



# GRADUATE PLUS LOANS ARE ENDING: WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW



## IMPORTANT CHANGE STARTING JULY 1, 2026

The federal government is eliminating Graduate PLUS (Grad PLUS) Loans for new borrowers. These changes may significantly affect how graduate and professional students finance their education.

### What's Changing?

#### Beginning July 1, 2026:

- ▶ Students enrolling in a new graduate or professional program will no longer be eligible for Graduate PLUS Loans.
- ▶ Federal loans may no longer cover the full cost of attendance for many graduate programs.

### What About Current Students?

- ▶ Students who borrow a Grad PLUS loan before July 1, 2026 may be able to continue borrowing if they remain continuously enrolled in the same program.
- ▶ This access is time-limited and will not continue indefinitely.

### New Federal Loan Limits (After Grad PLUS Ends)

Graduate (Academic) Programs:

- ▶ Annual limit: \$20,500
- ▶ Lifetime limit: \$100,000

### Professional Programs

#### (Law, Medicine, Dentistry, etc.):

- ▶ Annual limit: \$50,000
- ▶ Lifetime limit: \$200,000

### How This May Affect You

- ▶ You may not be able to cover all expenses using federal loans alone.
- ▶ You may need to plan earlier and more carefully for funding.
- ▶ Borrowing gaps could increase, especially in high-cost programs.

### Key Takeaway

The end of Graduate PLUS Loans represents a major shift in graduate school financing. Early planning and informed borrowing decisions are more important than ever.