



Graduate Student Loan Program Request for Letters of Interest

Q&A Session | February 21, 2025

Answers to questions received in February 21 Q&A Session

- Q1: Zack from the PESB was wondering if a Joint submission facilitated by PESB coordinated effort could be used to submit Educator Workforce programs. Educator workforce data is gathered which could be used to help inform decision-making.
- A1: WSAC could be interested in such an approach, though institutions with those Educator Workforce programs would need to agree that the program submission would be submitted through this coordinated effort. Individual programs would need to be selected from the submission.
- Q2: When would we learn more details about loan platform, servicers, fund delivery, application processes and other business process necessary to stand up the program on our campus?
- A2: Program Guidelines will be available to GSL participants prior to the allocation of funds. These guidelines outline procedures by which the GSL will be administered. Generally, the loan will be processed much like private loans are administered on campuses. It is expected that this information will be finalized in the spring.
- Q3: If we apply and are approved to participate, are we obligated to participate?
- A3: No. However, WSAC would need to know whether or not the institution is going to participate as soon as the decision is made to ensure that all allocated funds ultimately reach students each year.
- Q4: Can you explain what exactly you mean/are looking for in this statement? Can you give an example of such a program?
- **Note: WSAC is particularly interested in graduate programs specializing in certifying college in the high school educators.*
- A4: College in the high school is a program where college courses are taught to qualified students at the high school (rather than a student attending a running start course at their local college). The intention of this question is to identify those graduate programs where graduates would be eligible to be hired as faculty in such college in the high school programs.
- Q5: Does the size of the program impact decision?
- A5: No. WSAC has indicated that each institution is able to submit at least one application the size of the program is not a limiting factor. Note that the 2025-26 academic year is considered a pilot year, and there is limited funding available, so WSAC will not be able to fund all students in all programs that are submitted.

Q6: What exactly are you looking for/wanting for this question in appendix A? Can you provide the specific data elements that you're wanting us to collect?

- **Can your institution commit to providing WSAC with necessary data on student success and labor market outcomes?**

A6: The legislature requires that WSAC submit information and data (see [RCW 28B.93.050](#)) that informs them that the program is making an impact in these high need areas. To that end, WSAC and the Legislature will be looking to identify impact. For example:

- Are more students showing interest?
- Are more students enrolling in high demand fields?
- Is the loan making a difference in student persistent and the growth of qualified practitioners in these fields?

Q7: What does the interview process look like?

A7: We are looking at an informal process whereby program clarification might be needed. It could take place through either email or virtual meetings via Zoom or Teams.

Q8: Just to clarify, so would the application process be provided by the servicer? And that data would be provided to schools to confirm eligibility?

A8: The loans would be administered by the Originator and the loan would be processed by them. The institution would be responsible for the certification of the loan and disbursement of funds much like the process for certifying and disbursing private loans. More detailed information will be available when the Program Guidelines are published.

Q9: Since funds are limited, who will be making the ultimate decision as to which students receive the loan vs. those that do not?

A9: GSL Loan funds will be allocated to the institutions and it will be incumbent on them to award the funds to eligible students. The awards would be made based on institutional awarding policy.

Q10: For institutions with multiple programs submitted – block amount to school vs. by program.

A10: Since individual programs are being selected, allocations will be made by program.

Q11: Does a Masters in Education Counseling (MEd) qualifies for counseling in K-12 but not teaching. Would this program be favorably considered? Does program size matter (small number of students in the graduate program)?

A11: The MEd on its face would be a good candidate for consideration among all submissions.

A12: Is this to primarily assist for GAP and/or student that are at or beyond aggregate limits?

Q12: The GSL is intended to assist students who might not otherwise be able to enroll without these funds. Students do not have to exhaust Direct Loan limits in order to be eligible.

Q13: Are these credit-based loans for Grad students? Or similar to Stafford?

A13: These loans are not credit-based.

Q14: Eligibility requirements: WA state resident, 100% MFI or lower, for example?

A14: In order to be eligible for the GSL, students must complete a FAFSA/WASFA, be a resident of the state, have an MFI at or below 100%, and be attending on a least a half-time basis (see [RCW 28B.93.010\(4\)](#)).

Q15: Any suggestions on how to narrow down students who are in a similar financial boat?

A15: This is a challenge. The institution could develop priority awarding based on when the application was completed; specific income or family size information; grade level (prioritize first year over second year); etc.

Q16: Would the application of the loan be completely dependent upon the student completing an application similar to how private loans would work? Where we would only package the loan if the student took the steps to apply vs. offering it to all students in the program who meet the eligibility criteria for the loan?

A16: The institution would award the student and direct them to the loan application provided by the Originator. The student would complete the application and it would then be routed to the institution for certification.

Q17: Assuming all of the logistics will be laid out clearly for the students (repayment, deferments, etc.) before they apply/take out loan?

A17: A Program Guidelines document and Program Manual will be available before the awarding and disbursing of loan funds which will clearly lay out the GSL expectations and procedures.

Q18: We're not allowed to create an add'l step/application, etc. for federal aid, but are we able to create an essay or something to help narrow down who we award?

A18: The GSL awarding would be the institution's responsibility. If an additional step, like an essay is required for the loan to be awarded, that would be up to the institution. However, in general, WSAC does not want to create barriers to students in the awarding and disbursing of financial aid.

Q19: Can potential students need to use/Exhaust Stafford 1st or can they choose this new program because the terms are better?

A19: Students are not required to exhaust Stafford loan eligibility. WSAC will rely on the institution's awarding policies in the awarding of this fund.