Center for Student Financial Planning and Services
99 Main Street
Franklin MA, 02038
P. 508-541-1518
F. 508-541-1941
sfp@dean.edu

Federal Loan Policy Changes

Effective Beginning with the 2026-2027 Academic Year (July 1, 2026)

Regulation changes will impact how federal loan eligibility is determined. These are national federal loan changes that are not specific to Dean College. Some changes may have a "legacy" provision detailed below.

Key Changes Include:

Annual student loan limit amounts - reviewed based on enrollment status.

A full-time student at Dean College is required to be registered in and attending a minimum of 12 credits of academic work per semester (24 credits per academic year), unless specific accommodations for a reduced course load has been approved by the Office of Accessibility Services. Students should follow the course sequence plan for their program of study to ensure progress toward degree completion within 4 years of study.

- Initial loan eligibility is based on anticipated enrollment.
- Loan eligibility must be reviewed based on the annual loan limit in relation to the number of credits in which a student enrolls and ultimately earns. This is called the **Schedule of Reduction (SOR).** *This change applies regardless of prior borrowing and does not have legacy provisions.*
- All **full-time students** are expected to be enrolled in a full-time course load (minimum 12 credits per semester) and **maintain** that course load through the semester. Changes to that course load resulting in less than full-time enrollment status will impact final loan eligibility. Changes to loan eligibility will result in a balance owed to the college which is the students' immediate responsibility.
- A **part-time student** is expected to provide an accurate anticipated course load on the Part-Time Financial Aid Application. Immediately report any changes to planned enrollment to the financial aid office. Changes to loan eligibility will result in a balance owed to the college which is the students' immediate responsibility.

Impact of dropping/withdrawing from courses

Example: A student who was originally enrolled in 12 credits but later withdraws from a 3-credit course (with a “W” grade) and ends the term enrolled in/earning 9 credits (3/4 time) will need to have the Schedule of Reduction (SOR) applied.

- If the enrollment status change occurs prior to disbursement, that current disbursement will be reduced.
- If the enrollment status change occurs after the fall semester disbursement, the future disbursement will be reduced if necessary.

IMPORTANT: A withdrawn course (“W”) is treated the same as a dropped course for these purposes.

Parent PLUS Borrowing – Annual and Aggregate Borrowing Limits

For newly enrolled students, the Federal Parent PLUS loan will be capped at a maximum of $20,000 per student per year, with a lifetime aggregate limit of $65,000 per student. These limits apply to all parents combined per dependent undergraduate student beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year.

This applies to new Dean College students. Parents who borrow up to the annual maximum of $20,000 will have limited borrowing capacity in the final year of study. Consider evenly distributing the amount of the PLUS loan over 4 years of study by borrowing **$16,250** per year.

Legacy Provisions

Legacy Parent PLUS borrowing can continue under prior borrowing limits provided the student or parent borrower has borrowed a federal direct loan before July 1, 2026, while the dependent student was enrolled in the current credential. A student who withdraws from Dean and later re-enrolls is considered to be a new student and subject to new borrowing limits.

Changes to major/program of study will not impact legacy provisions as long as the student is earning the same credential level. Changes to **credential level** (associates to bachelor’s or bachelor’s to associates) will eliminate legacy provisions.

NOTE: All legacy provisions are limited to the shorter of:

- The remaining length of the program, or
- Three additional years.

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