

# Northwestern

## UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID

### DEBT CAP SCHOLARSHIP POLICIES

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- The University will cap federal need-based loans (Federal Perkins loans and Federal Subsidized Stafford loans) for students receiving Northwestern Scholarship assistance.
- **Beginning with the 2016-17 academic year and going forward, all students will have their need-based loans capped at \$20,000, regardless of their previous cap rate. The previous rates are listed below.**

Students admitted prior to the Fall 2012 term: \$20,000  
Students admitted for the Fall 2012 term: \$22,500  
Students admitted for the Fall 2013 term: \$23,500  
Students admitted for the Fall 2014 term: \$24,400  
Students admitted for the Fall 2015 term: \$25,000

*NOTE: Students who have exceeded the new \$20,000 debt cap level prior to 2016-17 will not receive assistance retroactively. However, these students will receive additional scholarship for future terms regardless of their original cap rate.*

- Students will receive additional scholarship assistance to replace approved loans that exceed the cap. These additional funds will most likely be provided at the beginning of the senior year and will be included in the financial aid award as the “Debt Cap Scholarship”.
- Only need-based loans borrowed while the student is enrolled during his/her regular 12 terms will be included in the cap.
- **Beginning with the 2016-17 academic year and going forward, students admitted to a 15 term pre-approved double degree program will have their debt capped at \$25,000, regardless of their previous cap rate. The previous rates are listed below.**

Students admitted for the Fall 2012 term and prior: \$25,000  
Students admitted for the Fall 2013 term: \$26,000  
Students admitted for the Fall 2014 term: \$26,900  
Students admitted for the Fall 2015 term: \$27,500

*NOTE: Students who have exceeded the new \$25,000 debt cap level prior to 2016-17 will not receive assistance retroactively. However, these students will receive additional scholarships for future terms regardless of their original cap rate.*

- Students will be offered the Debt Cap Scholarship based upon institutionally determined financial need. Students may still be eligible to borrow student loan funds.

- Students are required to meet all federal, state and institutional financial aid application deadlines. Students who lose grant or scholarship eligibility as a result of a missed deadline may receive additional need-based loans to cover the loss, which will not be included in the cap.
- Students choosing to maximize their loan eligibility after they have received their initial award may not have these additional loans included in the cap.
- When borrowing a private alternative loan, federal loans will be maximized first. These additional loans will not be included in the cap.
- Students should be aware that supplemental borrowing such as replacing summer earnings, replacing federal work-study, purchasing a computer, attending summer session, appeals or participating in a study abroad program with a higher cost than NU may not be included in the cap.
- Athletic Scholarship recipients and transfer students are not eligible for the Debt Cap Scholarship.
- Students returning to the University from an academic dismissal or who have not made Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) may have loans that will not be included in the cap.
- Students wishing to borrow in addition to the Debt Cap Scholarship should contact our office in person, by mail or e-mail to make a request for additional funds.
- The University reserves the right to make adjustments to these policies as circumstances dictate.