

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
FINANCIAL AID DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 8065
STATESBORO, GA 30460**

FEDERAL DIRECT PLUS/FORD LOAN INFORMATION SHEET

The purpose of this document is to collect the necessary data from the parent borrower in order to process the PLUS application and generate a promissory note for the loan. These data items were not included on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY? * The "Parent" means the custodial parent or stepparent or a parent who no longer lives in the home. However, a non-custodial stepparent who no longer lives in the home is not an eligible applicant. (Custodial parent or stepparent refers to the family that the student lives with when not at school and/or who is required to provide financial data on the FAFSA.). **Only one parent borrower *per loan* per academic year is allowed.**

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PLUS LOAN? The receipt of this document indicates that you have taken the first step necessary to apply for a PLUS loan at Georgia Southern University, i.e., you have filed the FAFSA. The next step is to complete this Federal Direct Plus/Ford Loan Information Sheet and return it to us immediately for processing with an attached copy of a signed legal document showing your social security number for your protection against identity theft. Please note that these documents may be faxed to us; however, the actual promissory note will be sent to you by the Office of Student Fees after credit approval and cannot be faxed. What is the interest rate? The interest rate is variable and is adjusted each year on July 1, but it will never be higher than 9%. You begin repaying the Direct PLUS 60 days after the full amount you've borrowed for a school year has been applied to your child's school account. In most cases, you must begin making payments while your child is still in school.

WHAT IF THE PLUS APPLICANT'S CREDIT IS DENIED? The Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) will conduct a credit check on the PLUS applicant. If the applicant is 90 days delinquent on any account, has declared bankruptcy, or has had a financial judgment, the PLUS loan will be denied. The COD will notify the applicant and identify the name and phone number of the agency that reported the adverse credit status. If the credit data is inaccurate, the loan denial decision may be appealed by contacting the COD. Please note that our office is not provided any information about the specific reason for the denial. The COD handles all loan denial appeals. The COD may be contacted at 1-800-848-0979.

If the decision was based on accurate information, the applicant may exercise the option to obtain an endorser (similar to a co-signer) on the loan. An Endorser Promissory Note will be included with the denial letter from the COD. The endorser can be the other parent or anyone who meets the credit criteria and is willing to endorse the PLUS loan. **However, the student may not co-sign his/her parent's loan.**

When the COD notifies our office of the loan denial, we will send out a Denial Notification Option Letter. This letter provides an option for the borrower to officially communicate his/her plans following their PLUS denial.

Please be advised the PLUS loan could be canceled as early as 30 days after notification of acceptance or credit denial if we have not received the returned/signed promissory note or denial notification option letter.