grant eligible at one school might not be TEACH Grant eligible at another school.



# TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE TEACH GRANT SERVICE OBLIGATION

- For each TEACH Grant eligible program you receive TEACH Grant funds, you must serve as a full-time teacher for a total of at least four academic years within eight years after you complete or otherwise cease to be enrolled in the program for which you received the grant.
- You must perform the teaching service as a highly qualified teacher at a low-income school or educational service agency.
- Your teaching service must be in a high-need field
- You must provide ED with documentation of your progress toward completing your service obligation.
- If you do not meet the requirements of your service obligation, all TEACH Grant funds you received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. You must repay this loan in full, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.



## AWARD AMOUNTS

The award amount is subject to change based on federal sequestration.

The annual statutory amount is as follows:

- Full-time enrollment (12+ credit hours): \$4,000
- Three-quarter-time enrollment (9-11 credit hours): \$3,000
- Half-time enrollment (6-8 credit hours): \$2,000
- Less-than-half-time enrollment (5 credit hours or less): \$1,000





# TEACH GRANT HIGH-NEED FIELDS

- Foreign Language - Spanish
- Mathematics
- Reading Specialist
- Science
- Special Education
- Any other field listed in the U.S. Department of Education's annual that are listed in the Department of Education's Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing. To access the listing, please go to:  
<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc>



# CAN A TEACH GRANT SERVICE OBLIGATION EVER BE SUSPENDED? PART I

- You may request a temporary suspension of the period for completing your service obligation if you are unable to teach for one of the following reasons:
  - You are enrolled in a TEACH Grant eligible program of study, or a program of study that has been determined by a state to satisfy the requirements for certification or licensure to teach in the state's elementary or secondary schools.
  - You are receiving state-required instruction or otherwise fulfilling requirements for licensure to teach in a state's elementary or secondary schools.
  - You have a condition that is a qualifying reason for leave under the [Family and Medical Leave Act](#).



# CAN A TEACH GRANT SERVICE OBLIGATION EVER BE SUSPENDED? PART II

- You are called or ordered to federal or state active duty, or active service as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces named in 10 U.S.C. 10101, or service as a member of the National Guard on full-time National Guard duty, as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101(d)(5).
- Your spouse has received military orders for a deployment with a military unit or as an individual in support of a military operation for a period of not less than 180 days, or has received military orders for a change of permanent duty station from a location in the continental United States to a location outside the continental United States, or from a location in a state to any location outside of that state.
- You reside in or are employed in a federally-declared major disaster area.
- On a case-by-case basis, we may also temporarily suspend the eight-year period for completing your service obligation if we determine that you were unable to complete a full school year of teaching or were unable to begin the next school year of teaching due to exceptional circumstances significantly affecting the operation of the low-income school where you were employed or your ability to teach.



# CAN A TEACH GRANT SERVICE OBLIGATION EVER BE CANCELLED?

- You may cancel all or part of a TEACH Grant by submitting the TEACH Grant Cancellation to the Mercer Office of Student Financial Planning within 14 calendar days of the date you are notified of the disbursement to your student account.
- If you submit the TEACH Grant Cancellation form after the 14-day period but within 120 days of the date the TEACH Grant disbursement date, Mercer may return the TEACH Grant funds, but is not required to do so. However, you may at any time request that the Department of Education convert a TEACH Grant to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that you can repay.



# HOW DOES THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TRACK MY TEACHING SERVICE?

Within 120 days of completing or otherwise ceasing enrollment in your program of study, you must certify to the U.S. Department of Education that either you are employed as a full-time teacher in accordance with the terms and conditions of the service agreement, or you are not yet employed as a full-time teacher but you intend to meet the terms and conditions of the service agreement.

At the end of each year, if you are performing full-time teaching service in accordance with the service agreement, you must provide the Department with documentation of your teaching service on a Department-approved form that is certified by the chief administrative office of the school in which you are teaching. The form must document that you are a highly qualified teacher, teaching in any of the designated high-need fields, in a designated low-income school.



# DISCHARGE OF A TEACH GRANT SERVICE OBLIGATION

The Department will discharge your TEACH Grant service obligation only under the following conditions:

- The Department receives acceptable documentation of your death; or
- The Department determines that you are totally and permanently disabled, and you meet certain additional conditions during a 3-year conditional discharge period.

If the Department discharges your service obligation under one of these two conditions, your TEACH Grant(s) will not be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, and neither you nor your family will be required to repay any TEACH Grant funds that you received.



## WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T COMPLETE THE REQUIRED TEACHING SERVICE AS REQUIRED BY THE SERVICE AGREEMENT?

If you receive a TEACH Grant but do not complete the required teaching service as previously explained, you will be required to repay the grants as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, with interest charged from the date that each TEACH Grant was disbursed. For more information, go to [www.teach-ats.ed.gov](http://www.teach-ats.ed.gov).



# RESOURCES

- <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/teach>
- <https://financialaid.mercer.edu/federal-grants.cfm>

Student Financial Planning

(478) 301-2670

MaconRAC\_finaid@mercer.edu

