



Other Education Loan Fact Sheet

Western State University College of Law offers the “Other Education Loans” option to students to assist them with bridging the gap between education costs and traditional aid sources such as Federal Direct Loans. Approval of these loans does not lie with Western State and students must meet credit standards set by the lender. You may contact any of the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, Transunion) directly for information about obtaining your credit report. You may access a free credit report once a year at www.annualcreditreport.com.

Private / Alternative Education Loans

Private / Alternative Education Loans *are credit-based, privately guaranteed education loans*. These loans are available to students who are unable to finance the entire cost of their education with only their federal guaranteed student loans and other financial assistance. Each program offers different terms. Most lenders charge guarantee, origination, and repayment fees, and the repayment options vary. Some programs may offer deferment of principal and interest while in school; others may offer interest-only payments or require payment on the principal. Although these loans are not based on the student’s need, other financial assistance is always considered when determining maximum amounts. No combination of financial assistance may exceed the total cost of attendance for each academic year.

It is IMPORTANT to note that these are credit-based, privately guaranteed education loans that cannot be consolidated or combined with federal loans. Approval is the decision of the lender and WSU does not provide replacement funds when a lender denies a loan. See lenders’ websites for current rates and fees.

Lenders offer these non-federal education loans, but not all schools are eligible to participate with all lenders. Below is a list of lenders that currently accept applications from WSU students:

- Wells Fargo GraduateSM Loan www.wellsfargo.com/student
- U.S. Bank No Fee Education Loan www.usbank.com/studentloans
- Sallie Mae Smart Option Student Loan http://salliemae.com/get_student_loan/find_student_loan/smart-option-student-loan.htm

! If there is a lender who is not on this list, that you would like to use, please contact us to see if we can participate with that lender.

Private / Alternative Education Loan Summary

- These loans are guaranteed by private companies and may be very expensive; students should only borrow what they need.
- Interest rates vary by loan program and are usually based on one of the market indicators, plus a premium.
- Many of these loans have origination and guarantee fees, which may be deducted from the loan proceeds or added to the principle loan balance.
- Students/borrowers incur the interest while in school and may be required to make payments while in school.
- Credit history is the major factor lenders consider for approval of private/alternative loans. You may contact any of the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, Transunion) directly for information

about obtaining your credit report. You may access a free credit report once a year at www.annualcreditreport.com.

- Most lenders are requiring a credit worthy co-borrower.

Private / Alternative Education Loan Application Process

Apply online at the website listed. Once your loan is approved, the lender will contact WSU to certify the loan. Regardless of amount applied for or approved by the lender, we cannot certify loans for amounts in excess of the maximum eligibility amount as determined by WSU.