2016 – 2017 TEACH Grant Program

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 created the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program. This program provides up to $4,000 per year ($16,000 total for 4-year programs) in grants to students who commit to 1) teach full-time, 2) in high-need subject areas, 3) for at least four years, 4) at schools that serve students from low-income families. Graduate students may be eligible for $4,000 per year ($8,000 total) with this same commitment to teach.

An application form for the TEACH Grant at South Dakota State University has been attached to this document. If you complete an application, you will be contacted with updates.

Students need to be aware that the grant requires a specific service requirement.

If a student fails to complete the four-year teaching obligation, he or she will have to repay the grant with interest. The interest begins to accumulate when the student receives the first grant disbursement.

Student Eligibility Requirements – To qualify for the grant, you must:

- Complete the 2016-17 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.
- Be enrolled in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plan to complete such coursework. Coursework that will prepare a student to teaching a high-need subject area (for example, math courses for a student who intends to be a math teacher) is acceptable.
- Only students pursuing an eligible Bachelor’s degree or Master’s degree in Teacher Education would be considered for the TEACH Grant. Students in a second Bachelor’s degree or in a teacher certification program are not eligible for the TEACH Grant.
- Meet the following academic requirements:
  - Scored above the 75th percentile on SAT, ACT, or GRE, in at least one battery (A copy of the official test record must be provided to the SDSU Financial Aid Office) OR
  - Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (from all institutions attended) and must maintain a cumulative 3.25 GPA each semester in order to continue receiving the TEACH grant OR
  - Are obtaining a Master’s degree as a current or former teacher OR
  - Are obtaining a Master’s degree as a retiree based on SSI
- Complete TEACH Grant counseling.
- Sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay each year. This will be available electronically on a U.S. Department of Education web site.

TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay – Each year that you receive a TEACH grant, you must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay that is available on the Department of Education’s web site. This agreement will specify the conditions under which the grant will be awarded and the teaching service requirements. You will also be required to acknowledge 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 first disbursed.
Teaching Obligation – To avoid repaying the TEACH Grant as a loan with interest you must become a highly-qualified, full-time teacher in a high-need subject area and teach for at least 4 years within 8 years of finishing your academic program. You must teach at a school serving low-income students. Following are the definitions of these terms:

- **Highly-Qualified Teacher** – This requirement is defined in section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or in section 602(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which can be found online at: [www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0414.html](http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0414.html)

- **Full-time Teacher** – You must meet the state’s definition of a full-time teacher and spend the majority (at least 51%) of your time teaching in one of the high-need subject areas. *Elementary school teachers who teach many subjects would not be able to fulfill their service requirements.*

- **High-Need Subject Areas** –
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Foreign language
  - Bilingual education
  - English language acquisition
  - Special education
  - Reading specialist
  - Other identified teacher shortage areas as of the time you begin teaching in that field. These are teacher subject shortage areas—not geographic areas—listed in the Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing at [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc).

- **Schools Serving Low-Income Students** – These schools include any elementary or secondary school listed in the Department of Education’s annual directory at: [www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp](http://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp)

**Documentation** – Within 120 days of completing enrollment in the TEACH-eligible academic program, you must notify the Department of Education that you are fulfilling or will fulfill the terms and conditions of the service agreement.

If you receive a TEACH grant, you must provide documentation to the U.S. Department of Education that you completed your teaching obligation. This documentation must be certified by the elementary or secondary school’s chief administrator officer after you have completed 4 academic years of teaching service.

*Failure to complete the teaching obligation or properly document your teaching service will cause the TEACH Grant to be permanently converted to a loan with interest.*

*Once a TEACH Grant is converted to a loan, it cannot be converted back to a grant.*
2016-2017 Application for Federal TEACH Grant

Student's Name ___________________________________________ Phone ______________________________

Student ID# __________________________ SDSU E-Mail ______________________________

**GRANT INFORMATION**

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 created the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program. This program provides up to $4,000 per year ($16,000 total for 4-year programs) in grants to undergraduate students who commit to 1) teach full-time 2) in high-need subject areas 3) for at least four years AND 4) at schools that serve students from low-income families. Graduate students may be eligible for $4,000 per year ($8,000 total) with this same commitment. If the commitment is not fulfilled, the grant is permanently converted to a loan to be repaid by the recipient. The loan is an unsubsidized Direct Federal Stafford Loan with interest calculated from the time of the grant disbursement.

**SECTION A: STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

I certify that I meet or I will meet the student eligibility requirements as follows:

- I have completed (or will complete) the 2016-2017 FAFSA
- I am a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen
- I am enrolled in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plan to complete such coursework. Coursework that will prepare a student to teach in a high-need subject area is acceptable (see areas specified in the annual listing at: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.doc).
- I plan on teaching in the following high-need subject area:
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Foreign language
  - Bilingual education
  - English language acquisition
  - Special education
  - Reading specialist
  - Other: __________________________
  - State: __________ County: __________
- I meet one of the following academic requirements:
  - Scored above the 75th percentile on SAT, ACT, or GRE, in at least one battery (I have attached a copy of this record) OR
  - Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (from all institutions attended) and must maintain a cumulative 3.25 GPA each semester in order to continue receiving the TEACH grant OR
  - Are obtaining a Master’s degree as a current or former teacher (Please complete the Teacher Confirmation section) OR
  - Are obtaining a Master’s degree as a retiree based on SSI (Please complete the Retiree Confirmation section)
- I have completed TEACH Grant counseling at https://teach-ats.ed.gov, Date: __________________
- I have signed a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay each year at https://teach-ats.ed.gov, Date: __________________
- I will teach for at least 4 years in a school serving low-income students (see annual directory at: www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp)
- I will provide documentation to the U.S. Department of Education that I completed the teaching obligation and this will be certified by the elementary or secondary school’s chief administrator officer after 4 academic years of teaching service.

**SECTION B: STUDENT CERTIFICATION**

I understand that the TEACH Grant program has specific service obligations that must be met in order for the award to remain as a grant. If I fail to meet all of the conditions of the award or if the conditions are not documented as required, I understand that the award will permanently convert to an unsubsidized Direct Federal Stafford Loan and that I will be responsible to repay this loan with interest calculated from the disbursement date of the grant. I understand that once a TEACH Grant is converted to a loan, it cannot be converted back to a grant.

Student Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________
Teacher Confirmation

This section is not required of all TEACH Grant applicants. You MUST be pursuing a Master’s degree to complete this section.

Please note that the signature of you Principal or Superintendent is necessary.

TEACH Grant Teacher Confirmation:

I hereby certify that ____________________________, is a current teacher or was a former teacher at ____________________________ and teaches/taught ____________________________.  

Teacher’s Name Here

Print name of School

Print Subject Area

_______________________________________________                _____________________________________
Supervisor’s Signature                                                               Date

_______________________________________________                  _____________________________________
Supervisor’s Printed Name                                                        Supervisor’s Title
Retiree Confirmation

This section is not required of all TEACH Grant applicants. You MUST be pursuing a Master's degree to complete this section.

TEACH Grant Retiree Confirmation:

I am a retiree (based on SSI) and understand that I must verify my retired status. I have attached supporting documentation to this form.

______ Yes    ______ No

Do you have expertise in one of the following high-need fields? Please check the appropriate box.

☐ Mathematics
☐ Science
☐ Foreign language
☐ Bilingual education
☐ English language acquisition
☐ Special education
☐ Reading specialist
☐ Other: ________________________________

Please explain the nature of your expertise and how long you have been an expert:

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Student’s Signature: ___________________________    Date: ___________________________