# **TEACH Grant**

**In-Person Counseling** 





**University of Northern Iowa**. Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships

## Overview

- For students pursuing a teaching career in high-need fields
  - NOTE: A 2nd bachelor's degree at UNI does NOT qualify for the TEACH Grant
- Purpose of the TEACH Grant: More teachers in low-income schools increases student success
- UNI #8 for dollar amount and number of students receiving TEACH Grant



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Follow along in the TEACH Grant packet!

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## **Service Obligation**

#### • Must agree to teach full-time:

- At least 4 years in 8-year period
- As a highly qualified teacher
- In a low-income school
- In a high-need field
- Even if you only receive the TEACH Grant for one semester, you must fulfill the 4 year service obligation



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## Conversion

If terms and conditions are not met, it will convert to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accrued from the date of disbursement. 34%

UNI students had TEACH Grant convert to loan



National average for conversion



## **Receiving the TEACH Grant**

#### • To qualify you must:

- Have a declared major or minor in high-need field
- ACT/SAT score above the 75th percentile <u>OR</u> maintain a 3.25 cumulative GPA
- Accept the TEACH Grant on financial aid offer
- Will not disburse until TEACH Grant Counseling and Agreement to Serve & Repay have been completed online *(next slide)*



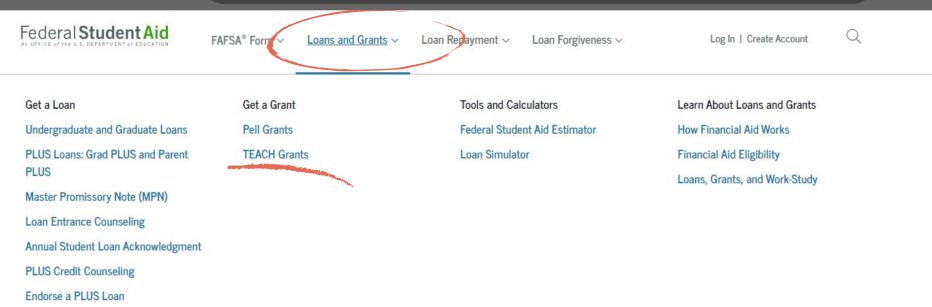
## Requirements



- Before receiving the TEACH Grant, the student must complete both of the following on <u>studentaid.gov</u>
  - Agreement to Serve and Repay (ATS) <u>and</u>
  - TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling



## $\leftrightarrow \rightarrow \circlearrowright$ $\cong$ studentaid.gov



Appeal a Credit Decision

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## **Annual and Aggregate Limits**

- For 23-24 AY: may receive up to \$3,772/year
- Prorated based on enrollment each semester
  - Full-time (12 hours) = \$1,886/semester
  - Half-time (6 hours) = \$943/semester

#### • Aggregate limits

- \$16,000 for undergraduates
- \$8,000 for graduate students



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## **Disclosure Statement**

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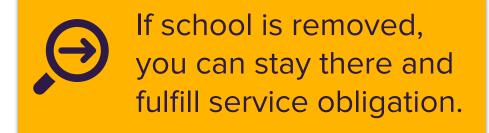
Three entities will communicate with you:

- **1. The U.S. Department of Education** will send a disclosure statement for each TEACH Grant you receive
- 2. UNI will communicate award amounts and disbursement dates
- **3. MOHELA** is the servicer for the TEACH Grant



## **Low-Income Schools**

- Low-Income School: 30% of students apply for free or reduced price lunch
- Indian Reservations automatically qualify
- 1,110 low-income schools in lowa





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## **High-Need Fields**

#### **Federal Level**

- Mathematics
- Science
- Foreign language
- Bilingual education
- English language acquisition
- Special Education
- Literacy Education

#### ...and others



#### State of Iowa

- Teacher Librarian
- School Counselor

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

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- Must teach over half your time in high need field (esp. important for Elementary Education)
- If high-need field drops off, can still teach in that field

## **Service Obligation**



- Must complete four-year service obligation for <u>each</u> academic program for which you receive the TEACH Grant
- Must be completed within 8 years after you complete or otherwise cease to be enrolled in your program



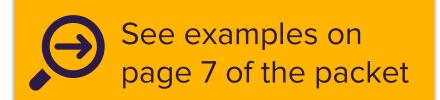
### **Service Obligation - Grad School**

#### • While in a graduate program:

 Years of service may only be counted toward your <u>first</u> program (your undergraduate program)

#### • After completing graduate program:

• Years of service may be counted toward **<u>both</u>** programs





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## **Temporary Suspension**

#### • May be granted if you:

- Return to school and enroll in a TEACH-eligible program
- Have a condition covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- Called to active duty status for more than 30 days
- Spouse of military service member who receives change of permanent duty station outside continental U.S.
- Reside in or are employed in a federally declared major disaster area
- Granted in 1-year increments
- Cannot exceed 3 years (except for active duty)
- 8-year period will resume after suspension



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## **Requesting Suspension**

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Submit request to TEACH Servicer: MOHELA

**Complete form** 

Submit required documentation



## **Half-Year of Teaching**

## If you only complete $\frac{1}{2}$ year of teaching, it may be counted as 1 year if you were unable to complete full year due to:

- Condition(s) covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) → maternity, sick leave, etc.
- Called to active duty status for more than 30 days





## **Teaching at Multiple Schools**

## If you teach at multiple qualifying schools, it will count as 1 year if:

- You can provide MOHELA certification that combined teaching was equivalent to one school year of full-time employment, <u>and</u>
- More than half your time was spent teaching in high-need field(s)



## **Documentation**

#### If you are teaching:

• Recommended to do a Employment Certification after each year of qualifying Teaching Service is completed.

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- If no documentation is received within five years, and no suspensions have been granted, will convert to loan.
- Forms available through the TEACH Grant Servicer (MOHELA).



## **Discharge of TEACH Grant**

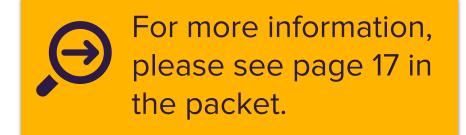
- Service obligation will be discharged if:
  - Student becomes totally and permanently disabled
  - Death of the student (must provide acceptable documentation)
- Will <u>not</u> convert to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Family will <u>not</u> have to repay TEACH Grant funds



## **Military Discharge**

#### **Proportional discharge for military service if you:**

- Have received the maximum three-year suspension, and
- Are subject to an extended call or ordered to active military status that exceeds three years





### Reasons for Conversion Student Request

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## Students can request conversion if they change majors, no longer plan to fulfill the service obligation, etc.

Contact the Servicer overseeing the TEACH Grant, if this is the case (MOHELA)



### **Reasons for Conversion** Did not complete program

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## Did not complete program for which TEACH Grant was received, and you:

- have not re-enrolled in TEACH-eligible program
- have not been approved for a suspension



### Reasons for Conversion Completed program

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## Complete program for which TEACH Grant was received, but:

- you don't begin or maintain qualifying employment which would allow you to fulfill 4 years within 8 year period
- Any other condition that would prevent you from completing your service obligation (e.g., felony conviction)



## **Consequences of Conversion**

- Required to repay the full amount of TEACH Grant funds received
- Interest charged from date of disbursement
  5.50% fixed interest rate for 23-24 year
- Won't count toward annual/aggregate loan limits
- If your TEACH Grant was converted in error, please contact your TEACH Servicer (MOHELA)



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## Loan Repayment

- 6 month Grace Period
- Same repayment plans as federal student loans
  - Standard, Graduated, Extended, Income-Based, Pay As You Earn, Income-Contingent, Revised Pay As You Earn
- Deferment and Forbearance (pgs. 26-28)
- Stay in contact with TEACH Servicer
- Avoid:
  - **Delinquency:** 1 day late
  - **Default:** 270 days late (extreme, serious consequences!)



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## Studentaid.gov Resources

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- Repayment plans and calculators
- Agreement to Serve & Repay & Online Counseling
- Teacher Loan Forgiveness
  - Teach 5 consecutive years in low-income school in any subject and get up to \$5,000 forgiven
  - AND IF serve in high-need field
    - Math or Science at secondary level get up to \$17,500 forgiven
    - Special Education at ANY level (pre-K 12) get up to \$17,500 forgiven

