

Athens State University  
**TEACH GRANT PROGRAM**

The TEACH (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education) Grant Program is a non-need based program that provides up to \$4,000 per year for undergraduate students enrolled in an eligible program at Athens State University and who intend to **teach full-time in high-need subject areas** for at least **four years at schools that serve students from low-income families**. The Teaching service requirement must be met within eight years of completing the college program for which the TEACH Grant was awarded.

Students may receive up to \$8,000 for undergraduate study at Athens State University.

The TEACH Grant is not available to students pursuing an additional bachelor's degree or a post baccalaureate certification at Athens State University.

Students enrolled less than full-time will have the TEACH Grant award reduced according to a schedule established by the U.S. Department of Education.

The amount of TEACH Grant awarded when combined with other student aid may not exceed a student's cost of attendance (COA).

TEACH Grant recipients that do not fulfill their teaching obligations must repay the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan with interest accruing from the date the grant was disbursed.

**IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLETE THE FOUR-YEAR TEACHING OBLIGATION YOU WILL HAVE TO REPAY THE GRANT WITH INTEREST!!!**

**Effective Dates**

The first TEACH Grants will be awarded to eligible students beginning with the 2008-09 academic year.

**Student Eligibility Requirements**

To receive a TEACH Grant you must:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) @ [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Meet the eligibility requirements for federal student aid
- Be enrolled in a program of study designated as TEACH Grant-eligible. Eligible programs are those that prepare a student to teach in a high-need area.
- **TEACH Grant-eligible programs of study at Athens State University are:**
  - Bachelor of Science in Education - Collaborative Teacher (K-6)
  - Bachelor of Science in Education - Collaborative Teacher (6-12)
  - Bachelor Science in Biology/Licensure (6-12)
  - Bachelor Science in Chemistry/Licensure (6-12)
  - Bachelor Science in General Science/Licensure (6-12)
  - Bachelor Science in Mathematics/Licensure (6-12)

Bachelor of Arts in English (Language Arts Licensure 6-12)

Bachelor of Arts in History Licensure (6-12)

Bachelor of Science in Social Science/Licensure (6-12)

- Meet one of the following academic achievement requirements
  - Score above the **75th percentile** on a college admissions test (e.g. SAT, or ACT), **or**
  - Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) on your college coursework to receive a grant for each subsequent term.
- Complete the Federal Direct Loan Entrance Counseling @ [www.dl.ed.gov](http://www.dl.ed.gov)
- Complete TEACH Grant annual counseling and exit counseling as required. Submit the TEACH GRANT PROGRAM Certification of Entrance Counseling to the Financial Aid Office at Athens State University.
- Sign a TEACH Grant **Agreement to Serve** and respond to requests by the U.S. Department of Education confirming your continuing intention to meet the teaching obligation. The Agreement to Serve available electronically @ [www.teach-ats.ed.gov](http://www.teach-ats.ed.gov).

### **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 and Promise to Pay (service agreement @ [www.teach-ats.ed.gov](http://www.teach-ats.ed.gov)). 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.

### **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 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. Specific definitions of these terms are included below.

### **Highly Qualified Teacher**

You must perform the teaching service as a highly-qualified teacher, which is defined in federal law. The definition can be found online at:

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg107.html>.

### **Full-Time Teacher**

You must meet the state's definition of a full time teacher and spend the majority (at least 51 percent) of your time teaching one of the high-need subject areas. Elementary teachers who teach many subjects would not be able to fulfill their service agreement.

### **High-Need Subject Areas**

- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
- Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Reading Specialist
- Science
- Special Education
- Other teacher shortage areas listed in the Department of Education's Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc>.

### **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/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp>.

### **Conversion of a TEACH Grant to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan**

TEACH Grants will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan if:

- The TEACH Grant recipient, regardless of enrollment status, requests the conversion.
- Within 120 days of ceasing enrollment, the recipient fails to notify the US Department of Education that he or she is employed, or intends to pursue employment, as full-time teacher in accordance with the Agreement to Serve.
- Within one year of ceasing enrollment the recipient has not:
  - Been determined eligible for a suspension
  - Re-enrolled in a TEACH Grant-eligible program
  - Begun teaching service in accordance with Agreement to Serve.
- The Grant recipient completes the course of study and
  - Does not actively confirm to the US Department of Education, at least annually, his or her intention to satisfy the Agreement to Serve.
  - Fails to begin or maintain qualified employment within a timeframe that would allow the recipient to complete teaching service. (Conditions, such as a conviction of a felony, can preclude the student from completing the service obligation.)

A TEACH Grant recipient whose grant has converted to Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan enters repayment immediately and is eligible for most benefits of the Federal Direct Loan Program, including an in-school deferment, but is not eligible for any grace period.

**A TEACH Grant that is converted to a loan cannot reconvert to a TEACH Grant.**

The Terms and Conditions of the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan are covered in the Stafford Loan Entrance Counseling Session available online @ <https://www.dlservicer.ed.gov/borrower/EntrCounselingStart.do?cmd=initializeContext>.

TEACH Grant recipients are required to complete the entrance counseling for Direct Loans.

### **Suspension of Eight-Year Period of Completion**

Teach Grant recipients who have completed or ceased enrollment in a Teach Grant-eligible program may request a “suspension” of the eight-year period for completion of the service obligation based on: Enrollment in a TEACH Grant-eligible program or a state approved teacher certification program.

- A condition covered under the Family and Medical Leave Act
  - Birth of a son or daughter
  - Placement of a son or daughter with the recipient for adoption or foster care
  - Caring for a spouse, child, parent with a serious health condition
  - Serious health condition of the recipient
- Call or order to active duty status of more than 30 days as a member of Armed Forces reserves of National Guard.

Suspensions cannot exceed a combined total of three years except for military service, which is unlimited. Suspensions must be requested prior to being subject to condition that converts the recipient’s TEACH Grant to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

### **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.

### **Contact Information**

- The Direct Loan Servicing Center (DLSC):
  - The DLSC monitors compliance with the requirements of the TEACH Grant Program. If a TEACH Grant is converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, the DLSC will service your loan. The DLSC can be contacted at 1-800-848-0979 or [www.dl.ed.gov](http://www.dl.ed.gov).
- FSA Ombudsman:
  - The Ombudsman’s Office is a resource for borrowers to use when other approaches to resolving student loan problems have failed. If you feel your TEACH Grant has been incorrectly converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, you may contact the Federal Student Aid Ombudsman’s Office at [www.ombudsman.ed.gov](http://www.ombudsman.ed.gov).

**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!**