

## TEACH Grants at William Jewell College

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides grants up to \$4,000 to students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. The first TEACH Grants will be awarded to eligible William Jewell College students for the 2009-2010 school year. In addition to meeting all the federal eligibility criteria for the TEACH grant, students must also be enrolled in an approved program. Students at William Jewell College are considered to be enrolled in an approved program if the following criteria are met:

- 1 Admission to the Teacher Education Program (specific admission requirements are available through the William Jewell College Education Department although students generally apply to the program during the sophomore year). **Two of the most important requirements for Admission to the Teacher Education Program are:**
  - a) Achievement of the grade point average requirements for admission to the teacher education program
  - b) Achievement of a qualifying score on the CBASE as determined by the State of Missouri and William Jewell College Education Department.
- 2 Selection of a major/teach content area that is designated as a critical high-need field (math, science, foreign language). Please see : [www.ed.gov/teachers/nclbguide/improve-quality.html](http://www.ed.gov/teachers/nclbguide/improve-quality.html) for the Department of Education's Teacher Shortage Area Listing.

Typically, the first year a William Jewell College student would be eligible to apply for and receive the TEACH grant would be during his/her junior year.

Students who meet the above criteria should complete a William Jewell College TEACH Grant Application,

- meet with the Chair of the William Jewell College Education Department
- meet with a financial aid counselor who will review with the student the conditions of the grant and the consequences for failure to meet the service obligation requirements
- complete the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay ([www.teach-ats.ed.gov](http://www.teach-ats.ed.gov))
- complete the Entrance counseling session and sign the William Jewell College TEACH Grant Entrance Counseling form.

In addition to meeting the general federal student aid eligibility criteria, TEACH grant recipients must also meet one of the following academic achievement requirements: 1) Score above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on a college admissions test (e.g. SAT or ACT) OR 2) Achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) on college coursework to receive a grant for each subsequent term.

### **TEACH Grant Agreement to Service and Promise to Pay**

Each year a TEACH Grant is received, the student must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay (Service Agreement). The Service Agreement is a legally binding document that specifies the conditions under which the grant will be awarded, the teaching service requirements, and includes an acknowledgement by the recipient that failure to meet the teaching service requirements will result in the recipient repaying the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, with interest accrued from the date the grant funds were first disbursed.

By signing the Service Agreement, the student agrees to:

- Serve as a full-time\*, highly-qualified\* teacher for at least four years within 8 years of completing, or otherwise ceasing to be enrolled in the program for which the student received a TEACH grant,
- Teach in a low-income school\*, **and**
- Teach in a high-need field\*, in the majority (51%) of classes that are taught during each school year.

A TEACH recipient incurs a four-year teaching obligation for EACH educational program for which TEACH Grant funds are received, although the TEACH recipient may work off multiple four-year obligations simultaneously under certain circumstances.

\*Specific definitions of these terms are included below.

#### **Highly-Qualified Teacher**

A recipient must perform the teaching service as a highly-qualified teacher, which is defined in section 9101(23) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended. More information about the highly qualified teacher requirements are available online at: [www.ed.gov/teachers/nclbguide/improve-quality.html](http://www.ed.gov/teachers/nclbguide/improve-quality.html)

#### **Full-Time Teacher**

A recipient must meet the state's definition of a full-time teacher and spend the majority (at least 51%) of time teaching one of the high-need subject areas. **Elementary teachers who teach many subjects, would be unable to fulfill this service agreement.**

#### **High-Need Subject Areas at William Jewell College**

Foreign Language

Mathematics

Science

Other teacher shortage areas listed in the Department of Education's Annual Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing. This list is found at:

[www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/pol/tsa.pdf](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oep/pol/tsa.pdf)

#### **Schools Serving Low-Income Students**

Schools serving low-income students include any elementary or secondary school that is listed in the Department of Education's Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income

Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits, located at:  
[www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp](http://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp)

### **Documentation**

A TEACH recipient must respond promptly to any requests for information or documentation from the U.S. Department of Education, even if it seems repetitive. These requests will be sent to the recipient while still in school as well as once out of school. A TEACH recipient will be required to regularly confirm the intention to teach or to confirm that teaching is occurring as required. A TEACH recipient must provide documentation to the U.S. Department of Education at the end of each year of teaching.

If a recipient temporarily ceases enrollment in the program of study or encounters situations that affect the ability to begin or continue teaching, there is still a requirement to contact the U.S. Department of Education to avoid grants being converted to loans before a recipient is able to complete the teaching obligation.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

Failure to complete the teaching obligation, respond to requests for information, or properly document teaching service will cause the TEACH Grant to be permanently converted to a loan with interest.

Once a grant is converted to a loan it cannot be converted back to a grant!

More information can be found at:

[http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/4807Teach\\_FactSheet\\_v3.pdf](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/4807Teach_FactSheet_v3.pdf)

### **STEPS TO APPLY FOR A TEACH GRANT AT WILIAM JEWELL COLLEGE**

1. Complete the William Jewell College TEACH Grant Application and obtain the signatures of representatives from the William Jewell College's Education Department and Financial Aid Office.
2. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Although the TEACH Grant applicant does not have to demonstrate financial need, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the FAFSA be completed each year a TEACH grant is received.
3. After the William Jewell College TEACH Grant Application has been approved, the applicant must complete TEACH Grant counseling and a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay. <https://teach-ats.ed.gov/ats/index.action>