IMPORTANT FINANCIAL AID CHANGES

Dear Graduate / Professional Student,

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OB3) was signed into law by Congress on July 4, 2025 and will result in significant changes to federal student aid programs beginning July 1, 2026 for the 2026-27 academic year.

The key changes impacting graduate and professional students are outlined below. This summary is not comprehensive, so we strongly encourage you to review all available information and examples on our website carefully. Ultimately, it's your responsibility to understand how these changes may impact your financial aid eligibility.

Graduate Students

Changes Effective July 1, 2026:

- Loans must be prorated based on your enrollment status (full-time, ¾-time, and half-time).
- There is now an aggregate (total) loan limit of $100,000 for graduate students (excludes undergraduate borrowing).

Graduate PLUS Loan Program

- The Graduate PLUS Loan program has been eliminated for new borrowers.
- Legacy Provision:
    - If a borrower has a Federal Direct Loan disbursed before July 1, 2026, while enrolled in a program of study, the borrower can continue to borrow from the program for up to three academic years or the remainder of their expected time to credential, whichever is less.

Professional Pharmacy Students

Changes Effective July 1, 2026:

- Loans must be prorated based on your enrollment status (full-time, ¾-time, and half-time).
- There is now an annual loan limit of $50,000 for professional students.
- There is now an aggregate (total) loan limit of $200,000 (combined graduate and professional borrowing, but excludes undergraduate borrowing).

Total Aggregate Limit:

- There is now a total aggregate amount for all federal loan programs (undergraduate, graduate, and professional) of $257,500. This amount includes any federal loans; including loans that were paid in full, forgiven, canceled or otherwise discharged.

Prorating Loans for Less-Than-Full-Time Enrollment:

If you are enrolled less than full time at any time during the semester, your federal loan amounts will be prorated based on your enrollment status. This is a very important change that you must understand, because dropping a class may result in the reduction of your next loan disbursement, or partial repayment of a student loan that has already been disbursed to you. Please review the chart below to determine how your loan will be revised if your enrollment is less than full time.

To see additional information about the changes to federal student aid programs, please visit studentaid.gov. If you have questions about how these updates may impact your financial aid, feel free to contact One Stop at 701-231-6200.

Sincerely,
NDSU Financial Aid and Scholarships

IMPORTANT FEDERAL LOAN CHANGES

Dear Graduate Student,

If the enclosed financial aid offer includes a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, it was based on the following assumptions:

- You will be enrolled full time (9+ credits each term) for both the fall 2026 and spring 2027 semesters; and
- You have eligibility for the maximum annual Direct Unsubsidized Loan amount of $20,500

In accordance with the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, graduate students who do not complete 18 financial aid-eligible credits during the combined fall and spring semesters must have their loan reduced.

The chart illustrates how your Direct Unsubsidized Loan will be adjusted based on enrollment in a reduced number of credits. For more information and examples, visit ndsu.edu/onestop/finaid/important-changes.

Academic Year Combined Course Load (Credits)	Loan Limit Percentage	Estimated Dollar Amount of Loan
18	100%	$20,500
17	94%	$19,270
16	89%	$18,245
15	83%	$17,015
14	78%	$15,990
13	72%	$14,760
12	67%	$13,735
11	61%	$12,505
10	56%	$11,480
9	50%	$10,250

Please Note: Figures provided are estimated, and may not match your individual circumstances.

NDSU