



## VASSAR COLLEGE LOAN AND LENDER INFORMATION

Vassar College realizes that financing an education can be a rather complex and confusing decision for families. As an entering college student you and your family will be inundated, if you haven't already, with loan information from many sources. We have found that much of the information families receive at this time of the year can be misleading as to the best rates and terms for student and parent education loans.

During these tight economic times many commercial lenders have dropped out of the federal student loan business or are changing how loans are being processed. With the Obama Administration's proposal to have all federally backed education loans processed through the Department of Education's Federal Direct Loan program, it seemed prudent for Vassar to become a participant in that program. We believe that this decision provides a more stable and secure borrowing solution for our Vassar families. As a result, all first time borrowers, both students and parents, will be directed to borrow through the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program.

Should the need arise to borrow above the Direct Student Loan limits in order to finance a Vassar education (as in the case of Parent PLUS loan denial), some Vassar families have found alternative loan products to be very helpful as a loan of last resort. Vassar College has a policy of refraining from an exclusive partnership with a single lender. The lenders on <https://www.elmselect.com> have been selected on the basis of their ability to provide excellent service to Vassar and our families, as well as lending products that are flexible and competitive. These are non-government loans with either the student or parent as the primary borrower and generally require a co-signer. The basis for the interest rates of these products differs among lenders. A comparison of these interest rates (prime rate versus 3 month Libor) can be found at <http://www.forecasts.org/interest-rate/index.htm>. For additional information, you may also want to visit the individual lenders websites.

*Michael P. Fraher*  
Director of Financial Aid

Note: The Federal Parent Loan has a provision for loan forgiveness in the event that either the parent or student dies or suffers 100% disability. This is not offered by private student loans where a co-signer is required for the student.

Students have an additional \$2,000 Unsubsidized Direct Student Loan eligibility that is not listed on the Statement of Financial Aid. Please see the Outside Scholarship Survey Form for instructions on how to apply.

# How to Apply for Loans:

## **Federal Direct Student Loan: (Student Loan – no credit required)**

- PIN #**
- You will need to have your Department of Education issued PIN to begin the process.  
If you do not have your PIN, please visit the official [PIN site](#)
- Entrance Counseling**
- Go to [Direct Loan Entrance Counseling](#)
    - 1) Select Entrance Counseling on the lower left side
    - 2) Click on Tutorial and Quiz
    - 3) Submit and Print the results for your files and to refer to in the future
- Master Promissory Note**
- Begin the process by choosing [Complete New MPN for Student Loans](#).
    - 1) Select the first option **Subsidized / Unsubsidized**
    - 2) Continue through the nine steps until you have completed the MPN
    - 3) Submit and Print a copy for your records

## **Federal Perkins Loans: (Student Loan – no credit required)**

If you have been awarded and are a first time Perkins Loan borrower for the 2009/2010 academic year, you will need to complete an Entrance Counseling session and Master Promissory Note (MPN) online via Campus Partners website (your loan servicer). Vassar College will inform Campus Partners of all new borrowers. **Their website will be updated with all student data after June 15, 2009.** After this date Campus Partners will notify you via your **Vassar email** account to start the Entrance and Promissory Note process. (You can not start before then.)

After you complete Entrance Counseling, the site will direct you to complete the Master Promissory Note. You will need your Department of Education issued PIN to sign the MPN. If you do not have your PIN, please visit the official [PIN site](#). Once all information is complete, Vassar College will be notified and the loan will disburse to your student account. If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact Shari Klotz at 845.437.5247 or [shsmith@vassar.edu](mailto:shsmith@vassar.edu).

## **Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS): (requires credit check)**

- PIN #**
- You will need to have your Department of Education issued PIN to begin the process.  
If you do not have your PIN, please visit the official [PIN site](#).
- PLUS Loan Request Form**
- Complete the Vassar Direct PLUS Loan Request Form
    - 1) Download from the Vassar Financial Aid [Forms and Resources](#) page
    - 2) Submit completed Vassar Direct PLUS Loan Request Form to the Office of Financial Aid
- Master Promissory Note**
- Begin the process:
    - 1) Read “What to Expect”
    - 2) Click on: [Complete New MPN for Parent PLUS](#)
    - 3) Submit and Print a copy for your records

## **Alternative/Private Loans: (Typically a Student Loan – requires credit check and co-borrower for best interest rate)**

- Go to <https://www.elmselect.com> to select a lender under the Alternative Tab (*be sure to read the information provided under tab since this is not the best financing option*)
  - 1) The ELMSelect Lender Comparison User Agreement emphasizes your right to select any lender, you must click on the box and accept indicating that you understand this right.
  - 2) On the next page – ELMSelect Lender Comparison – select **New York**, the state in which Vassar is located, you must then scroll down through the list of schools and click on Vassar College, then click “Search.”
  - 3) This is our Vassar specific page with tabs related to the various types of loans available for education and a comparison of our recommended lenders. Please review this information carefully.
  - 4) Select a lender under the *alternative loan* tab, click *apply now*, and complete the application/promissory note requirements. If you would like to choose a different lender, you can search for other lenders by clicking on the tab above Helpful Links.
  - 5) Click on the link to apply and fill out the Promissory Note.

## **Vassar Loans: (International Students – no credit required, but does require a reference)**

The Office of Student Accounts will e-mail international students at the end of July with an attached application to download along with instructions.