

Make College a Reality
Get Your Student Loan from Bell Credit Union
Lender Code: 832772

You know the value of a college education.

Getting a college degree is a worthwhile goal. College graduates make an average of one million dollars more than those without college degrees (www.studentloanfacts.org). But the cost of a college education can be overwhelming for both students and parents. That's why Bell Credit Union offers Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) loans. If you or another family member plans to attend a university, technical college, or any specialized training program, Bell Credit Union can help you with the funding you need to pursue your dreams.

FFELP offers loans for students and parents.

- **Stafford Loans**
 - The *subsidized* Federal Stafford Loan is based on financial need. The government pays the interest while you are in school.
 - The *unsubsidized* Federal Stafford Loan is not based on need but family income is a determining factor. You pay all the interest, although you can have the payments deferred until after graduation.
- **PLUS (Parental Loan for Undergraduate Students) Loans**

Creditworthy parents of dependent undergraduate students can apply for this loan, which is not based on need.

Learn more about low-interest federal student loans.

Refer to the [Student Loan Quick Reference Guide](#) for more details on Stafford and PLUS Loans including:

- the application process
- current rates
- loan limits
- toll-free numbers to check the status of your loan account

Here's how to obtain a federal student loan.

1. Complete a FAFSA

Before you begin applying for a Stafford and/or PLUS Loan, you must first complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It must be completed for each academic year that you request federal aid. FAFSAs for the upcoming academic year are available online on or after January 2. Contact your school for their application deadline.

2. Receive your SAR

Once your FAFSA is processed, a Student Aid Report (SAR) is created. If you completed your FAFSA online, allow 1-2 weeks for you and your school to receive the SAR electronically. Paper FAFSAs take 6-8 weeks to process.

3. Receive your Award Letter

Your school(s) use data from your SAR to determine your financial aid award for the current academic year and send you an award letter by e-mail or US Mail. (If your letter mentions the *William D. Ford Direct Lending Program*, contact your school for the appropriate promissory note.)

4. Complete a Stafford Master Promissory Note

Complete and print the [Stafford Master Promissory Note](#) (MPN) to get your loan at Bell Credit Union. While you must complete the FASFA process to apply for aid each academic year, this Master Promissory Note will be used by the credit union to process all of your loans over multiple academic years at the same school. **Be sure to indicate your FULL school name (no abbreviations) and school code (if known), city and state in the upper right-hand corner of the Master Promissory Note.** Return it to the address below so we can complete the processing for you.

Bell Credit Union
Attn: Claudine
1601 N Lorraine
Hutchinson, KS 67501

5. If Needed, Complete a PLUS Master Promissory Note

Parents can complete and print the [PLUS Loan Master Promissory Note](#) online. The Plus Loan Master Promissory Note will be used for all of your loans over multiple academic years at the same school. **Be sure to indicate your child's school name (no abbreviations) and school code (if known), city and state in the upper right hand corner of the Master Promissory Note.** Return it to the address below so we can complete the processing for you.

Bell Credit Union
Attn: Claudine
1601 N Lorraine
Hutchinson, KS 67501

6. Your School will Receive the Funds

Both Stafford and PLUS Loans are guaranteed and serviced by Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc. (Great Lakes). When Great Lakes receives the Master Promissory Note from the credit union and School Certification Form from the school indicating the loan amount and disbursement dates, funds will be sent to the school.

7. Access Your Loan Account Online

You can check the status of your loan, view your account information and make payments from your bank account 24/7 at www.mygreatlakes.com. After you log in, choose My Loans, then Internet Borrower Inquiry Service to get started. This site offers a variety of tools for calculating the cost of your loan. It's your resource to forms, a glossary of financial aid terms, contact information, and lots of other information to help you manage your loans.

8. Call These Toll-free Numbers for Loan Inquiries

- Contact **BEFORE** your loan is disbursed to the school:
Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc. at 1-800-247-0462
- Contact **AFTER** your loan is disbursed to the school:
Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc. at 1-800-236-4300

After graduation, consider consolidating your student loans.

After you graduate lock into a low fixed rate by consolidating your student loans, even if you only have one. Find out more about [Consolidating your Student Loans](#).

Manage your finances.

Bell Credit Union and Great Lakes are committed to helping students learn to manage their finances. The regularly updated [Personal Financial Management Resources](#) provides information on anticipating college costs and staying in control of your finances while in school.

Plan your future. Visit these Web sites.

www.mapping-your-future.org - Detailed information about career planning, selecting a school, and paying for college.

www.studentaid.ed.gov - Detailed student aid and student loan information from the U.S. Department of Education.

www.fastweb.com - Scholarship information.

www.fafsa.ed.gov - Online application for financial aid (FAFSA).

www.pin.ed.gov - Apply for a PIN number to complete online FAFSA.

www.mygreatlakes.com - Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc. is the guaranty agency for your student loans. You can check the status of your student loans here.

www.nslds.ed.gov - View the history of the federal student financial aid you have received.

Need help?

For help with the student loan process, call the credit union at 620-662-0731, or e-mail to claudine@bellcu.com.

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