

**\*\*This TEACH Grant information is only valid for 2009-2010 school year. \*\***  
**\*\*Program information may change for subsequent years.\*\***

### **TEACH Grant Program**

The new Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides up to \$4,000 per year in grants for undergraduate and graduate students who intend to **teach full-time in high-need subject areas** for at least **four years at schools that serve students from low-income families.**

- Undergraduate study: up to \$4,000 per year for first baccalaureate to a maximum of \$16,000
- Post-baccalaureate study: up to \$4,000 per year for first post-baccalaureate teacher certification program, up to remaining balance of undergraduate maximum
- Graduate study: up to \$4,000 per year for a Master’s degree to a maximum of \$8,000

**If you fail to complete the 4-year teaching obligation within 8 years of completing or ceasing your program of study, the grant will convert to a loan, with interest retroactive to first date of disbursement.**

Southeast Missouri State University has determined that the following majors will be TEACH Grant eligible programs for the 09-10 school year.

- |                       |                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Biology Education   | • TESOL                           | • Science Education Emphasis     |
| • Chemistry Education | • Mathematics Education           | • Secondary Education (MAEd)     |
| • Physics Education   | • Middle School Education         | • Secondary Education: Educ Std  |
| • Spanish Education   | • Biology Education: Unified Sci  | • Secondary Education: Educ Tech |
| • French Education    | • Earth Science Educ: Unified Sci | • Secondary Education: Middle    |
| • German Education    | • Physics Education: Unified Sci  |                                  |
| • Exceptional Child   | • Chemistry Educatn: Unified Sci  |                                  |

Students interested in the TEACH Grant program will also need to file a FAFSA, be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen, and maintain a GPA of 3.25 (incoming freshman are based on high school GPA) **OR** score above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on a college admissions test. Please see the below charts for scores that are at or above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile.

ACT				
	English	Math	Reading	Science
1997-2005	24	24	25	24
2006	25	24	26	24
2007-2008	25	25	26	24

GRE (July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2006)		
Verbal	Quantitative	Analytical
560	77	5.5

### **Student Eligibility Requirements**

To receive a Teach Grant you must:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), although you do not have to demonstrate financial need.

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Enrolled in a program of study designated as TEACH Grant-eligible. Eligible programs are those that prepare a student to teach in a high-need area. For example, a bachelor's program with a math major could qualify the student who intends to be a math teacher. Please see the list of eligible majors listed on page 1.
- Complete TEACH Grant counseling.
- Sign a TEACH Grant **Agreement to Serve** and respond to requests by the U.S. Department of Education confirming your continuing intention to meet the teaching obligation.
- For undergraduate programs, meet one of the following academic achievement requirements:
  - Score above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on a college admissions test (e.g. SAT, ACT, or GRE); or
  - Graduate from high school with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) to receive a grant as a freshman; or
  - Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) through the most recent term.
- For graduate programs:
  - Meet one of the following academic standards:
    - Score above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on a college admissions test (e.g. SAT, ACT, or GRE)
    - Have an undergraduate cumulative GPA of a least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) to receive a grant in the first term, or
    - Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 (on a 4.0 scale) through the most recent term in the Master's degree program for a subsequent payments; or
      - Be a current teacher or be a retiree from another occupation with expertise in a high-need field, enrolled in a Master's degree program; or
      - Be a former teacher pursuing an alternative route to certification within a Master's degree program.

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

Each year you receive a TEACH Grant, you must sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve and Promise to Pay (service agreement) that will be available electronically on a Department of Education Web site. The TEACH Grant service agreement specifies the conditions under which the grant will be awarded, the teaching service requirements, and includes an acknowledgment by you that you understand that **if you do not meet the teaching service requirements you must repay the grant as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan, with interest accrued from the date the grant funds were first disbursed.**

### **Teaching Obligation**

To avoid repaying the TEACH Grant with interest you must be a **highly-qualified, full-time** teacher in a **high-need subject area** for at least **four years** at a **school serving low-income students**. You must complete the four years of teaching within eight years of finishing the program for which you received the grant. You incur a four-year teaching obligation for each education program for which you received TEACH Grant funds, although you may work off multiple four-year obligations simultaneously under certain circumstances. Specific definitions of these terms are included below.

## **Highly-Qualified Teacher**

You must perform the teaching service as a highly-qualified teacher, which is defined in federal law within Section 9101(23) of ESEA:

“Highly qualified” means that the teacher has obtained full State certification as a teacher and holds a certificate to teach in Missouri, and does not have certification or licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis. A highly qualified teacher also holds a minimum of a bachelor’s degree and has demonstrated subject-matter competency in each of the academic subjects in which the teacher teaches, either by taking the required state tests (the C-BASE and the Praxis II exam) or through Missouri’s HOUSE.”

## **Full-Time Teacher**

You must meet the state’s definition of a full time teacher and spend the majority of your time teaching one of the high-need subject areas. Elementary teachers who teach many subjects would not be able to fulfill their service agreement.

## **High-Need Fields**

- Federal High-Need Fields
  - Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
  - Foreign Language
  - Mathematics
  - Reading Specialist
  - Science
  - Special Education
- State High-Need Fields\*
  - A complete list of high-needs fields can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/tsa.pdf>

\*Due to the nature of the TEACH Grant program, Southeast Missouri State University will not deem state-identified high-need fields as eligible majors for the 2009-2010 academic year. Please see the list on page 1 for approved majors.

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

Schools serving low-income students include elementary or secondary schools listed in the Department of Education’s Annual Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits at <http://www.tcli.ed.gov/CBSWebApp/tcli/TCLIPubSchoolSearch.jsp>.

## **Documentation**

You must respond promptly to any requests for information or documentation from the U.S. Department of Education, even if they seem repetitive. These requests will be sent to you while you are still in school as well as once you are out of school. You will be asked regularly to confirm that you either still intend to teach or that you are teaching as required. You must provide documentation to the U.S. Department of Education at the end of each year of teaching.

If you temporarily cease enrollment in your program of study or if you encounter situations that affect your ability to begin or continue teaching, you will need to stay in touch with the U.S.

Department of Education to avoid your grants being converted to loans before you are able to complete your teaching obligation.

### **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**Failure to complete the teaching obligation, respond to requests for information, or properly document your teaching service will cause the TEACH Grant to be permanently converted to a loan with accruing interest. Once a grant is converted to a loan it CANNOT be converted back to a grant.**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any questions concerning this program, please contact Brandy Crass at 986-7447 or [bcrass@semo.edu](mailto:bcrass@semo.edu) . You may also contact Cassandra Hicks at 651-2527 or [chicks@semo.edu](mailto:chicks@semo.edu).