

FEDERAL TEACH GRANT APPLICATION

Complete this form to be considered for the federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant program. The TEACH Grant provides up to \$4,000 per year (\$16,000 total for 4-year undergraduate programs and \$8,000 total for graduate programs) in grants to students who commit to:

1. teach full time;
2. in high-need subject areas;
3. for at least four out of the first eight years teaching; **and**
4. at schools that serve students from low-income families

If the commitment is not fulfilled, the grant is permanently converted to a loan to be repaid by the recipient. The loan is a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest calculated from the time of the first grant disbursement. Once the grant is converted to a loan, it cannot be converted back to a grant.

NAME _____
Last First MI Student ID Number

DAY PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____ VCU EMAIL _____

LOCAL MAILING ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

Student Eligibility

Your signature below certifies that you meet the following eligibility requirements for 2014-2015:

- I have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2014-2015,
- I am a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen as defined by the federal aid application,
- For 2014-2015, I will be enrolled as an undergraduate at the **junior or senior level**, a post-baccalaureate student, or a graduate student,
- I am enrolled in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plan to complete such coursework. (Such coursework may include subject area courses, such as math courses for a student who intends to be a match teacher.)
- I am planning to teach **full-time** in a **high-need field** or other identified teacher shortage area **at a school serving low- income students**,
- I have scored above the 75th percentile on a college admission test on file at VCU or have maintained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25,
- I have completed entrance counseling for the Teach Grant at <https://teach-ats.ed.gov/ats/index.action>, and
- I have signed a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and understand the service requirement.

Certification

I certify that the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I attest that I have read, understand, and will adhere to the Rights and Responsibilities options listed on the next page of this form. I also understand that if I receive a TEACH Grant but do not complete the required teaching service, I will be required to repay the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.

Signature Date

Advisor's Certification

To the best of my knowledge, I certify that the student is enrolled in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plans to complete such coursework, and that the student will be teaching in a high-need field or other identified shortage area listed at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc>.

Signature Date

Name (printed) Date



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(Keep for your records)

Amount of Award

The yearly amount of the grant is based on enrollment status: \$4,000 for full-time, \$3,000 for ¾ time, \$2,000 for ½ time and \$1,000 for less-than ½ time enrollment. The lifetime maximum is \$16,000 for undergraduate-level study and \$8,000 for graduate-level study.

TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay

Each year you receive a TEACH Grant, you must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) and Promise to Pay (service agreement) that will be available electronically on a Department of Education Web site. The TEACH Grant service agreement specifies the conditions under which the grant will be awarded, the teaching service requirements, and includes an acknowledgment by you 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. (<https://teach-ats.ed.gov/ats/index.action>).

Teaching Obligation

To avoid repaying the TEACH Grant with interest you must be a highly-qualified, full-time teacher in a high-need subject area for at least four years at a school serving low-income students. You must complete the four years of teaching within eight years of finishing or ceasing to be enrolled in the program for which you received the grant. You incur a four-year teaching obligation for each educational program for which you received TEACH Grant funds, although you may work off multiple four-year obligations simultaneously under certain circumstances.

Highly-Qualified, Full-Time Teacher

You must perform the teaching service as a highly-qualified teacher, which is defined in federal law. The definition can also be found online at: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg107.html>. To be considered full-time, you must meet the state's definition of a full-time teacher.

High-Need Subject Areas

You must spend the majority (at least 51 percent) of your time teaching one of the high-need subject areas, a subject determined to be high-need when you sign your Agreement to Serve. Elementary teachers who teach many subjects would not be able to fulfill their service agreement. Currently the high-need subjects are:

- Bilingual education and English language acquisition
- Foreign language
- Mathematics
- Reading specialist
- Science, and
- Special education

Schools Serving Low Income Students

Schools serving low income students include any elementary or secondary school that is listed in the Department of Education's Annual Directory of designated Low Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits at <https://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/>. To fulfill your service requirement, the school at which you work must be designated low income when you sign your ATS.

Documentation

You must respond promptly to any requests for information or documentation from the U.S. Department of Education, even if they seem repetitive. These requests will be sent to you while you are still in school as well as once you are out of school. You will be asked regularly to confirm that you either still intend to teach or that you are teaching as required. You must provide documentation to the U.S. Department of Education at the end of each year of teaching.

If you temporarily cease enrollment in your program of study or if you encounter situations that affect your ability to begin or continue teaching, you will need to stay in touch with the U.S. Department of Education to avoid your grants being converted to loans before you are able to complete your teaching obligation

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Failure to complete the teaching obligation, respond to requests for information, or properly document your teaching service will cause the TEACH Grant to be permanently converted to a loan with interest. Once a grant is converted to a loan it can't be converted back to a grant.



VCU Division of Strategic
Enrollment Management

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

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