

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS®

June 2009

**Available Only to Students Enrolled In:**  
**Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Degree**  
**Master of Science (MS) Degree in Education, with a Concentration in Reading**

The University of Memphis' Student Financial Aid Office and the College of Education are pleased to announce their participation in the Federal TEACH Grant Program effective the 2009-2010 academic year. The new Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program was created by Congress through the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007. It provides grants of up to \$4000 per year to students who intend to **teach full-time** for at least **four years** in **high-need subject areas** in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from **low-income families**. Graduate students may receive no more than \$8000 in total TEACH Grants. There are only two majors at The University of Memphis that may apply for this grant: (1) Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Degree Program; and (2) Master of Science (MS) Degree in Education, with a concentration in Reading.

## Availability

The first TEACH Grant will be awarded to eligible University of Memphis students for the 2009-2010 school year. Students enrolled less than full-time will have their TEACH Grant reduced according to a schedule established by the U. S. Department of Education.

## 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 that serves low-income students (see below for more information on high-need fields and schools serving 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 amounts of TEACH Grants that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. You must then repay this loan to the U.S. Department of Education. You will be charged interest from the date the grant(s) was/were 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.

## University of Memphis 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.
- Meet the eligibility requirements under Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for federal student aid. (<http://www.memphis.edu/financialaid/eligibility.php>)
- Be enrolled in a program of study designated above as TEACH Grant eligible.
- Meet ONLY ONE of the following academic achievement requirements:
  - Score above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on a college admissions test (e.g., GRE, GMAT, etc.)
  - Have an undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) to receive a grant in the first term
  - Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) through the most recent term in the Master's degree program for subsequent payments; or
    - Be a current teacher or be a retiree from another occupation with expertise in a high-need field, enrolled in a Master's degree program
    - Be a former teacher pursuing an alternative route to certification within a Master's degree program
- Complete the TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling, and sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (see below for more information).

## Full-Time Teacher

You must meet the state's definition of a full time teacher and spend the majority of your time teaching one of the high-need subject areas. **Note:** Elementary teachers who teach many subjects would not be able to fulfill their service agreement.

### **High-Need Field**

High-need fields are the specific areas identified below:

- Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
- Foreign Language
- Mathematics
- Reading Specialist
- Science
- Special Education
- Other identified teacher shortage areas as of the time you begin teaching in that field. These are teacher subject shortage areas (not geographic areas) that are listed in the Department of Education's Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing. To access the listing, please go to <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc>.

### **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://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp>.

### **TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling and TEACH Agreement to Serve**

Each year you receive a TEACH Grant, you must complete the TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling, and sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve that are both available electronically on the [TEACH Grant Home Page \(https://teach-ats.ed.gov/ats/index.action\)](https://teach-ats.ed.gov/ats/index.action). The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve specifies the conditions under which the grant will be awarded, the teaching service requirements, and includes an acknowledgment by you that you understand that if you do not meet the teaching service requirements you must repay the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, with interest accrued from the date the grant funds were disbursed. 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 calendar 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. The term highly-qualified teacher is defined in section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (<http://www.ed.gov/teachers/landing.jhtml>) or in section 602(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Your teaching service must be in a high-need field as noted above.
- You must comply with any other requirements that the Department of Education determines to be necessary.

### **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 Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.**

### **Documentation**

You must respond promptly to any request for information or documentation from the U.S. Department of Education, even if they seem repetitive. These requests will be sent to you while you are still in school as well as once you are out of school. You will be asked regularly to confirm that you either still intend to teach or that you are teaching as required. You must provide documentation to the U.S. Department of Education at the end of each year of teaching.

If you temporarily cease enrollment in your program of study or if you encounter situations that affect your ability to begin or continue teaching, you will need to stay in touch with the U.S. Department of Education to avoid your grants being converted to loans before you are able to complete your teaching obligation.

### **NOTE:**

**Failure to complete the teaching obligation, respond to requests for information, or properly document your teaching service will cause the TEACH Grant to be permanently converted to a loan with interest. Once a grant is converted to a loan, it cannot be converted back to a grant.**

### **For More Information**

For more information about receiving a TEACH Grant, contact the Student Financial Aid Office at (901) 678-4825.