

## Private Education Loans

Private Education Loans are non-federal loans made by a lender such as a bank, credit union or any other financial institution engaged in the business of soliciting, making or extending private education loans. Private loans are intended to help bridge the gap in funding your educational cost after all other sources of aid (grants, scholarships and work study) have been considered.

Walters State Community College encourages all students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> as students may qualify for other forms of federal student financial assistance through other Title IV programs such as Pell, Supplemental Educational opportunity Grant (SEOG) or Federal Work Study. Walters State Community College does not participate in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. However, you may stop by the financial aid office or click <http://studentaid.ed.gov> for additional information on types of financial aid available. Did you know that the college offers a deferred payment plan? Click here to learn more: <http://www.ws.edu/student-services/cashiers-office/payments/deferred/>

**Walters State Community College does not endorse any private loan servicer or the products that they offer.** As a result, students are encouraged to research which private loans will best meet their needs by comparing interest rates, fees and repayment terms and conditions.

Things to consider when applying for a Private Loan:

- Private student loans may require an established credit record.
- Private student loans may require a co-signer.
- Private student loans may require you to make payments while you are in school.
- Private student loans can have variable interest rates which may increase the amount you have to repay.
- Private student loans are not subsidized. No one pays the interest while you are in school.
- Private student loans may not offer forbearance or deferment option.

Students may choose any lender when applying for a private loan. However, the lender may require you to complete a self-certification form in which you will be required to report your cost of attendance (COA) and any awards received at Walters State (see <http://www.ws.edu/financial-aid/start/> ). This information is available on your StarNET account by selecting Awards/Award for Aid Year. You may also come by the financial aid office for assistance with this information.

Private loans may also be referred to as alternative loans but please keep in mind that these loans are not Title IV loans. Students are subject to the terms of the private lender. Students are encouraged to read all disclosures carefully and become well informed borrowers.