

Hunter College (CUNY)

Alternative Student Loan FAQ

- 1) What are alternative student loans?
 - a. Alternative student loans are loans that are awarded from private banks and are approved based on the borrowers and/or co-signers credit worthiness.
- 2) Who should consider applying for alternative loans?
 - a. Student's taking less than 6 credits
 - b. International students who are not US citizens or permanent residents
 - c. Non-matriculated students (not seeking a degree)
 - d. Student's who have exhausted all other aid options
- 3) How do alternative loans differ from federal loans?
 - a. Alternative loans tend to have higher and variable interest rates whereas federal loans have a lower and fixed interest rate.
 - b. Some lenders require students to start paying back the whole loan while the student is in school whereas federal loans have a 6-month grace period before repayment begins.
- 4) How do I get an alternative student loan?
 - a. You can apply for an alternative loan directly with the bank you have chosen. Be sure to complete all necessary paperwork and co-signer information (if necessary).
- 5) How much can I borrow?
 - a. While we urge you to only borrow what you need, you may borrow funds up to your Cost of Attendance for the academic year.
 - i. Your Cost of Attendance is your budget of how much aid you can have in an academic year.
- 6) How will Hunter College know that I was approved for an alternative loan?
 - a. Once your bank approves your loan, they will send a certification request to our Financial Aid office.
- 7) Will Hunter College approve my certification request?
 - a. A financial aid professional will review your student account for the following:
 - i. Is this student enrolled at Hunter College?
 1. You must be registered for classes before your loan can be certified by Hunter College
 - ii. Can this student get federal loans?

1. If it is determined that you qualify for federal loans, we will not certify your alternative loan. A financial aid professional will reach out to you to discuss the steps you can take to obtain a federal loan.
 - iii. Can this student have the entire amount they are asking for?
 1. Depending on your Cost of Attendance, we may only be able to certify a portion of what you were approved for.
- 8) When do the funds get sent to Hunter College?
 - a. Once the loan is certified by Hunter College, the bank will send either a check or EFT (electronic fund transfer) to the school. This usually occurs about 10 business days after certification is completed.
- 9) But my bill is due now, will be classes be dropped if the funds are not sent in time?
 - a. Once your loan is certified, a financial aid professional will place an indicator on your account to hold your classes while the funds are being sent.
- 10) I asked for extra funds for personal expenses, when will I get my refund?
 - a. Once Hunter College receives the funds, it has to go through a multi-office process before a refund can be sent. This can take at least 7-10 business days. During peak times it may take longer.