
PRIVATE/ALTERNATIVE LOANS

WHAT ARE PRIVATE LOANS?

Private loans (sometimes referred to as alternative or supplemental loans) are funds from private lenders to help cover educational costs. A student may want to consider a private loan when federal financial aid is not enough to cover the student's estimated cost of attendance (COA). Before you apply for a private loan, be sure to check with the Financial Aid and Scholarships (FAS) office to ensure you have maximized your federal loan eligibility first. Federal loans are usually less expensive and have more favorable repayment terms and conditions in comparison to private loans. **If you have not completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or if you have federal loan eligibility remaining, FAS will notify you by email and require you to sign a private loan certification form before the loan will be processed.**

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR A PRIVATE LOAN?

Each lender has specific criteria you must meet to qualify for a loan. Most lenders will offer lower interest rates if you apply with a cosigner and some lenders **require** a cosigner. Most applications will require a credit check of the borrower and/or cosigner. Interest rates may vary by lender and may be dependent on a number of factors, including the credit check. In addition, KU may be asked to certify that you are meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards and that you have not exceeded your estimated cost of attendance (COA). Please visit www.financialaid.ku.edu/eligibility/sap.shtml for more information about SAP.

WHAT IS COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA)?

Your estimated cost of attendance (COA) is a standardized estimate of what it will cost you to attend KU for the academic year. FAS conducts research to determine the cost of living for students in the Lawrence area. The estimated COA is comprised of the following components: tuition/fees, room/board, books, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses. The COA also includes charges such as non-resident tuition and special fees for programs such as engineering, law, and pharmacy. Your financial aid package (including private loans) cannot exceed your estimated COA. Please visit www.financialaid.ku.edu/process/coa.shtml for your estimated COA figures and additional COA information.

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH PRIVATE LOAN IS RIGHT FOR ME?

There are many things to consider when choosing a lender. Be sure to ask the following questions:

- What are the loan fees?
- What is the interest rate?
- When do I have to start repaying the loan?
- Do I have to be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards?
- In how many hours do I have to be enrolled to receive the loan?
- What repayment options are available?

DOES KU OFFER ANY PRIVATE LOANS?

The KU Endowment Association loan program provides modest loan amounts to students who have at least a cumulative 2.0 KU GPA. New graduate students and new transfer students must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA to be eligible. You are not required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for this loan; however, a cosigner may be required. Applications are available online at www.kuendowment.org.

HOW CAN I GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRIVATE LOANS?

Many lenders offer private loans. Private loans are not the same as Federal Direct Stafford loans. If you have not yet borrowed Federal Direct Stafford loans, we encourage you to explore that option before proceeding with a private/alternative loan. If you have any questions about your Federal Direct Stafford loan eligibility, please contact FAS. Please see the Private/Alternative Loans Comparison Chart on the next page for more information about private lenders.

PRIVATE/ALTERNATIVE LOANS COMPARISON CHART

Listed below are private loan lenders that have been used by University of Kansas students in the past three years. We encourage you to research private loan lenders and select the one that best fits your needs. You are not required to borrow from a lender on this list and we recommend you not complete a loan application until you have selected your lender. You will be notified if KU is unable to certify the loan you selected or if you have already reached your maximum eligibility. The following information is accurate as of November 2010. Program requirements and other elements of private loan programs may frequently change. This comparison chart is intended to be a guide. For the most accurate and current information, please contact your lender. If you have not yet borrowed Federal Direct Stafford or Federal Direct PLUS loans, we encourage you to explore those options before proceeding with a private/alternative loan. If you have questions about your federal loan eligibility, please contact FAS at (785) 864-4700.

EDUCATIONAL STUDENT LOANS								
Lender Name	Website	Phone Number	Available for Undergraduate Students?	Available for Graduate Students?	Available for International Students?	Must Meet SAP?	Must Be Degree Seeking?	Must Be At Least Half-Time?
Anheuser Busch Employees' Credit Union	www.abecu.studentchoice.org	800-325-9905	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Chase	www.chaseselectloans.com	866-306-0868	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Citi, The Student Loan Corporation	www.studentloan.com	800-967-2400	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
cuStudentLoans	http://app.custudentloans.org/edacces/step_1?sk	888-549-9050	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Digital Federal Credit Union	www.dcu.studentchoice.org	800-324-1589	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Discover Student Loans	www.discoverstudentloans.com	877-728-3030	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Fifth Third Bank	www.53educationlending.com	800-222-7192	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
KU Credit Union	www.kucu.studentchoice.org	800-897-6991	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
PNC	www.pnconcampus.com	800-762-1001	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Sallie Mae	www.salliemae.com/smartoption	800-695-3317	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
SunTrust	www.suntrusteducation.com	866-763-6350	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
U.S. Bank	www.usbank.com/nofeeapp	800-242-1200	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Wells Fargo	www.wellsfargo.com/student	800-658-3567	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

Bar assistance loans may be referred to as Bar Study, Bar Exam, or Bar Review assistance loans. They are loan funds available from private lenders to help cover bar exam costs, which includes bar review course fees, exam-related preparatory materials, and living expenses. The lender may require the school to certify a Bar Exam loan; however, the loan funds are disbursed directly to the student.

BAR EXAM LOANS		
Lender Name	Website	Phone Number
Citi, The Student Loan Corporation	www.studentloan.com	800-967-2400
Sallie Mae	www.salliemae.com/barstudy	800-695-3317
Wells Fargo	www.wellsfargo.com/student	800-658-3567

NEED HELP DEVELOPING A BUDGET?

Student Money Management Services (SMMS) at KU provides personal financial education services to KU students free of charge, offering one-on-one advising Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can schedule an appointment by calling (785) 864-1182 or by visiting the office in the Kansas Union, room 300-B. Visit www.money.ku.edu for more information.