Federal Direct Stafford Loans can only be used to pay for educational expenses such as tuition, fees, books and transportation. Loan funds cannot be used to pay credit card bills for personal purchases, child support payments, car payments or other non-educational costs. There are eligibility requirements students must meet in order to qualify for a Federal Direct Stafford Loan.

If you are awarded a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, you must also complete:

- Master Promissory Note (MPN)
  - Go to http://studentloans.gov/
- Entrance loan counseling
  - Go to http://studentloans.gov/

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
- Be enrolled for at least 6 credit hours.
- Meet COTC’s Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. To view the policy, go to http://www.cotc.edu/Admissions/Pages/SAP.aspx.

LOAN LIMIT AMOUNTS

Minimum per Academic Year
- The minimum amount is $100 per academic year.

Maximum per Academic Year
- The maximum subsidized loan is dependent on your grade level.
  - If you have earned fewer than 31 credit hours (freshman level), you are eligible for a subsidized loan up to $3,500.
  - If you have earned 31 or more credit hours (sophomore level), you are eligible for a subsidized loan up to $4,500. (Note: if you are in a certificate program, you are only eligible for $3,500).
- The maximum unsubsidized loan amount is dependent on your grade level and dependency status. If you are interested in an unsubsidized loan, you can view loan limits at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans.

CURRENT INTEREST RATES

DEADLINES
- You should apply for a loan at least 30 days prior to the end of the semester.
- In most cases, loan funds will not be awarded for a semester that has ended.

REPAYMENT
- You are responsible for paying back your loan plus any interest that accrues.
- Failure to repay your loan will jeopardize your future eligibility for financial aid and negatively impact your credit worthiness for any future borrowing, including car loans and home mortgages.
- Students generally enter repayment 6 months after they drop below half time (6 credits) enrollment status.
- To view repayment options and calculators go to https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/understand/plans.
- Borrow Wisely! If you have trouble making payments, please talk to your lender about lowering or postponing your payments.