

Effective July 1, 2008, the CCRAA establishes the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program, which provides up to \$4,000 a year in grant assistance to students who plan on becoming teachers and teachers who are obtaining graduate degrees. Effective October 1, 2014, federal sequestration has reduced the award amount of the TEACH Grant to a maximum of \$3,708 per year. Effective October 1, 2015, federal sequestration has updated the award amount of the TEACH Grant to a maximum of \$3,728 per year.

In exchange for the grant, candidates must agree to serve as a full-time teacher at certain schools and within certain fields for at least four academic years within eight years after completing the course of study for which the candidate received a grant. If the candidate fails or refuses to carry out his or her teaching obligation, the amounts of the TEACH Grants received are treated as an unsubsidized Direct Loan and must be repaid with interest.

Applicants for TEACH Grants may be undergraduate students, graduate students, students enrolled in a post-baccalaureate teacher credential program, or current or prospective teachers.

To qualify for a TEACH Grant, an applicant must meet certain academic standards. An applicant who is enrolled as an undergraduate student may qualify if he or she has a 3.25 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). If the student is in the first year of college, the grade point average standard applies to the student's cumulative high school record. Alternatively, an applicant qualifies if he or she scores above the 75th percentile on at least one of the batteries in an undergraduate, post-baccalaureate or graduate school admissions test. In any case, the student must be completing (or planning to complete) the coursework or requirements necessary to begin a career in teaching.

The GPA requirements do not apply to certain applicants who are or will be working on a graduate degree. Those applicants include a current teacher or retiree from another occupation with expertise in a field where there is a shortage of teachers (e.g., mathematics, science, special education, English language acquisition, or another high-need field).

To receive TEACH Grants, a teacher candidate must agree to:

- Serve as a full-time teacher for a total of not less than four academic years within eight years of completing his or her course of study;
- Comply with the requirements for being a highly qualified teacher as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act;
- Teach at a public or private nonprofit elementary or secondary school that is eligible for assistance under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as provided in section 465(a)(2)(A) of the HEA;
- Teach in any of the following fields: mathematics, science, a foreign language, bilingual education, special education, as a reading specialist, or in another field designated as high need by the Federal Government, State Government or local educational agency and approved by the Secretary;
- Provide evidence of required employment after each year of service in the form of a certification by the chief administrative officer of the school; and

- If the candidate fails or refuses to carry out his or her service obligation, repay as a loan the total amount of TEACH Grants received plus interest.

A full-time teacher candidate may receive up to \$3,708 each year prior to October 1, 2015. For awards made after October 1, 2015, the award amount is \$3,728 . The total amount of TEACH Grants that the candidate may receive for undergraduate or post-baccalaureate study may not exceed \$16,000. The total amount that a graduate student may receive may not exceed \$8,000. If the student is enrolled less than full-time, including less than half-time, the amount of the annual TEACH Grant that he or she may receive must be reduced in accordance with a schedule established by the Secretary in regulations