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# 2008-09 Federal TEACH Grant FAQs

## QUESTIONS ABOUT ELIGIBILITY, AWARDING AND DISTRIBUTION

- 1. Is the TEACH Grant awarded for this and last semester or for the next two semesters?**  
The most recent TEACH Grants were awarded to eligible students for fall 2008 and spring 2009. Students who complete a 2009-10 FAFSA will be considered for 2009-10 once ASU begins awarding for the 2009-10 academic year.
- 2. How do I apply for the TEACH Grant; is it separate from applying for financial aid?**  
You apply for the TEACH Grant by completing a FAFSA. ASU will select students who are in the appropriate majors and offer them the TEACH Grant. Students will be required to accept the grant and complete entrance counseling as well as an Agreement to Serve.
- 3. When is the deadline for applying for the grant?**  
The same deadline to apply with the FAFSA and meet eligibility requirements applies to the TEACH Grant. The FAFSA must be received, along with the Agreement to Serve and entrance counseling, before the last day of class during the spring 2009 semester.
- 4. Is it year round or only offered at a specific time of year?**  
The TEACH Grant can be year round if the student has not used their annual limit in the fall and spring. At ASU, summer sessions are "trailers", meaning that summer is the **end** of the year.
- 5. How long does it take to hear whether or not I will receive the grant?**  
For this first year, because the awarding and management of the program is manual, students are being selected by groups. Once awarded, the student will receive an e-mail announcing their selection and the next steps to complete the award acceptance. For the 2009-10 academic year, we anticipate making TEACH Grant awards during summer 2009.
- 6. How is the grant amount of the Federal TEACH Grant calculated?**  
Student Financial Assistance must monitor your eligibility every year. If you are receiving any federal financial aid, all sources of your financial aid (scholarships, grants, waivers, third-party payments, loans, etc.) must be calculated. The total of all sources cannot exceed your estimated cost of attendance (COA). To calculate your estimated COA go to [students.asu.edu/cost-attendance](http://students.asu.edu/cost-attendance). See bottom of page two for examples.
- 7. When is the grant going to be disbursed?**  
For students that are awarded, ASU will disburse the TEACH Grant within five business days after receiving confirmation that the student has completed the following steps:
  - Accept the TEACH Grant on [my.asu.edu](http://my.asu.edu) financial aid page.
  - Complete the Agreement to Serve at [www.teach-ats.ed.gov](http://www.teach-ats.ed.gov).
  - Complete the TEACH Grant Entrance Counseling at [www.mappingyourfuture.org/te](http://www.mappingyourfuture.org/te).
- 8. If I get below a 3.25 but raise my GPA the following semester, do I still qualify for the grant or is it a one-time opportunity only?**  
If you raise your GPA to 3.25, send an e-mail to [financialaid@asu.edu](mailto:financialaid@asu.edu) requesting consideration for the TEACH Grant.
- 9. If I attended ASU, left with a low GPA, went to another institution and transferred in with a GPA above 3.25, would ASU look at my transfer GPA or my combined GPA between ASU and the transfer institution?**  
ASU must consider your ASU GPA. Note, this is a new program and criteria are subject to change based upon information received from the U.S. Dept. of Education. ASU is working directly with the department to clarify questions.
- 10. I currently have the TEACH grant, but received a GPA below 3.25 in one semester, but raised it above 3.25 the following semester; how does that affect my status, does my award start as a grant, turn into a loan and then turn back into a grant, or will the semester I received the low GPA be considered a loan period?**  
Neither, if you were awarded a TEACH Grant because your GPA is 3.25, you must maintain the 3.25 or increase the GPA in future terms to remain eligible for any additional award. If your GPA goes below 3.25, any old awards will remain as grants until you finish the program (or withdraw from school or notify the government that you do not intend to teach). Once graduated or withdrawn, the service requirement begins and the U.S. Dept. of Education will monitor your progress. You must provide them with documents showing that you are fulfilling your agreement to serve on an annual basis.
- 11. Does pursuing an Elementary Education degree with middle school math or science qualify me for the grant, or must it be secondary math and/or science?**  
Generally a middle school math or science teacher is considered an area of high need. The U.S. Department of Education guidelines states: "The TEACH Grant Program provides up to \$4,000 a year in grant assistance to a student who agrees to serve for at least four years as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families."

12. **What if I started as a freshman and pursued education, qualified and accepted the grant, then switched majors for a year and come back to education, met the eligibility criteria for the grant, completed the program and taught for four years in an eight year period; how would this affect me; would the first award be considered a loan or factored into my return to education?**

The award would still be a grant because you were within the time to complete the program, unless you stop attending or change your career field out of teaching. The government will be requiring you to send periodic confirmations.

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SERVICE OBLIGATION

1. **How many years do I have to teach?**  
You must teach at least four years as a full-time teacher within an eight year period of time.
2. **Does part-time teaching or substitute teaching count?**  
No, you must be a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.
3. **Can I teach any subject or grade?**  
You must be a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.
4. **What if my family moves and I have to leave the state; will it count if I teach in a low-income school?**  
TEACH Grant is a nationwide program; you may perform your service obligation in any state. You must be a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.
5. **What if I something happens and I can't teach or I can't find a job in a low-income area?**  
If you do not fulfill your agreement to serve, the grant(s) you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and you will have to repay it/them with interest. Once converted to a loan, they cannot be converted back to a grant. However, you should consult the U.S. Department of Education's resource listing of Title I Schools. It is very large.
6. **If I do not meet the TEACH grant obligations, when does the interest start accruing?**  
The interest on your converted grant starts accruing from the original disbursement date of the grant.
7. **Is there any way the teaching can be deferred for a year or two?**  
Yes, you must teach at least four years as a full-time teacher within an eight year period of time.
8. **Is it required to teach in a high risk area for four years and in a specific subject area for two, for a total of six years?**  
You must serve for at least four years (in an eight year period) as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. You must meet both the high-need area and low-income family requirements.
9. **My Special Education degree qualifies me for both Special Education and Elementary Education certification; if I get hired on as an Elementary teacher, even though I am also certified special ed., and I teach in an elementary classroom, does my grant monies turn into a loan?**  
Yes, that could happen because the elementary classroom is not considered a "high-need field". However, a special education elementary classroom is considered an area of high need. It will be your responsibility to choose a position that meets the service agreement requirements.
10. **Would we be eligible for it even though we don't meet the "high-need" requirement (special education, etc.)?**  
To keep the money as a grant, you must meet all the criteria: The TEACH Grant Program provides up to \$4,000 a year in grant assistance to a student who agrees to serve for at least four years as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.
11. **Regarding the rule of working so many years at a Title I school in return for the grant; do I HAVE to teach in one of those "high-need" fields to keep the money as a grant and not have to pay it back as a student loan, or would it count if I was a regular elementary school teacher working in a Title I school?**  
To keep the money as a grant, you must meet all the criteria, including teaching in a "high-need field". The TEACH Grant Program provides up to \$4,000 a year in grant assistance to a student who agrees to serve for at least four years as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.

## EXAMPLES OF FEDERAL TEACH GRANT AWARDS

EXAMPLE 1 – FULL TEACH GRANT	
Estimated COA	\$17,901
Pell Grant	- \$4,731
Other Federal Grants	- \$1,000
University Grants	- \$3,000
Stafford Loans	- \$5,170
<b>TEACH Grant Eligibility</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>

EXAMPLE 2 – DECREASED TEACH GRANT	
Estimated COA	\$17,901
Pell Grant	- \$4,731
Other Federal Grants	- \$1,000
University Grants	- \$3,000
Scholarships	- \$6,000
<b>TEACH Grant Eligibility</b>	<b>\$3,170</b>

EXAMPLE 3 – NO TEACH GRANT	
Estimated COA	\$17,901
Pell Grant	- \$4,731
Other Federal Grants	- \$1,000
University Grants	- \$2,170
Scholarships	- \$10,000
<b>TEACH Grant Eligibility</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp](http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp)
- [students.asu.edu/federal-teach-grant](http://students.asu.edu/federal-teach-grant)