

MACALESTER

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2025-2026 FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN INSTRUCTIONS

All students who wish to borrow a Federal Direct Loan must follow the instructions below.

- ❖ **Students who have previously borrowed a Federal Direct Loan at Macalester should complete STEP ONE only.**
- ❖ **First-time borrowers must complete all three steps.**

You may complete the three steps below in any order, provided that you have already filed your 2025-2026 FAFSA. Even if you have not yet received a notice of financial aid eligibility, you can complete steps 2 and 3 now if you anticipate that you will need a Federal Direct Loan for 2025-2026.

To receive the most accurate fall semester billing statement possible, **you should complete the three steps below before billing statements are prepared in July.**

STEP ONE: REQUEST ALL OR PART OF YOUR FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN

Log in to 1600grand.macalester.edu. Click the Money Matters tab and then the Financial Aid Dashboard link. Select the 2025-2026 academic year from the drop-down list; then click the Award Offer tab and scroll down to the Loans section. Decide how much of your Federal Direct Loan you wish to borrow and click the Submit button.

Your Federal Direct Loan will not be processed until you request it. If you prefer not to accept your loan online, you may complete a Federal Direct Loan Request Form (available at macalester.edu/financialaid/forms).

STEP TWO: COMPLETE A MASTER PROMISSORY NOTE (MPN)

Visit studentaid.gov and choose the option to complete an MPN. You will need to log in using your FSA ID. Your FSA ID was used when filing your FAFSA and allows you access to Federal Student Aid sites. If you do not have a Department of Education FSA ID, you may obtain one by visiting studentaid.gov.

The Master Promissory Note is your official agreement to repay your loans, and your Federal Direct Loan cannot be delivered until you have completed an MPN. Macalester will automatically receive notification when your MPN is complete. For help with your MPN, you can call the Federal Student Loan Support Center at 800-557-7394.

STEP THREE: COMPLETE FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN ENTRANCE COUNSELING

Visit studentaid.gov and choose the option to complete Entrance Counseling. Entrance counseling provides an overview of the terms and regulations of the Federal Direct Loan program. It will check your understanding with questions along the way and ask you to estimate details of your personal financial situation to make sure you borrow responsibly.

Like the MPN, your Federal Direct Loan cannot be delivered until you have completed entrance counseling. Macalester will receive notification when your entrance counseling is complete.