



Widener University

Private Education Loans for Graduate Level Certificate Programs

Federal regulations require Graduate Certificate programs to meet certain criteria* in order to be eligible for the Direct and/or Graduate PLUS loan programs – also called Title IV aid. While some certificates offered at Widener meet the criteria for Federal Aid, others do not.

Private education loan funding may be an option for students who are pursuing a graduate level certificate for which Title IV Federal Aid is not available. These private education loans programs, not based on financial need or program, are offered by a variety of lenders and organizations. The interest rates, fees, repayment terms and eligibility requirements of these loan programs vary widely and are determined by each lending institution based on your credit score. You are highly encouraged to carefully review the provisions of the loan to determine which loan program fits your needs. Most lenders have very informative websites and we encourage you to research carefully. You are free to select any lender and a co-signer may be required or suggested.

Before applying for any private education loan program, it is highly recommended that you get a free copy of your credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com and clean up any errors that may be present.

Questions to consider before borrowing a private education loan include:

- How much do I need to borrow?
- What are the fees, if any, associated with the loan?
- What are the interest rate options?
- Will the interest rate change? How often will it change?
- Do I need a co-signer?
- Can I qualify for a lower interest rate if I use a co-signer?
- What are the terms of repayment?
- Are there any penalties for prepayment?

Being approved for a private loan, as well as the interest rate that may be offered to you, is based on an individual's credit. Widener University cannot provide comparative lender rates / pricing for you, or the likelihood of your being approved (with or without a co-signer) due to these personal factors that lenders consider when determining your credit-worthiness.

Listed below (in alphabetical order) are private lenders who have made five or more education loans to Widener University students over the past two years and offer. Please note you are not required to use any of the listed lenders and will not be penalized or disadvantaged if you choose to borrow from another lender.

LENDER	WEBSITE
College Ave Student Loans	https://www.collegeavestudentloans.com/
NJ Class	https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/NJCLASSHome.aspx
PHEAA / PA Forward	https://paforward.pheaa.org/grad
PNC Bank	https://www.pnc.com/en/personal-banking/borrowing/private-student-loans.html
Sallie Mae	https://www.salliemae.com/student-loans/
SoFi	https://www.sofi.com/private-student-loans/graduate-loans/

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*Criteria include length of program, number of credits earned, and if the program meets the definition of one that "prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation" per federal regulations.