

## TEACH Grant Program – 2009-2010

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 created the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program, which provides up to \$4,000 per year (\$16,000 total for 4-year programs) in grants to students who commit to 1) teach full-time, 2) in high-need subject areas, 3) for at least four years, 4) at schools that serve students from low-income families. Graduate students may be eligible for \$4,000 per year (\$8,000 total) with this same commitment to teach.

An [application form](#) for the TEACH Grant at Regis University has been attached to this document. If you complete an application, you will be contacted with updates.

Students need to be aware that the grant requires a specific service requirement.

**If a student fails to complete the four-year teaching obligation, he or she will have to repay the grant with interest. The interest begins to accumulate when the student receives the first grant disbursement.**

Effective Dates – The first TEACH Grants will be awarded to eligible students for the 2009-2010 school year.

Student Eligibility Requirements – To qualify for the grant, you must:

- Complete the 2009-10 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) although you do not have to demonstrate financial need.
- Be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Be enrolled in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plan to complete such coursework. Coursework that will prepare a student to teaching a high-need subject area (for example, math courses for a student who intends to be a math teacher) is acceptable.
- Meet the following academic requirements:
  - Score above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on SAT, ACT, or GRE, **OR**
  - Graduate from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale **AND** maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 throughout your academic program for which you receive a TEACH grant.
- Complete TEACH Grant counseling.
- Sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay each year. This will be available electronically on a U.S. Department of Education web site.

TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay – Each year that you receive a TEACH grant, you must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay that is available on the Department of Education's web site. This agreement will specify the conditions under which the grant will be awarded and the teaching service requirements, and will require you to acknowledge that you understand that if you do not meet the teaching service requirements you must repay the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, with interest accrued from the date the grant funds were first disbursed.

Teaching Obligation – To avoid repaying the TEACH Grant as a loan with interest you must become a highly-qualified, full-time teacher in a high-need subject area and teach for at least 4 years within 8 years of finishing your academic program. You must teach at a school serving low-income students. Following are the definitions of these terms:

Highly-Qualified Teacher – This requirement is defined in section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or in section 602(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which can be found online at: [www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclletters/GEN0414.html](http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpclletters/GEN0414.html)

Full-time Teacher – You must meet the state’s definition of a full-time teacher and spend the majority (at least 51%) of your time teaching in one of the high-need subject areas. *Elementary school teachers who teach many subjects would not be able to fulfill their service requirements.*

High-Need Subject Areas –

Mathematics

Science

Foreign language

Bilingual education

English language acquisition

Special education

Reading specialist

Other identified teacher shortage areas as of the time you begin teaching in that field. These are teacher subject shortage areas—not geographic areas—listed in the Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing at [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc).

Schools Serving Low-Income Students – These schools include any elementary or secondary school listed in the Department of Education’s annual directory at: [www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp](http://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp)

Documentation – Within 120 days of completing enrollment in the TEACH-eligible academic program, you must notify the Department of Education that you are fulfilling or will fulfill the terms and conditions of the service agreement.

If you receive a TEACH grant, you must provide documentation to the U.S. Department of Education that you completed your teaching obligation. This documentation must be certified by the elementary or secondary school’s chief administrator officer after you have completed 4 academic years of teaching service.

- **Failure to complete the teaching obligation or properly document your teaching service will cause the TEACH Grant to be permanently converted to a loan with interest.**
- **Once a TEACH Grant is converted to a loan, it cannot be converted back to grant.**