

# Saskatchewan Student Aid Handbook



Saskatchewan Student Aid Program

Important Steps in Planning and Financing your Post-Secondary Education

2024-25

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## Introduction

The Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan work together to provide student aid in Saskatchewan. Loans and grants are available to help full-time and part-time students access and afford post-secondary education. This handbook provides Saskatchewan students with information about Saskatchewan Student Aid for the 2024-25 loan year (for classes starting between August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025).

## Planning for Your Education Costs

Post-secondary education is a valuable investment that requires careful planning. To be financially prepared, you will need to know how much your education will cost and develop a plan to cover these expenses. You should consider tuition, school fees, textbooks and learning materials, transportation and living expenses.

As an example:

The average annual undergraduate tuition in Saskatchewan for 2023-24 was \$9,200 (ranging from \$7,300, to over \$20,000 for a handful of programs). Tuition will vary depending on the program you choose.

Living expenses will vary depending on your circumstances. If you are a single student and live at home while studying, your living expenses are assumed to be \$4,900. If you are single and live away from home, your living expenses are assumed to be \$11,250 (assumes average rent for a two-bedroom apartment, shared with a roommate). If you have dependent children, the cost will be higher.

While student aid can help with these expenses, it is meant to supplement - not replace - other resources to pay for post-secondary education. Consider the following additional options:

- employment;
- internship or co-op programs offered for your program of study;
- bursaries, grants and scholarships available through your post-secondary institution or external scholarship sites (such as [www.scholartree.ca](http://www.scholartree.ca), [www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com) and

[www.yconic.com](http://www.yconic.com));

- savings; and
- funding from parents and relatives.

Financial literacy is crucial for success in post-secondary education. Learn more about saving, budgeting, understanding loans, and what your education will cost, as well as other resources by visiting the [National Student Loans Service Centre](#) and the [Financial Consumer Agency of Canada](#).

## 2024-25 Important Information

New and returning students applying for Saskatchewan Student Aid for programs starting between August 1, 2024, and July 31, 2025, are automatically considered for the following federal/provincial grants and loans.

Note: Grants are funding that does not need to be paid back. Any loans you receive will have to be paid back after your studies have concluded. The amount of aid you receive will depend on your situation.

## Full-time Student Aid

**New** – Saskatchewan is introducing the **Saskatchewan Student Grant for Low-Income Students with Dependants**. This grant provides eligible students with up to \$950 per dependant per eight months of study.

No other changes have been made to maximum grant/loan amounts from the 2023-24 student aid year. Per eight months of study:

- Students may be eligible for up to **\$13,900 in loans and \$5,200 in non-repayable grants** (includes federal/provincial student loans and grants for full-time students).
- **Students with dependants** may also be eligible for up to **\$3,160 in grant funding per dependant** (includes the Canada grant plus the new Saskatchewan grant).
- **Students with disabilities** may also be eligible for **\$2,800** from the Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities.



## Part-time Student Aid

No changes have been made to the maximum loan/grant amounts from the 2023-24 student aid year.

- Part-time students may be eligible for up to **\$10,000 in Canada Student Loans**. If you are studying part-time, there is no maximum length of assistance (you can continue to receive part-time aid as long as needed). However, the total loan amount you can have at a given time cannot exceed \$10,000.
- Students may be eligible for up to **\$3,320 in non-repayable grants** (includes \$2,520 from the Canada Student Grant for Part-time Students, and \$800 from the Saskatchewan Student Grant for Part-time Students).
- **Students with Dependants** may be eligible for the **Canada Student Grant for Part-time Students with Dependants**. Students with one or two children under 12 years of age (or 12 years or older with a permanent disability) may be eligible for **up to \$56 per week of study, up to a maximum of \$2,688** (total for both dependants). Part-time students with three or more children may be eligible for up to \$84 per week of study up to a maximum of \$2,688.
- **Students with Disabilities** may also be eligible for **\$2,800** from the Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities.

## The Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship

This scholarship provides \$750 per year (up to \$3,000 lifetime maximum). You have 10 years after completing grade 12 to receive the total \$3,000.

If you submit a student aid application (full-time or part-time), you will automatically be considered for this scholarship provided you:

- graduated from grade 12 (includes equivalency certificates such as ABE) in Saskatchewan within the last 10 years;
- are enrolled at a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution, a Lakeland College campus, or in a specific specialized health training program seat outside of

- Saskatchewan (all other out-of-province programs are ineligible); and
- meet the eligibility requirement of Full-time or Part-time Student Aid.

## Grants Only Funding

When applying for Saskatchewan Student Aid, you are automatically assessed for a mix of grants and loans. If you only want grant funding, you can indicate this in your application.

If you are a full-time student receiving grants only funding and you decide later in your study period that you would like to access your eligible loans, contact the Student Service Centre for a reassessment (this option is not available for part-time students).

## Eligibility Criteria

### Important!

If you withdraw during your first semester or term and plan to attend in the second semester or term, you must submit a new application to the Student Service Centre.

You are eligible to apply for Saskatchewan Student Aid (either full-time or part-time) if:

- you are a Saskatchewan resident, as defined by the Saskatchewan Student Aid program (see Residency section on the next page);
- you are a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or a protected person;
- you have financial need according to program criteria;
- your previous student loans are in good standing (e.g., you must not have defaulted on a previous student loan); and
- For any previous student aid you received, you successfully met the Satisfactory Scholastic Standard. For full-time student aid, this means successfully completing a minimum of 60 per cent of a full course load (or 40 per cent for students with a disability) in each of your study periods. For part-time

student aid, this means successfully completing all courses for which funding was issued. If you fail to meet the Satisfactory Scholastic Standard more than once, you will lose student aid eligibility for a period of time.

## Additional Criteria for Online Programs

Effective August 1, 2024, some online programs will no longer be eligible for Saskatchewan loans/grants. This will apply to programs that are:

- delivered online, or by correspondence, distance education or another non-traditional form of delivery; and
- delivered by a private Canadian career college, vocational school, or other training institution; and
- delivered by an institution outside Saskatchewan.

Programs that meet all three of these conditions will be eligible for federal assistance only.

If you have already received funding for one of these programs for the first or second year of multi-year program, you will continue to receive provincial funding to the end of your program.

## Additional Criteria for Full-time Student Aid:

You are eligible for Full-time Saskatchewan Student Aid if:

- you are enrolled or qualified to enrol at a designated school in an approved program which is at least 12 weeks in length and leads to a degree, diploma or certificate.
  - If your program has a period (or periods) of study between six and 11 weeks, you may be eligible for full-time student aid if the shorter periods of study are part of a longer program;
- you are enrolled in at least 60 per cent of a full course load (40 per cent if you are a student with a permanent OR persistent or prolonged disability); and

- you have not exhausted the lifetime maximum student aid limit:
  - 340 weeks (including interest-free status) of student aid;
  - 400 weeks for students in doctoral studies; or 520 weeks for students with either a permanent OR a persistent or prolonged disability.

### Important!

The lifetime maximum for assistance includes the weeks you received student aid and any weeks you did not receive student aid but your loans were in payment-free interest-free status.

For each level of study, you are eligible for student aid for the normal duration of the program plus one additional year. Students with disabilities are exempt from these criteria.

## Additional Criteria for Part-time Student Aid:

You are eligible for Part-time Saskatchewan Student Aid if:

- you are enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program at a designated post-secondary institution; and
- you are enrolled in 20 to 59 per cent of a full course load, or if you are a student with a disability and taking 40 to 59 per cent of a full course load, you can choose to be considered either full-time or part-time.

For both full-time and part-time student aid, your school must be designated for the purposes of student aid in order for you to receive funding. Check with your school to ensure it is designated or visit the [Government of Canada's list of designated educational institutions](#). If you have questions regarding a school's designation, please contact the Student Service Centre.

## Residency

If you have lived in Saskatchewan for at least 12 consecutive months before the first day of your study period (excluding time spent as a full-time student in a post-secondary education program) you are considered a Saskatchewan resident. However, some exceptions apply; see [Saskatchewan Student Aid Instructions](#) for more details.

You are also considered a resident if you are a permanent resident, or designated protected person, and Saskatchewan is the only province/territory where you have lived since arriving to arriving to Canada less than 12 months ago.

## Student Categories

When you apply for full-time student aid, you will be classified as belonging to one of the following four categories. Your category will determine how your financial need is calculated:

### A Single Dependant Student:

- has no children; and
- has been out of high school for less than four years before the first day of class of the current study period; or
- has been in the work force for less than two years (two periods of 12 consecutive months) before the first day of class of the current study period.

### A Single Independent Student:

- has no children; and
- has been out of high school for four years or more before the first day of class of the current study period; or
- has been in the workforce for at least two years (two periods of 12 consecutive months) before the first day of class of the current study period.

### A Married Student:

- is legally married; or
- is in a common-law relationship (i.e., living with the person you are in a relationship with

for a minimum of 12 consecutive months before the first day of class of the current study period).

### A Single Parent Student:

- has custody of one or more children at least 50 per cent of the time; and
- is not married or in a common-law relationship.

When you apply for part-time student aid, you will be classified as belonging to one of three categories: **Married Student** or **Single Parent Student** (same definitions as above), or **Single Independent Student** (defined as single without children).

### DO NOT APPLY TO MORE THAN ONE PROVINCE.

If you apply to more than one province and are funded inadvertently, you must return all loans/ grants issued in order to be eligible for the province in which you correctly reside.

## Student Aid and Benefits

When you apply for student aid, you will be automatically considered for student aid from both the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan. Your application will be assessed for a combination of non-repayable grants and repayable loans.

The amount of student aid you can receive, including any grants and/or loans, depends on your situation. The Assessment Summary Letter you receive after applying for student aid will outline your eligibility for both provincial and federal student aid, as applicable. The Disbursement Schedule outlines your total student aid. Please note that your Allowable Costs may not accurately reflect your approval amounts.

### Canada and Saskatchewan Student Loans

Any Canada and Saskatchewan Student Loans you receive will be payment-free and interest-free while you are in school, and you don't have to start repaying them until six months after you complete your studies. Make sure your enrolment is confirmed for each semester/term/year you are enrolled, whether or not you will be receiving student aid (see Confirmation of Enrolment section in this handbook).

Keep in mind, interest will accrue during the six-month period following your studies. Effective April 1, 2023, interest is no longer being charged on the Canada portion of your student loans.

### Canada and Saskatchewan Student Grants

Grants are available to students from low- and middle-income families, and students with either permanent, OR persistent or prolonged disabilities. All students that submit a student aid application are considered for federal and provincial grants. You will receive as many grants as you are eligible for.

Grants do not need to be paid back unless you withdraw within 30 days of the program start date or it is determined that you knowingly committed fraud or misrepresentation. In these cases, your grant funding will be converted into a loan which you will have to pay back.

Most of the grants offered through Saskatchewan Student Aid are progressive grants that are dependent on family income and family size. The grants progressively decline as annual income increases. Progressive grants include all Canada Student Grants, except grants for students with disabilities. The Saskatchewan Student Grant for Full-time Students is also a progressive grant. Income thresholds are outlined in the following table.

Family size	Previous Year's Gross Annual Family Income for Maximum Grant Amount	Previous Year's Gross Annual Family Income for No Grant
1	\$ 36,811 or less	\$ 68,324 or more
2	\$ 52,059 or less	\$ 95,664 or more
3	\$ 63,760 or less	\$ 114,436 or more
4	\$ 73,624 or less	\$ 126,441 or more
5	\$ 82,313 or less	\$ 137,460 or more
6	\$ 90,170 or less	\$ 147,862 or more
7+	\$ 97,395 or less	\$ 156,919 or more

Eligible students receive the Canada Student Grant for Students with Disabilities, the Saskatchewan Student Grant for Part-time Students and/or the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship if they have at least one dollar of financial need according to program criteria. For the Saskatchewan Student Grant for Part-time Students, the grant will not exceed your assessed financial need.



## Maximum Weekly Levels of Assistance

Student aid is pro-rated weekly to accommodate varying program lengths. The tables below outline the maximum weekly levels of assistance based on family income and type of educational program.

Low-Income Students (Full grant amount eligible)	Canada Student Grant	Canada Student Loan	Sask Student Grant	Sask Student Loan	Weekly Assistance
Students in One Year and Graduate Programs	\$0	\$300	\$30	\$168	\$498
Students in Multiple Year Certificate, Diploma or Undergraduate Programs	\$122	\$300	\$30	\$110	\$562
Medical Students	\$122	\$300	\$0	\$365	\$787

Middle-Income Students (Progressive Grant Eligible)	Canada Student Grant	Canada Student Loan	Sask Student Grant	Sask Student Loan	Weekly Assistance
Students in One Year and Graduate Programs	\$0	\$300	Up to \$30	Up to \$198	Up to \$498
Students in Multiple Year Certificate, Diploma or Undergraduate Programs	Up to \$122	\$300	Up to \$30	Up to \$227	Up to \$562
Medical Students	Up to \$122	\$300	\$0	\$365	Up to \$787

Above Grant Eligible Income Threshold	Canada Student Grant	Canada Student Loan	Sask Student Grant	Sask Student Loan	Weekly Assistance
Students in One Year and Graduate Programs	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$198	\$498
Students in Multiple Year Certificate, Diploma or Undergraduate Programs	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$198	\$498
Medical Students	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$365	\$665

Additional assistance above the weekly maximums listed above include:

Additional Assistance for Low-Income Students with Dependents	Canada Student Grant	Saskatchewan Student Grant
Dependents Under 12 and Dependents over 12 with a Permanent Disability	Up to \$65 per child	\$28

## Grants for Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities	Canada Student Grant	Sask Student Grant
Canada Grant for Students with Disabilities	\$2,800 per year	
Canada-Saskatchewan Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Disabilities	Up to \$20,000 per year	Up to \$2,000 per year

If you are a student with either a permanent, OR a persistent or prolonged disability that restricts your physical or mental ability to perform daily activities necessary to participate fully in post-secondary studies or the work force, you may be eligible for additional student aid. Students with disabilities should contact their school's disability or accessibility advisor, at least three months in advance, to arrange any needed supports and services, as well as obtain the required documentation (i.e., disability verification). Visit [Supports for Students with Disabilities](#) for more planning and application information.

### Canada Grant for Students with Disabilities

This grant provides \$2,800 per year to help cover living expenses, tuition, and books. Eligibility for this grant is determined when you apply for either full-time or part-time student aid. A separate application form is not required.

To be considered for this grant and/or the Canada-Student Grant for Services and Equipment described below, you must apply for student aid (either full-time or part-time) with supporting documentation verifying your permanent, persistent or prolonged disability. Note that you may be eligible to receive full-time student aid while studying between 40 and 59 per cent of a full course load.

### Canada-Saskatchewan Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Disabilities

This federal grant provides up to \$20,000 per year for exceptional education-related costs such as tutors, note-takers, interpreters, braille, or technical aids. If your need exceeds the amount available from the Canada Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Disabilities, the Saskatchewan Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Disabilities may provide up to \$2,000 in additional student aid.

To be considered for this grant, you must submit an application for student aid (either full-time or part-time), and then you must submit a separate application for this grant. Your disability advisor at your school can help you complete the application.

## Applying for Full-Time and Part-Time Student Aid

Submit your application early to ensure that your funding is in place at the start of your period of study.

Applications for the upcoming loan year are available in June. You only have to fill out one application to be considered for both federal and provincial student aid.

### Online Application and Upload Features

You can apply directly online through the [Advanced Education Student Portal](#) by creating a new account or using your existing one.

You can also scan completed forms and upload them to your Advanced Education Student Portal account using the upload feature.

If you do not have an Advanced Education Student Portal account, or you need to submit documents on behalf of a student applicant, you can upload documents using the [Post-Secondary Document Uploader](#).

If you have questions or need help with your application, contact the Student Service Centre:

1-800-597-8278 toll-free within Canada

306-787-5620 in the Regina area or outside Canada Email: [studentservices@gov.sk.ca](mailto:studentservices@gov.sk.ca)

**DISCLAIMER:** This timeline is a general overview of the funding and may not reflect your unique application. Please reference your Assessment Summary Letter when reviewing your timeline to verify the funding for which you qualify.

Before Classes Begin	
Three months before program start date	<p>Complete your online application. Submit your required documents to the Student Service Centre by uploading them online.</p> <p>Students with disabilities should contact their school's disability or accessibility advisor, to arrange any needed supports and services for their classes, as well as obtain the required documentation (i.e., disability verification). Refer to the <a href="#">Students with Disabilities: Post-Secondary Planning Information</a> and other disability information</p>
<p>When you receive your Assessment Summary Letter and, if you are a new applicant, instructions to complete the online Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA).</p> <p><b>Note: Your educational institution or any third party is not allowed to complete your MSFAA.</b></p>	<p>New applicants must complete the two-step online MSFAA with the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC). Your Part-Time or Full-Time MSFAA must be completed at least 3 weeks prior to your period of study end date to allow for processing time. See <a href="#">Receiving Your Student Loan</a> section for more information.</p>
Classes Begin	
Start of classes	<p>The full amount of your Canada Student Loan and the first half of your Canada Student Grant will be paid. <b>Your educational institution may request a portion of your Canada funding towards your tuition.</b> See Page 18 in the current handbook) for more information on Confirming Your Enrollment.</p> <p>The first half of your Saskatchewan Student Grant will be paid directly to your bank account.</p>
Second month of classes	<p>First monthly payment of Saskatchewan Student Loan is paid. Payments will continue monthly throughout your study period in accordance with your disbursement schedule. Your payment will be deposited directly into your bank account.</p>
Mid-point of classes	<p>Second payment of the Canada Student Grants and of the Saskatchewan Student Grant.</p>

While in school	Inform the Student Service Centre immediately of any changes to course load, income or personal information. Students with Disabilities should submit receipts for support costs (i.e., equipment, tutoring) under the Grant for Services and Equipment as soon they are purchased or before the end of the study period.
<b>Program Ends</b>	
Approximately five months after your last funded study period's end date (unless NSLSC is notified of return to studies; see Keeping Government Student Loans Payment-Free and Interest Free section of this handbook.	Consolidation Letter is sent from the NSLSC.
First day of seventh month (unless NSLSC is notified of return to full-time studies)	First loan payment due.

**Note: Applications and any changes must be received 30 days before your program end date to allow time for processing**

## How Full-Time Student Aid is Calculated

Financial need is the amount you require to help you meet your financial commitments.

The formula to calculate the amount of assistance you will receive is as follows:

**Your Allowable Expenses minus Your Expected Contributions = Your Financial Need**

To meet your assessed financial need, you are first awarded federal/provincial grant amounts that you qualify for, and any remaining financial need is met with Canada and Saskatchewan Student Loans, up to loan maximums (see Maximum Weekly Levels of Assistance section in this handbook).

### Allowable Expenses

Your assistance may cover the following allowable expenses.

Allowable educational expenses include the actual costs of tuition and compulsory fees. Books and supplies will be allowed as an expense up to a maximum of \$3,000.

### Living Allowance

Your living allowance provides funding for shelter, food, miscellaneous items and local public transportation. If you are a single student living away from home, the shelter allowance is based on the expectation that you will share accommodations. Your living allowance is determined by your student category, family size for married and single parent students, and province where you are studying. The allowance is a standard allowance for a moderate standard of living based on Statistics Canada's Family Expenditure Survey.

As a single student or a married student living in a different community than the family home (your parents or spouse), an allowance will also be included for one return trip home for each period of 16 weeks, to a maximum of \$600 per trip.

### Educational Expenses

Saskatchewan Monthly Living Allowances	
Student Category	Approximate monthly living allowance
Single student living at home	\$614
Single student living away from home	\$1,405
Married student and spouse with child(ren)	\$2,724 + \$692 for each child
Single parent with child(ren)	\$1,830 + \$692 for each child

**Note: These allowances are used to calculate your financial need. They are not the monthly amount you may receive.**



Saskatchewan Monthly Daycare Allowances			
Number of Children	Subsidized	Unsubsidized	Incidental Maximum
1	\$85	\$400	\$200
2	\$170	\$540	\$270
3	\$255	\$680	\$340
4 or more	\$340	\$820	\$410

### Daycare Allowance

If you have dependent children under 12 years of age and you require full-time daycare, you will be assessed a daycare allowance. The exact amount you qualify for is based on how many children you have and whether your daycare costs are subsidized. A \$20 per day incidental rate, up to the maximums outlined in the table above, may be allowed upon a written request for review.

### Child Support and/or Alimony

If you or your spouse are making child support and/or alimony payments, you can claim this expense up to a maximum amount of \$692 per child per month. Submit an appeal with substantial documentation to have this claim reviewed.

## Expected Contributions

### Student Contribution

The student contribution is comprised of:

- the fixed student contribution up to \$3,000 per loan year (described below);
- any scholarship or bursary more than \$1,800 that you will receive during the loan year (e.g., university entrance scholarships, doctoral fellowships, and private sector scholarship funds); and
- 100 per cent of all other funding you receive specifically to attend school such as training allowances from private sector or government, excluding funding provided by student aid, the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP), the Métis Nation Post-Secondary Education Strategy and the Inuit Post-Secondary Education Strategy to eligible indigenous students.

### Fixed Student Contribution

You are expected to contribute to your educational costs by providing a fixed student contribution up to \$3,000 per loan year, with the exact amount being calculated based on your gross family income and family size.

You will be expected to use your family income to make a fixed student contribution to their education costs each year.

There is no fixed student contribution for Indigenous students, students with disabilities, students with children and students who are, or were, Crown wards.

Students with gross family income from the previous year equal to or below the low-income threshold will contribute \$1,500 for an eight-month academic year.

Low-income thresholds by family size for the 2024-25 loan year are as follows:

Family Size	Low-income thresholds by family size
1	\$36,811
2	\$52,059
3	\$63,760
4	\$73,624
5	\$82,313
6	\$90,170
7+	\$97,395

- Independent students and single parents:** family income is comprised of the student's income only (found on Line 150 of the student's previous year's T1 General Income Tax Form).

- **Dependant students:** family income is comprised of the student's parental income only, which is used as a proxy for the dependant student (found on Line 150 of each parent's previous year's T1 General Income Tax Form).
- **Married/common-law students:** family income is comprised of the student's income and spouse's or partner's income (found on Line 150 of their respective previous year's T1 General Income Tax Form).

Students with gross family income from the previous year above the low-income threshold will contribute \$1,500 for an eight-month academic year plus an **additional 15 per cent** of income above the threshold to a maximum total contribution of \$3,000.

The expected fixed contribution will be pro-rated weekly. The minimum weekly contribution is \$44 per week up to the maximum weekly contribution of \$87 per week. The number of study weeks used to determine the fixed student contribution is capped at 34 weeks (i.e., an eight-month academic year) for each loan year. This means that no student contribution will be calculated for more than 34 weeks even if the period of study is longer.

Example: Single independent student with previous year's gross income of \$40,000 going to school from September to April (8 months).

Each week, this student is expected to contribute:

$$\text{\$44} + 15\% \times (\text{A} - \text{B}) \times 1/52$$

- **A** is the prior year's gross family income (Line 150 of T1 Income Tax Form);
- **B** is the low-income threshold by family size;
- \$44 is the minimum weekly contribution (**\$87** is maximum weekly contribution)

$$15\% \times (\text{\$40,000} - \text{\$36,811}) \times (1/52 \text{ week}) =$$

$$\text{\$9.20/week}$$

$$\text{\$44} + \text{\$9.20/week} = \text{\$53.20/week}$$

$$\text{\$53.20/week} \times 34 \text{ weeks} = \text{\$1,808.80}$$

Therefore, the student is expected to contribute **\$1,808.80** for the school year.

### Spousal Contribution

The income amount used to determine the fixed spousal contribution is the same as the family income used to calculate the fixed student contribution. The fixed spousal contribution for a student with a family income below the low-income threshold will be \$0. For income above the low-income threshold, the contribution will be **10 per cent** on the amount of family income above the low-income threshold. No fixed spousal contributions are expected from spouses who are students themselves, spouses in receipt of Employment Insurance benefits or social assistance, and spouses in receipt of federal or provincial disability benefits.

The expected fixed spousal contribution will be prorated weekly. The number of study weeks used to determine the fixed spousal contribution is capped at 34 weeks (i.e., an eight-month academic year) for each loan year. This means that no spousal contribution will be calculated for more than 34 weeks even if the period of study is longer.

*Example:* Married student (no children) going to school from September to April (8 months) with a previous year's income of \$25,000 plus their spouse's previous year's income of \$30,000 gives them a gross family income of \$55,000.

Each week, this student's spouse is expected to contribute:

$$10\% \times (\text{A} - \text{B}) \times 1/52$$

- **A** is the prior year's gross family income; and
- **B** is the low-income threshold by family size.

$$10\% \times (\text{\$55,000} - \text{\$52,059}) \times 1/52 \text{ week} = \text{\$5.66/week}$$

$$\text{\$5.66/week} \times 34 \text{ weeks} = \text{\$192.44}$$

Therefore, the spouse is expected to contribute **\$192.44** for the school year.

Each week, the student is expected to contribute:  
 $(\text{\$44} + 15\% \times (\text{\$55,000} - \text{\$52,059}) \times 1/52) \times 34 =$   
**\$1,784.32**

Therefore, the student is expected to contribute **\$1,784.32** for the school year.

In this example, the total expected contribution (student plus spousal contribution), is **\$1,976.76** for the school year.

### Parental Contribution

If you are a single dependant student, your parents are expected to contribute towards your education, based on their discretionary income. Discretionary income is their combined income in the last complete taxation year, after deductions for income tax, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, and a moderate standard of living, based on family size. Parents, their dependant children (including the student applying for student aid), and any

dependants living in the household are all included to determine family size.

Completing the Parental Section of the application does not mean your parents are co-signing your student loans. You, as the applicant, are solely responsible for repaying your student loans.

Use the following charts to estimate your parents' contribution.

To calculate parental net income, refer to the parental contribution example below. Subtract a Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL) expense to determine discretionary income.

A Parental Contribution Example		
Parent 1		Parent 2
\$30,000	Gross Income (Line 150 of tax return)	\$50,000
\$1577	Less CPP (Line 308 of tax return)	\$2,767
\$489	Less EI (Line 312 of tax return)	\$815
\$2814	Less taxes payable (Line 435 of tax return)	\$7,527
\$25,121	Net income	\$38,891
Combined net income		\$64,012
Less Moderate Standard of Living (family size of 3)		63,506
Discretionary income		\$506
Parental contribution per week of study.		\$3
For an eight-month (34 week) course, the parental contribution would be \$102		

The Moderate Standard of Living (MSOL) is based on Statistics Canada's Family Expenditure Survey.

Family Size	Saskatchewan	Family Size	Saskatchewan
2	\$50,704	7	\$90,251
3	\$63,506	8	\$94,464
4	\$72,584	9	\$98,181
5	\$79,628	10	\$101,508
6	\$85,387		

Your parents' discretionary income is then applied to the Parental Contribution Table.

Weekly Parental Contribution Table					
Annual discretionary income	Weekly parental contribution	Annual discretionary income	Weekly parental contribution	Annual discretionary income	Weekly parental contribution
\$0.01 - 500.00	\$1	\$8,500.01 - \$9,000.00	\$28	\$17,000.01 - \$17,500.00	\$74
\$500.01 - 1,000.00	\$3	\$9,000.01 - \$9,500.00	\$30	\$17,500.01 - \$18,000.00	\$78
\$1,000.01 - \$1,500.00	\$4	\$9,500.01 - \$10,000.00	\$32	\$18,000.01 - \$18,500.00	\$82
\$1,500.01 - \$2,000.00	\$6	\$10,000.01 - \$10,500.00	\$34	\$18,500.01 - \$19,000.00	\$86
\$2,000.01 - \$2,500.00	\$7	\$10,500.01 - \$11,000.00	\$36	\$19,000.01 - \$19,500.00	\$89
\$2,500.01 - \$3,000.00	\$9	\$11,000.01 - \$11,500.00	\$38	\$19,500.01 - \$20,000.00	\$93
\$3,000.01 - \$3,500.00	\$10	\$11,500.01 - \$12,000.00	\$39	\$20,000.01 - \$20,500.00	\$97
\$3,500.01 - \$4,000.00	\$12	\$12,000.01 - \$12,500.00	\$41	\$20,500.01 - \$21,000.00	\$101
\$4,000.01 - \$4,500.00	\$13	\$12,500.01 - \$13,000.00	\$43	\$21,000.01 - \$21,500.00	\$105
\$4,500.01 - \$5,000.00	\$14	\$13,000.01 - \$13,500.00	\$45	\$21,500.01 - \$22,000.00	\$109
\$5,000.01 - \$5,500.00	\$16	\$13,500.01 - \$14,000.00	\$47	\$22,000.01 - \$22,500.00	\$113
\$5,500.01 - \$6,000.00	\$17	\$14,000.01 - \$14,500.00	\$51	\$22,500.01 - \$23,000.00	\$116
\$6,000.01 - \$6,500.00	\$19	\$14,500.01 - \$15,000.00	\$55	\$23,000.01 - \$23,500.00	\$120

Weekly Parental Contribution Table					
Annual discretionary income	Weekly parental contribution	Annual discretionary income	Weekly parental contribution	Annual discretionary income	Weekly parental contribution
\$6,500.01 - \$7,000.00	\$20	15,000.01 - 15,500.00	\$59	\$23,500.01 - \$24,000.00	\$124
\$7,000.01 - \$7,500.00	\$22	15,500.01 - 16,000.00	\$63	\$24,000.01 - \$24,500.00	\$128
\$7,500.01 - \$8,000.00	\$24	16,000.01 - 16,500.00	\$66	\$24,500.01 - \$25,000.00	\$132
\$8,000.01 - \$8,500.00	\$26	16,500.01 - 17,000.00	\$70	\$25,000.01 - \$25,500.00	\$136

If your parents have two or more dependant children studying in full-time post-secondary education, the parental contribution is divided accordingly.

## How Part-time Student Aid is Calculated

The formula to calculate the amount of part-time assistance you will receive is as follows:

**Your Allowable Expenses = Your Financial Need**

Allowable Expenses include:

- Educational Expenses (e.g., tuition, fees, books and supplies);
- Miscellaneous Allowance of \$10 per week of study per course;
- Local Transportation Allowance;
- Child Care Expenses, if applicable.

Similar to full-time student aid, any financial need that is calculated will first be met through federal/provincial grants amounts for which you are eligible, up to grant maximums. Note that most federal and provincial grants are based on your income and family size. If you have remaining need after grants are awarded, the rest of your financial need will be met through a Canada Student Loan, up to the loan maximum.



## Receiving Your Funds

The National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) administers your student aid on behalf of the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan.

### Your First Student Aid Application

Once your application has been assessed, if you are a first-time applicant, an information package will be posted on your [Advanced Education Student Portal](#). It will include:

- an Assessment Summary Letter with information on the amount of your student aid including the payment schedule for your student loan and grants.
- your 10-digit Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) number; and
- instructions on what to do with the MSFAA number to get your student aid.

The MSFAA is a multi-year legally binding contract, requiring a one-time signature, that outlines your responsibilities and terms and conditions of accepting and repaying your provincial and federal student grants and loans.

If you completed a full-time MSFAA previously but will now be receiving part-time student aid for the first time (or vice versa), you must complete a new MSFAA. The part-time and full-time MSFAA have different conditions.

**If you are a new applicant, you must complete a two-step online MSFAA process in order to receive your student aid.**

**Educational institution officials or any third party are not allowed to complete your MSFAA.**

Upon receiving your Assessment Summary Letter and 10-digit MSFAA number, you will receive a “Welcome Email” from the National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC). A secure URL in the email will invite you to use your MSFAA number to:

1. Verify your identity by registering your account with the NSLSC; and

2. Complete your MSFAA where you will be asked to Accept the Terms and Conditions of the agreement.

This two-step process must be completed in order to receive your student aid.

To complete this two-step process you will need to have the following information:

- your bank account information (Transit, Institution and Account number);
- your SIN;
- your 10-digit MSFAA number; and
- your date of birth.

This online MSFAA process must be completed in order to receive your student aid. Remember, by signing the MSFAA you agree to accept responsibility for all funding you receive from that date forward.

If you have already signed a MSFAA, you do not need to complete the online MSFAA process again unless you leave your study for two years or establish residency in a new province or territory. Therefore, if you are a returning student who does not require a new MSFAA, NSLSC will send an email from [info@csnpenslsc.ca](mailto:info@csnpenslsc.ca) with a subject line of “Important Update: Check your Mailbox” when your loan/grant funds are disbursed.

If you have questions about the MSFAA process, please visit [www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca/en/how-to-apply](http://www.csnpe-nslsc.canada.ca/en/how-to-apply), and refer to the section “Review and Accept the MSFAA Terms and Conditions.”

Make sure you keep your contact information (mailing address, phone number, email address) up to date on your NSLSC account. If any of your other information changes (like name or SIN), please contact the NSLSC to update your account at:

Toll Free Telephone (within North America):  
1-888-815-4514

Outside North America: 800-2-225-2501  
TTY: 1 888 815-4556

## Confirmation of Enrolment

The NSLSC will confirm your enrolment with your school every time you receive new student aid funding. The National Student Loans Service Centre (NSLSC) will contact your school directly to confirm your enrolment provided you have submitted a completed MSFAA.

Once your enrolment is confirmed, the NSLSC will electronically deposit funds into the bank account that you provided on the MSFAA. Please review your Disbursement Schedule in your Assessment Summary Letter to determine when your payments will be deposited.

**NOTE: Your educational institution can choose to remit Federal Loans and a portion of the Federal Grants directly towards your tuition costs. Any outstanding tuition amounts are the responsibility of the student.**

## Maintaining Your Eligibility While in School

### Your Responsibilities

After you have obtained your funds and are attending classes, you must do the following to keep your loans in payment-free and interest-free status and stay eligible for future funding:

- For Full-time Student Aid, continue to be enrolled in 60 per cent or more of a full course load each semester (40 per cent for students with a disability). Your school determines what a full course load is for each term or semester of each study period. Full-time status must be continuous. Periods of study that are less than full-time cannot be combined and averaged to be equivalent to full-time status;
- For Part-time Student Aid, you must successfully complete all courses for which you receive funding (refer to Scholastic Achievement in the Glossary); and
- Maintain regular attendance at all times. If your attendance drops below 90 per cent or you miss more than three consecutive weeks

(21 calendar days), you will be considered discontinued for student aid purposes. Your study period will be considered unsuccessful.

You may be considered discontinued for the following reasons:

- You drop below the minimum required course load for your full-time or part-time funding;
- you withdraw from studies on your own accord;
- you change schools during your study period; or
- you are expelled before the end of your study period.

It is your responsibility to contact the school regarding possible tuition refunds.

- One discontinuation: Receives a warning but remains eligible for student aid.
- Two discontinuations: Lose eligibility for student aid for 12 months.
- Three discontinuations: Lose eligibility for student aid for a minimum of 36 months.

During these periods of ineligibility, you must maintain your student loans in good standing to regain future eligibility.

Note: If you need to take time away from your studies for medical, mental health, or parental reasons, you can apply for Medical and Parental leave, which keeps your loans payment-free and interest-free. For more information, please visit [www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance](http://www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance).

### Keeping Government Student Loans Payment-Free and Interest-Free

Whether you receive student aid funding for upcoming studies or not, the NSLSC needs to know that you are still in school through a Confirmation of Enrolment. If the NSLSC does not receive a confirmation of enrolment, you will lose the payment-free, interest-free status on your existing loans and you will have to start repaying your loans earlier than expected.

If you will be receiving new student aid funding, your school will provide Confirmation of Enrolment as part of the student aid process. **If you are not receiving student aid for your study period, you must request a Confirmation of Enrolment through your online NSLSC account ([www.nslsc.ca](http://www.nslsc.ca)). Once you log into your account, select “Confirmation of Enrolment” under the “Managing your Loan” tab on your dashboard.**

Note: Part-time studies will NOT defer interest and/or payments for full-time loans, but will defer interest and payments on part-time loans. Full-time studies will defer interest and repayment for both full-time and part-time loans.

### Interest on Loan Payments

Once you are in repayment, any interest you pay may be claimed on your income tax return. For each year you are in repayment, you will receive a tax form indicating the amount of interest paid during that tax year from the National Student Loans Service Centre (or your financial institution if you have a loan prior to 2001).

## Repaying Your Student Loan

### Consolidating Your Loan

Six months after you have completed full-time study, whether you have graduated, transferred to part-time studies, withdrawn, or you are taking time off from your studies, you will need to begin repaying your student loan. This is called student loan consolidation.

Prior to your loan(s) entering the repayment phase, the National Student Loans Service Centre will send you a Consolidation Letter. It outlines your repayment terms and your minimum monthly payment. Through your online NSLSC account, you can revise your monthly payment amounts, and you can make a one-time payment at any time without penalty, including both before and after you have concluded your studies (see Revision of Terms section). Contact the National Student Loans Service Centre if you have not received your repayment information one month before your loans consolidate.

Even though you are not required to make a payment for six months after completing your studies, interest on Saskatchewan Student Loans will accumulate during this time. Any unpaid interest accumulated during this period will be capitalized and included in your principal balance at the time of consolidation. **Your first loan payment is due** on the first day of the seventh month following the date your period of study ends.

### Example

- Period of Study End Date: April 30, 2022
- Date six-month non-repayment period begins (interest starts to accrue): May 1, 2022
- Date six-month non-repayment period ends: October 31, 2022
- First loan payment due date: November 1, 2022

### Interest on Canada Student Loans

As of April 1, 2023, the accrual of interest on Canada Student Loans has been permanently eliminated. Borrowers continue to be responsible to pay any interest that may have accrued before April 1, 2023.

### Interest on Saskatchewan Student Loans

- Fixed Interest Rate (Prime plus 2.5%); or
- Floating Interest Rate (Prime).

Your loans will be automatically consolidated with the floating rate of interest. You will have a one-time option of switching to the fixed rate of interest during your repayment period.

To compare different repayment options, visit [www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance](http://www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance) to check out the Loan Repayment Estimator (under “Repay your student loan”, then “Payment Options”).

You can check your loan amounts through your online NSLSC account. Make sure to keep your contact information (email, address, phone number) up to date on your account to prevent missing important messages about your loans.

## Maintaining Your Loan While in Repayment

As a borrower, you are required to fulfill your obligations and responsibilities of the repayment terms and conditions of your loan. Missing payments could damage your credit rating, and your student loan could go into default. Contact the National Student Loans Service Centre before you miss a payment. There are repayment options available to help you manage your payments and avoid defaulting on your loan.

Defaulting on your loan will affect your credit score and in turn, your ability to purchase something as simple as buying a new cell phone.

Visit [www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance](http://www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance) to find out more about repayment assistance and how to manage your student loan debt.

### Repayment Assistance Plan

The Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP) makes it easier for you to manage your debt. You can pay back what you can reasonably afford, based on your family income and family size. Monthly payments are limited to 10 per cent or less of a borrower's gross family income. No borrower on RAP will have a repayment period of more than 15 years, or 10 years for borrowers with disabilities. If borrowers earn very little income, they may not be required to make loan payments until their income increases. To apply, complete the online application through your online NSLSC account.

### Repayment Assistance Plan – Disability

The Repayment Assistance Plan for Borrowers with a Disability (RAP-D) is available to borrowers with either a permanent, OR a persistent or prolonged disability who are having difficulty repaying their student loan debt. RAP-D makes it easier for you to manage your student debt and will consider additional medical expenses related to your disability. You can pay back what you can reasonably afford based on your family income and family size. Monthly payments are limited to 10 per cent or less of a borrower's gross family income and no borrower will have a repayment period of more than 10 years. If borrowers earn very little income, they may not be

required to make any loan payments until their income increases. To apply, complete the online application and Disability Expense form through your online NSLSC account.

If you have a persistent or prolonged disability, you are required to confirm your ongoing eligibility disability status through attestations and verifications.

**Note:** If you are a student with a severe permanent disability whose disability prevents you from performing the daily activities necessary to participate in substantially gainful employment and is expected to remain for your expected life, you may benefit from having your loans immediately cancelled under the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit.

For more information, please visit [www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance](http://www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance) (look under "Repay your Student Loan," then "Repayment Assistance," then scroll down the page to find Severe permanent disability), or call the National Student Loans Service Centre.

### Revision of Terms

Through your online NSLSC account, you can reduce your monthly payment amount by extending the length of time you take to repay your loan. This will lower your monthly payments, but you will pay more interest over time. From your online NSLSC account, select "Customize My Payment Terms" from the "My Account" drop down menu, and from this window, you can adjust your payment amount or term. Click **Calculate**, and you will be presented with a revised repayment schedule (payment amount, estimated remaining months of repayment, and estimated cost of borrowing). Once you find the right revised payment amount and term for your financial situation, you can click submit and the NSLSC will process your request. You can contact the National Student Loans Service Centre for more information.

### Loan Forgiveness for Nurses and Nurse Practitioners

The Saskatchewan Student Loan Forgiveness for Nurses and Nurse Practitioners program encourages nurses and nurse practitioners to work in areas of the province with high recruitment needs. As a nurse

or nurse practitioner, you could receive up to \$4,000 per year in Saskatchewan Student Loan forgiveness to a maximum of \$20,000 over five years. Please visit [saskatchewan.ca/studentloans](https://saskatchewan.ca/studentloans) for more information.

You may also be eligible for federal loan forgiveness on your Canada student loans. The Canada Student Financial Assistance Program offers federal loan forgiveness for nurses and nurse practitioners, as well as family doctors and family medicine residents, serving in rural and remote communities. Please visit [www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance](https://www.canada.ca/student-financial-assistance) for more information.

## Loan Forgiveness for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technologists

This program encourages Veterinarians and Veterinary Technologists to work in rural areas of the province. You could receive up to \$4,000 per year in Saskatchewan Student Loan forgiveness to a maximum of \$20,000 over five years. Please visit [saskatchewan.ca/studentloans](https://saskatchewan.ca/studentloans) for more information.

## Bankruptcy and Overpayments

### Bankruptcy

Are you a student loan borrower who:

- Has filed for bankruptcy?
- Has filed a consumer proposal?
- Is participating in a provincial arrangement for the orderly payment of debts?

If so, contact the Student Service Centre at 1-800- 597-8278 or [studentservices@gov.sk.ca](mailto:studentservices@gov.sk.ca) for more information on student loan eligibility.

### Overpayments

An overpayment is assistance you received for which you are not eligible. An overpayment can occur if your application is reassessed due to a change in your circumstances.

For example, if you discontinued studies during a study period or if an audit of your application uncovered inaccurate information, the Student Service Centre may determine that you have been overpaid.

Overpayment amounts are deducted from future student aid awarded under the program. It is your responsibility to contact your school to ensure possible tuition refunds have been processed. This may reduce the amount of your outstanding overpayment.

If you discontinue within 30 days of your program start date, any grants you have received will be converted into loans. This is called a grant to loan conversion.

**Note:** Students can appeal overpayments and grant to loan conversion on the grounds that the withdrawal or change to part-or full-time status was the result of unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances or if the educational institution made an error in reporting the withdrawal from full-time studies. Supporting documentation will be required. Appeals must be made within six months of the date the conversion occurred.

### Falsified Information

The Saskatchewan Student Aid Program is dedicated to providing student aid to support students seeking post-secondary education under the terms of federal and provincial student aid legislation and policy.

It is an offence under The Canada Student Financial Assistance Act and The Saskatchewan Student Assistance and Student Aid Fund Act, 1985 to knowingly give false or misleading information on your application or other forms. Offences may also be punishable under the Criminal Code of Canada. All of the information submitted on your application is subject to audit and verification.

If it is determined that an individual knowingly committed fraud or misrepresentation, the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program may apply administrative measures and possibly require the individual to immediately repay loans or grants received through misrepresentation (as per subsection 17.1(1) of *The Canada Student Financial Assistance Act* and subsection 18.1(1) of *The Canada Student Loans Act*). Administrative measures specifically refer to the individual being restricted from Saskatchewan Student Aid, such as loans, grants, repayment assistance and in-study interest-free status, for a period of one to five years.



If you know of someone providing false information while receiving a financial benefit, please contact Audit Services, who are responsible for investigating allegations of improper funding. Allegations are serious and all contacts will be investigated. We assure you that you will remain anonymous.

## Audit Services Unit

Telephone: 1-800-597-8278 (option 3)

Mailing Address: Audit Services  
Ministry of Advanced Education  
1120-2010 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 1M0

E-mail: [Audit.Services@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Audit.Services@gov.sk.ca)

## Scholarships

The Ministry of Advanced Education administers scholarships for students who are entering post-secondary education and individuals in graduate studies. Visit the Scholarships, Bursaries and Grants page at [saskatchewan.ca/studentloans](http://saskatchewan.ca/studentloans) for more information or an application for the scholarships below.

### Studying in French? Federal-Provincial Scholarships for Students in French

The Federal-Provincial Fellowship scholarship is designed to encourage Saskatchewan students to study in French in Saskatchewan or at an out-of-province post-secondary institution when program of study is not offered in Saskatchewan.

### Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship

The Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship provides eligible Saskatchewan grade 12 graduates enrolled at a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution with up to \$750 per year to a lifetime maximum of \$3,000. You will automatically be considered for this scholarship as part of your Full-time or Part-time Student Aid application.

## Scholarship of Honour

The Saskatchewan Scholarship of Honour recognizes Saskatchewan men and women who have served in a designated military operation since January 2001. The Scholarship is also available to spouses or children of Canadian Armed Forces members who were permanently disabled or deceased as a result of serving in a designated military operation. Eligible individuals will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to assist with post-secondary education expenses.

### Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Scholarship

This \$20,000 scholarship is awarded annually, to support graduate or post-graduate study, in any field at the University of Saskatchewan or University of Regina. Preference will be given to students in fields of study that supports [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#) and addresses complex challenges that impact the citizens of Saskatchewan. Preference will also be given to applicants who are in the early stage of their degree or have not received substantial awards. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic excellence to one student or split equally between deserving candidates.

### Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Indigenous Scholarship

This \$20,000 scholarship is to be awarded annually to a First Nations, Métis or Inuit student pursuing graduate or post-graduate studies in any field at the University of Saskatchewan or University of Regina. Students must have graduated from a university in Saskatchewan. Preference will be given to students in fields of study that supports [Saskatchewan's Growth Plan](#) and addresses complex challenges that impact the citizens of Saskatchewan. Preference will also be given to applicants who are in the early stage of their degree or have not received substantial awards. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic excellence to one student or split between equally deserving candidates.

## Contact Information

It is important to keep your file up to date with the National Student Loans Service Centre and the Student Service Centre. You must provide them with any changes to your personal information, including address changes, while you are in school and after graduation.

### For questions on the assessment of your loan:

#### **Student Service Centre**

Ministry of Advanced Education  
1120 - 2010 12th Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0M3

Telephone outside Regina: 1-800-597-8278

In the Regina area or outside Canada:  
306-787-5620

Email: [studentservices@gov.sk.ca](mailto:studentservices@gov.sk.ca)

Website: [saskatchewan.ca/studentloans](http://saskatchewan.ca/studentloans)

For security reasons, do not include your SIN if you contact us by email.

For questions on receiving your payments or repaying your loan:

#### **National Student Loans Service Centre**

P.O. Box 4030  
Mississauga, Ontario L5A 4M4

Telephone within North America: 1-888-815-4514

Outside North America: 1-800-2-225-2501

TTY: 1-888-815-4556

Website: [www.nslsc.ca](http://www.nslsc.ca)

## Glossary

**Academic year:** defined by your school, up to a maximum of 12 months. An academic year may comprise multiple terms or semesters, including spring and summer session.

**Allowable expenses:** expenses used in the calculation of your financial need for your study period. Includes tuition, fees, books and supplies, transportation costs, childcare and/or dependent care costs, and for full-time studies, living allowance. Some other costs can be considered as well.

**Assessment Summary Letter:** information on the calculation of your student aid and the payment schedule.

**Bursary:** funding that does not have to be paid back.

**Capitalization:** this happens when you add unpaid accumulated interest to the principal of a loan. It increases the total principal outstanding.

**Confirmation of Enrolment:** confirms that you are enrolled in school full-time. For every student aid funded study period, the Confirmation of Enrolment will automatically be done electronically between your school and the National Student Loans Service Centre. For any student periods where you do not receive student aid funding, you must request a Confirmation of Enrolment through your online NSLSC account to keep your loans payment-free and interest-free.

**Consolidation Letter:** a letter is sent to you (the borrower) when you enter the repayment phase of your loan, indicating your terms of repayment. Your first loan payment is due on the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month after your studies have ended (i.e., either when classes end in your final term, or after you discontinue from studies).

**Default:** when you are behind on your payments for nine or more months and collection activities are required. Defaulting on your loan will make you ineligible from receiving future Saskatchewan Student Aid or from applying for repayment assistance under the Repayment Assistance Plan.

**Dependant student:** a single student with no children who has been out of high school for less than four years or in the work force for less than two periods of 12 consecutive months (two years). This is a student category for full-time student aid (but not part-time student aid).

**Designation:** process by which schools obtain the necessary recognition that allows their students to be eligible for student aid.

**Designated institution:** schools where students are eligible to receive student aid.

**Discretionary income:** disposable income after taxes and living expenses.

**Financial need:** amount of funding required to supplement your existing funds to cover the costs of your study period (as calculated using student aid program criteria).

**Full-time student:** enrolled in 60 per cent of a full course load (or 40 per cent for students with disabilities) as determined by the school.

**Grant:** funding that does not have to be paid back unless: you withdraw within 30 days of the program start date, or it is determined that you knowingly committed fraud or misrepresentation. In these cases, your grant funding is converted into a loan and will have to be paid back. This is referred to as a grant to loan conversion.

**Independent student:** for full-time student aid, a single student with no children who has been out of high school for more than four years or in the work force for at least two periods of 12 consecutive months (two years). For part-time student aid, an independent student is a single student with no children.

**Interest-free status:** while you are in school full-time, the Government of Saskatchewan will pay the interest on your student loans.

**Lifetime maximum:** the maximum time frame (340 weeks) you are eligible to receive funding and to maintain your student loans in interest-free status. Students in doctoral studies receive 400 weeks and students with a disability receive 520 weeks.

**Loan Year:** defined as beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and ending July 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

**Moderate standard of living:** amount determined by Statistics Canada that is required to maintain a moderate standard of living per family size.

**National Student Loans Service Centre:** or NSLSC, the service provider responsible for the payment and collection of your student loan and grant funds on behalf of the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan.

**Non-Repayment (Grace) Period:** the six-month period after you graduate or leave school during which you are not required to make loan payments. However, interest on your loan accumulates (builds up) during this period and you are responsible for paying this interest. You can choose to add it to your principal (capitalization), but if you do, you will not be able to claim the interest on your income tax return. Please note this is not the same as interest-free status.

**Overpayment:** amount of student aid you received for which you are not eligible.

**Permanent disability:** any impairment, including physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or a functional limitation – that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary school level or to participate in the labour force and that is expected to remain with the person for the person's expected life.

**Persistent or prolonged disability:** any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment – or a functional limitation – that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to pursue studies at a post-secondary school level or to participate in the labour force and has lasted, or is expected to last, for a period of at least 12 months, but is not expected to remain with the person for the person's expected life.

for 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of their study period. Also, a permanent resident, or designated protected person, where Saskatchewan is the only province/territory they have lived since arriving to Canada less than 12 months ago.

**Scholarship:** funding which does not have to be paid back. Scholarships can be awarded based on merit, need, or other criteria.

**Study period:** length of time that a student is enrolled at a designated institution throughout the school year (September to April, for example).

**Satisfactory Scholastic Standard:** for full-time student aid, successfully completing a minimum of 60 per cent of a full course load or 40 per cent of a full course load for students with a disability. For part-time student aid, students must successfully complete all courses for which funding was issued. Failing to meet this standard once results in a warning, twice results in losing eligibility for 12 months, and a third time will result in losing eligibility for 36 months.

**Withdrawal:** when a student leaves studies prior to their study period end date or drops below the required course load for the study period/program for which they received funding. This includes students who withdraw of their own accord, change schools during their study period, are expelled before the end of their study period, miss more than three consecutive weeks (21 calendar days), and students whose attendance drops below 90 per cent.

**Resident:** a person who has resided in the province

# Saskatchewan Student Aid Handbook

## Saskatchewan Student Aid Program

### Important Steps in Planning and Financing Your Post-Secondary Education 2024-25

#### Need more information?

Telephone: Outside Regina call toll-free: 1-800-597-8278  
Regina area (or outside Canada): 306-787-5620

Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday

Mailing Address: Student Service Centre, Ministry of Advanced Education  
1120 - 2010 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0M3

<http://saskatchewan.ca/studentloans>

Vous pouvez obtenir cette publication en français au à: [2024-2025 Guide sur les prêts d'études intégrés Canada-Saskatchewan](#)

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