

Graduate Financial Aid Next Steps

Dear Students,

If you have not done so already, please remember to electronically sign, send, and then confirm (in your email) the Financial Aid Agreement. You can access this form here: https://mecasign.na1.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAABLblqZhCDNVxSMPCLHptZAUeHA7YVfOip8nV_AyP_paOO18UL6aApoM1N86fBjKRATSntfe8*

If you are accepting a Direct Loan as part of your financial aid package, you will need to sign a Direct Loan Master Promissory Note and complete Direct Loan Counseling, both are done online. **All students receiving Direct Loans need to complete both steps.**

In order to receive your Federal Direct Loan(s) funds please follow these steps:

You will need your FSA ID, driver's license, and two references with their names and addresses.

Step 1 – Complete a Loan Agreement (Master Promissory Note)

1. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/mpn/>



Log In to
Select
MPN
Type

2. In the middle of the page, click on next to "I'm a Graduate/Professional Student"
3. Follow the directions. Be sure to include MECA&D as the school you want to receive the information.

Step 2 - Complete Loan Entrance Counseling

1. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/>



Log In To Start

2. In the middle of the page, click on next to "I'm a Graduate or Professional Student"
3. Follow the directions. Be sure to include MECA&D as the school you want to receive the information.

Information on how to cover your remaining balance and expenses

When your Financial Aid Package does not cover the cost of your tuition and expenses and you are not prepared to pay cash for the remaining balance, these are your options:

1. Payment Plan with Nelnet Campus Commerce

The College offers a monthly payment plan through Nelnet Campus Commerce. The Business Office sends literature about tuition payment plans directly to students during

the summer. For more information on payment plans available through Nelnet Campus Commerce, visit <https://mycollegepaymentplan.com/meca/>.

2. Loan Options


Apply for an Alternative/Private Loan

Student loans are available from private lenders. You may choose any lender you prefer; suggestions and a comparison tool are available on the financial aid page at [MECA.edu](https://meca.edu). Scroll down to **Online Resources** and select Compare private loans.

Apply for a Federal Graduate PLUS Loan

Graduate students can apply for the Federal Graduate PLUS loan. The Graduate PLUS loan currently has an interest rate of 7.54% (subject to change on 7/1/23) and is credit based. When determining how much to borrow, keep in mind there is 4.228% (subject to change on 10/1/23) in fees deducted before the funds are disbursed.

Steps to apply for the Graduate PLUS Loan:

1. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/grad/landing>
2. Scroll down to "I am a Graduate or Professional Student"
3. Click  and sign in with your FSA ID
4. Follow the steps to apply for a Grad PLUS loan
5. If approved, you must also Complete a Master Promissory Note
6. At the top of the page select "Complete Aid Process/Grad PLUS MPN."

3. Scholarship Opportunities

Check out MECA's extensive list of Outside Scholarship Opportunities

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fWTMIIM07tGMqY1ulKhpKI5pSqTk8h1XhOLu6d3tHKI/edit?usp=sharing>.

Sincerely,

Office of Financial Aid
Maine College of Art & Design
522 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
P: [\(207\) 699-5074](tel:(207)699-5074)
F: [\(207\) 772-5069](tel:(207)772-5069)