

# TEACH GRANT PROGRAM FACT SHEET

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides grants of up to \$4,000 per year to students who intend to teach in a critical need area in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.

## Conditions

In exchange for receiving a TEACH Grant, you must agree to serve as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school, or an educational service agency that serves low-income students. As a recipient of a TEACH Grant, you must teach for at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which you received a TEACH Grant.

**IMPORTANT:** If you fail to complete this service obligation, all TEACH Grant funds that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan. You must then repay this loan to the U.S. Department of Education and you will be charged interest from the date the grant was disbursed. Note: TEACH Grant recipients will be given a 6-month grace period prior to entering repayment if a TEACH Grant is converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan.

## Student Eligibility Requirements

To receive a TEACH Grant you must meet the following criteria:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), although you do not have to demonstrate financial need.
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student in a postsecondary educational institution that has chosen to participate in the TEACH Grant Program.
- Be enrolled in a TEACH Grant eligible program.
- Meet certain academic achievement requirements (generally, scoring above the 75th percentile on a college admissions test or maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25).
- Receive on-line counseling that explains the terms and condition of the TEACH Grant service obligation.
- Sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve.

## High-Need Field

Federally-designated high-need fields are the specific areas identified below:

- Bilingual Education
- English Language Acquisition
- Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Reading Specialist
- Science
- Special Education

Additional high-need fields in South Dakota include the following:

- Art
- Health and Physical Education
- Language Arts
- Music

### **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. To access the Directory, please go to <https://studentaid.gov/app/tcli.action>.

### **TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve**

Each year you receive a TEACH Grant, you must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve that will be available electronically at <https://studentaid.gov/app/launchTeach.action>. The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve explains the terms and conditions of the service obligation you must agree to fulfill as a condition for receiving a TEACH Grant. By signing the Agreement to Serve, you agree to these terms and conditions and acknowledge your understanding that if you do not fulfill the service obligation, the TEACH Grant funds you received will be converted to a loan that you must repay.

Specifically, the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve will require the following:

- For each TEACH Grant-eligible program for which you received TEACH Grant funds, you must serve as a full-time teacher for a total of at least four academic years within eight years after you completed or withdrew from the academic program for which you received the TEACH Grant.
- You must perform the teaching service as a highly-qualified teacher at a low-income school or educational service agency. The term highly-qualified teacher is defined in section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or in section 602(10) of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.
- Your teaching service must be in a high-need field.
- You must provide documentation of your progress toward completing your service obligation.
- If you do not complete the required teaching service obligation, TEACH Grant funds you received will be converted to a Direct Unsubsidized Loan that you must repay, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**If you receive a TEACH Grant but do not complete the required teaching service, as explained above, you will be required to repay the grants as a Direct Unsubsidized Loan, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.**

### **Next Steps**

If you are interested in learning more about the TEACH Grant Program, additional information is available at <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/teach#eligible-programs>. To apply for a TEACH Grant, please **complete the 2020-21 TEACH Grant Application** and submit it to the NSU Financial Aid Office for review.

### **Contact Information**

NSU Financial Aid Office

1200 South Jay Street

Aberdeen, SD 57401

1-800-678-5330 or 605-626-2640

Email: [finaid@northern.edu](mailto:finaid@northern.edu)