

Private Alternative Loans

A number of lenders, credit unions and agencies sponsor alternative loans, home equity loans and lines of credit to help families finance the cost of a college education. The following is a representative listing of such programs. Contact these lenders for the latest terms and rates. Loans are available for both undergraduate and graduate students.

- Niagara University does not automatically certify alternative loans until students have completed the FAFSA and their eligibility for Federal Stafford Loans has been determined.
- It is usually in the student's best interest to borrow from the Federal Stafford Loan program first before borrowing an alternative loan. **There is no cap on the interest rate for an alternative loan.**
- If a student does not intend to complete a FAFSA and **only wants an alternative loan**, we must be notified in writing to determine your eligibility for the alternative loan.

***** CONSUMER ALERT *****

Lenders look at your credit score to determine if you are a good credit risk. Applying for more than one Alternative Loan will no longer negatively affect your credit score. It's treated as a "soft hit" on your credit report for both the borrower and the co-signer if you are applying to multiple lenders.

Be wary of any Direct to Consumer Loans that do not require a school certification. Usually the interest rates on those loans are much higher. If a school certification is not required you will be asked for a bill or a copy of your class schedule.

The Financial Aid Office is required by Federal regulations to make certain your aid does not exceed cost of attendance if the aid includes a loan. The cost of attendance elements are set by federal regulation.

Important: Pursuant to Section 155 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, (HEA) and to satisfy the requirements of Section 128(e)(3) of the Truth in Lending Act, a lender must obtain a self-certification signed by the applicant before disbursing a private education loan. The school is required on request to provide this form or the required information only for students admitted or enrolled at the school. This form is available on our website or in the Financial Aid Office upon request.

Defaulting on your loan could prevent you from owning a car or a house one day, and it is virtually impossible to eliminate student debt by declaring bankruptcy except in extreme cases of hardship.

Questions you want to ask before borrowing an alternative loan:

- What is the interest rate?
- What is the cap on the interest rate?
- When and how often is interest capitalized (added to the principal)?
- When does repayment begin?
- What are the penalties for missing a payment?
- Can you postpone payments after graduation; under what circumstances?
- Is there in-school deferment for graduate school; and is there a maximum time for in-school deferment?

See reverse for Alternative Loan options

Private Credit Based Alternative Loans

Borrowers have the right and ability to select the education loan provider of their choice and are not required to use any of the lenders on this list. Niagara receives no incentive or benefit from any lender on this list. All of the listed lenders provide loans for Graduate and Undergraduate students to provide funds beyond what federal programs can offer. Students can borrow up to cost of attendance minus financial aid. All loans are variable interest rates unless otherwise indicated. **Lender order is alphabetical. It is best to contact the lender concerning current rates and benefits.**

Chase Select Loan

The Chase Select Loan is privately sponsored and serviced by Chase Bank. Students can borrow for less than half time, half time, or full time. A co-borrower release option is also available after 36 consecutive on time payments. It can be used to cover previous balances up to 12 months. No fees. No minimum income or employment requirement. Apply online at www.chaseselectloans.com or call 866-306-0868.

CitiAssist Loan from Citibank

The Citiassist Alternative Loan is privately sponsored and serviced by Citibank. Students can borrow for less than half time, half time, or full time. A co-borrower release option after 24 consecutive on-time payments. Past due balances are not covered. 0% or 3% fees may apply. \$18,500 minimum income or employment requirement. Apply online at www.studentloan.com or call 800-967-2400.

Citizen's Bank Trufit Loan

The Trufit Student Loan is privately sponsored and serviced by Citizens Bank. Students must be enrolled at least half-time in a degree granting program. Cosigner release option is available after 36 consecutive on-time payments. Zero fees. Easy qualification with minimal income requirements. Can cover past due balances up to 180 days. Apply online at www.citizensbank.com/trufitstudentloan or call 800-708-6684.

Discover Certified Private Loan

The Discover Private Loans have zero origination fees, competitive interest rates, a 2% Graduation Reward on outstanding principal balance at graduation, and a 0.25% auto debit reward. No payments are due until 6 months after you graduate or enroll in school less than half-time. You must be enrolled at least half time. Past due balances covered up to 6 months. Co-signer release option is not available. No income or employment requirements. Apply online at www.discoverstudentloans.com, or call 877-728-3030 from 8:00am to 12:00 midnight EST seven days a week.

New York Higher Education Loan Program (NYHELPS)

NYHELPS offers a competitively priced private loan with a fixed interest rate up to a maximum of \$10,000 per academic year. Must be a New York State resident for the last 12 months. Cosigner is required and must also be a New York State resident for the last 12 months. Must be enrolled at least half-time in a degree granting program. Interest and/or principal payments may be required. Apply online at www.HESC.org/NYHELPS.

PNC Solution Loan

The credit application on the PNC Solution Loan is good for 180 days. Zero fees. Past due balances are covered up to 90 days. Must be enrolled at least half time in a degree granting program. Co-signer release option is available after 48 on time payments are made. 0.50% interest rate reduction for payments made with auto debit when in repayment. Minimal income requirements apply. Apply online at www.pnconcampus.com, or call 800-762-1001, option 1, Monday through Friday 8:00am – 6:00pm EST.

Wells Fargo Collegiate Loan

The Collegiate Loan is privately sponsored and serviced by Wells Fargo Bank, NA. Students can be less than half time, half time, or full time in a degree seeking program per semester to qualify. A co-borrower release option is available after 24 consecutive on time payments. Past due balances may be covered. Zero fees. \$12,000 minimum income requirements. Loan forgiveness on existing and future Wells Fargo private student loans in the event of the death of permanent disability of the student is now available. The Wells Fargo Private Consolidation loan is not eligible. Apply online at www.wellsfargo.com/student or call 800-658-3567 from 8:00am to 10:00pm, M-F, 7:00am-12noon, Sat (Eastern Standard Time).

If you would like to shop around and compare private student loans you can go to:

<http://studentlendinganalytics.com/ratings.html>

www.hesc.org/marketplace

www.elmselect.com