

***Potential Impact:
One Big Beautiful Bill Act***

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- Signed July 4, 2025, included changes that must be implemented by July 1, 2026.
- Final regulations from the Reimagining and Improving Student Education (RISE) were released on May 1.



Significant Changes

- Parent PLUS loan annual cap - \$20,000 for each dependent student. Total aggregate that can be borrowed for the student is 65K.
- Elimination of Graduate PLUS Loan
- Parent PLUS and Graduate PLUS Loan legacy provision
- New annual and aggregate limits for graduate and professional students
- Less than fulltime loan schedule of reduction (SOR) requirement



Anticipated Impact for First Year Students Parent PLUS Loans 20K Limitation

Residency	Total Number of Students	Total Difference Over \$20,000 (New Parent Plus Annual Limit)
Non-Resident	353	\$5,288,886
Resident	46	\$224,988
Total	399	\$5,513,874



2025-26 First Year Graduate PLUS Borrowers

Academic Unit	Total Amount of Grad PLUS (First Year Class Only)	Total Number of Students	% of First-Year Class
Arts and Sciences	\$75,912	10	6%
Business and Economics	\$205,697	13	5%
Applied Human Sciences	\$71,502	8	5%
Creative Arts and Media	\$79,385	5	4%
Dentistry	\$1,021,565	25	52%
Engineering	\$19,185	1	1%
Law	\$830,500	30	27%
Medicine	\$1,733,608	77	29%
Nursing	\$377,058	12	18%
Pharmacy	\$279,072	16	23%
Public Health	\$30,068	1	3%
Total	\$4,723,552	198	



Legacy

- **Who Qualifies?**
 - Enrolled in a program by June 30, 2026, and disbursed a Federal Direct Loan prior to July 1, 2026
 - Remain in same program (different rules for undergraduate and graduate/professional)
 - Length - Lesser of 3 years or remaining time to credential
 - Continuously enrolled at the University
- **Remain in Same Program**
 - Undergraduate --remaining in the same degree type (Associate to Associate, Bachelor to Bachelor)
 - *Example – BS in Environmental Soil and Water Sciences to BA in History.
Student is remaining in a bachelor's program and retains legacy.*
 - Graduate or Professional -- must remain in same major.

Once a student loses legacy, they are subject to new regulations and cannot regain legacy.



Remaining Time to Credential

Example 1

Enrolled in a program with a published length of four years.

Student completes their first year at the end of 2025–26 and returns for the second year in 2026–27.

2025–26 — Year 1
2026–27 — Year 2
2027–28 — Year 3
2028–29 — Year 4 (graduate)

Result: Student will retain their legacy status through the 2028–29 academic year.

Example 2

Enrolled in a program with a published length of four years.

Student completes their fourth year at the end of 2025–26 but must return for a fifth year in 2026–27 to finish the program.

2022–23 — Year 1
2023–24 — Year 2
2024–25 — Year 3
2025–26 — Year 4 (expected graduation year)

Result: Student will not be eligible for legacy status in 2026–27 because enrollment extends beyond the published program length.



Anticipated Impact for Continuing Students Not Qualifying for Legacy

Level	Total Number of Students	Impact
Undergraduates	13	\$286,328
Graduates	62	\$1,617,722
Total	75	\$1,904,050



Potential Impact of One Big Beautiful Bill

Category	Total Number of Students	Total Amount in 2025-26
Direct PLUS Loans for Parents (1 st Year Students)	399	\$5,513,874
Direct PLUS Loans for Graduate or Professional Students (1 st Year Students)	198	\$4,723,552
Continuing Students Not Qualifying for Legacy	75	\$1,904,050
Total	672	\$12,141,476

Impact by Residency

Resident	Non-Resident
178	494
26%	74%

- Students/parents will need to seek alternative funding to bridge up the gap – most likely through private credit-based loans.
- The University may need to consider increased investment in institutional aid to better support impacted students.



NEW Graduate and Professional Borrowing Limits

- Annual Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan limit for new borrowers in an eligible professional program will be \$50,000.
- The annual limit for all other graduate or non-eligible professional programs will remain \$20,500.
- WVU has four programs qualifying for the higher loan limit under the new professional definition:
 - Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD)
 - Doctor of Medicine (MD)
 - Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)
 - Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Current professional legacy students cannot opt out of legacy to receive the \$50,000
- Aggregate Limit Professional : \$200,000 (includes any loans borrowed as a graduate student)
- Aggregate Limit Graduate: \$100,000
- Lifetime Limit: \$257,500



Change in Distribution of Student Loans if Summer is Required

Generally, loans are distributed evenly between the fall and spring terms.

If summer is a required term within the published curriculum, the loan must be distributed evenly across fall, spring, and summer terms.



Schedule Order of Reduction (SOR) For Students Attending Less Than Full-Time

- Formula: $(\text{number of credit hours enrolled for the academic year} \div \text{number of credit hours considered full-time for that academic year for the program of study}) \times 100 = \text{reduced annual loan limit percentage}$.
- Full time enrollment
 - Undergraduate – 12 hours Fall, Spring and Summer
 - Graduate – 9 hours Fall & Spring and 6 hours Summer
- ***Outstanding Department of Education questions remain on the impact of full or partial withdrawals under the new formula.***

Example 1:

A dependent, undergraduate student with max loan eligibility of \$5500/yr (\$2750 fall and \$2750 spring) is initially enrolled full-time (12 credit hours). **Before** loan disbursement, the student drops to 6 credit hours. As a result, the original fall loan of \$2,750 **must** be reduced to \$1,375.

Example 2:

A dependent, undergraduate student is enrolled full-time (12 credit hours). **After** the fall loan has been disbursed, the student drops to 6 credit hours. The fall loan does not need to be adjusted. However, the reduced enrollment **must be considered** in the annual loan calculation for the spring semester.

- If the student enrolls in 12 credit hours in spring, they will have \$1,375 in remaining loan eligibility (18/24).
- If the student enrolls in 18 credit hours in spring, the student is eligible for their full remaining loan eligibility of \$2,750 (24/24 credits).



Planning, Communication, and Mitigation Efforts

- Distribute analyses to the University community outlining potential impacts.
- Developed resources for front-facing staff and launched a dedicated webpage for students and families.
- Communicating with impacted students and stakeholder groups.
- Added financial literacy resources to website to support informed private borrowing decisions.



Resources

- [WVU Hub: One Big Beautiful Bill Act Impacts](#)
- [2026-27 & Beyond Graduate/Professional Student Loan Borrowing Limit \(Chart from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators\)](#)
- [NASFAA: One Big Beautiful Bill Act Web Center](#)

