sallie mae

Consider a cosigner

Many students haven't had time to build enough credit yet, but applying with a cosigner can help you get approved for an undergraduate or graduate student loan.

What is a cosigner?

- A creditworthy person who shares responsibility for repaying your loan
- Their credit history is considered alongside yours on the loan application
- Often a parent, but doesn't have to be related or live in the same state
- Someone you trust and who supports your education goals

Apply today at
salliemae.com/cosigner

How can a cosigner help?

Private loans are credit-based, so a cosigner with good credit can improve your chances of qualifying. Last year, students were 4X more likely to be approved with a cosigner.[1]

Who can be a cosigner?

Any creditworthy adult who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and accepts the responsibility to repay the loan can be a cosigner, including: A parent, guardian, relative or friend.

Apply for cosigner release.[2]

Students can apply to release a cosigner after meeting these criteria:

- Graduate
- Make 12 on-time principal and interest repayments
- Meet certain credit requirements

Visit salliemae.com/cosigner

Borrow responsibly

We encourage students and families to start with savings, grants, scholarships, and federal student loans to pay for college. Evaluate all anticipated monthly loan payments, and how much the student expects to earn in the future, before considering a private student loan.

Explore federal loans and compare to make sure you understand the terms and features. Private student loans that have variable rates can go up over the life of the loan. Federal student loans are required by law to provide a range of flexible repayment options, including, but not limited to, income-based repayment and income-contingent repayment plans, and loan forgiveness and deferment benefits, which other student loans are not required to provide. Federal loans generally have origination fees but are available to students regardless of income.

Sallie Mae loans are subject to credit approval, identity verification, signed loan documents, and school certification. Smart Option Student Loans are for students at participating schools and are not intended for students pursuing a graduate degree. Graduate student loans are available for students at participating degree-granting graduate schools. Graduate Certificate/Continuing Education coursework is not eligible for MBA, Medical, Dental, and Law School Loans. Student or cosigner must meet the age of majority in their state of residence. Students who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents must reside in the U.S., attend school in the U.S., and apply with a creditworthy cosigner (who must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident). Requested loan amount must be at least $1,000.

[1] Based on a comparison of the percentage of students who were approved for any Sallie Mae loan with a cosigner to the percentage of students who were approved without a cosigner from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.

[2] Only the borrower may apply for cosigner release. To do so, they must first meet the age of majority in their state and provide proof of graduation (or completion of certification program), income, and U.S. citizenship or permanent residency (if their status has changed since they applied). In the last 12 months, the borrower can't have been past due on any loans serviced by Sallie Mae for 30 or more days or enrolled in any hardship forbearances or modified repayment programs. In addition, the borrower must have paid ahead or made 12 on-time principal and interest payments on each loan requested for release. The loan can't be past due when the cosigner release application is processed. The borrower must also demonstrate the ability to assume full responsibility of the loan(s) individually and pass a credit review when the cosigner release application is processed that demonstrates a satisfactory credit history including but not limited to no: bankruptcy, foreclosure, student loan(s) in default or 90-day delinquencies in the last 24 months. Requirements are subject to change.

SALLIE MAE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY OR DISCONTINUE PRODUCTS, SERVICES, AND BENEFITS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE. CHECK SALLIEMAE.COM FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE PRODUCT INFORMATION.

Information advertised valid as of March 25, 2025. Sallie Mae loans are made by Sallie Mae Bank.