



PLUS vs. Private Loan Comparison		
	Federal Parent PLUS Loan	Private Student Loan
Borrower	Parent – cannot be transferred to student’s name at any time	Student – will likely require credit-worthy cosigner. Cosigner release option typically available after consecutive on-time payments.
Eligibility	Must be enrolled at least half time in a degree-seeking program	Varies by lender – some lenders allow less than half-time enrollment
Credit Requirements	Credit check required. Parent or endorser must not have adverse credit history.	Credit check required. Approval is generally based on creditworthiness of borrower and/or cosigner.
Interest Rates	6.84% Fixed Interest Rate (15-16 rate)	Fixed or Variable Options – will range depending on credit
Disbursement Fees	4.292% Origination Fee (15-16)	Usually 0%, depends on lender
Repayment Terms	10 – 25 years	Typically 5 – 15 years, depends on lender
Loan Consolidation	Can consolidate, may qualify for income-based repayment	Some lenders do offer private loan consolidation, but cannot be combined with federal loans
Loan Forgiveness	Loan is forgiven in event of permanent disability or death of parent or student	Loan may be forgiving upon permanent disability or death of student – depends on lender
Aggregate Amounts	None	Some lenders set limit that student can borrow throughout school career (approx. \$150,000)
Applying	Apply at www.studentloans.gov	Visit lender website for application. www.elmselect.com for assistance

Monthly Payment Plan:

- Higher One Tuition Payment Plan offers the ability to finance the balance due for both semesters throughout the academic year – typically spread over ten payments.
- Interest-free with a small processing fee up front (approx. \$65).
- Can be used in conjunction with loan above to lower amounts borrowed.