



Accepting your 2025-2026 Direct Loans

You must complete a FAFSA for the 2025-2026 academic year to receive a loan for the current year. Once your FAFSA is complete in the CUNYfirst system, you will be "packaged" for the maximum Subsidized / Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan you are eligible for. You can then view, accept, decline, or reduce your Fall/Spring Federal Direct Subsidized / Unsubsidized Loan directly on CUNYfirst.

To begin, go to your CUNYFirst Student Center and click on the “Financial Aid” tile. Make sure the Aid Year is 2025-2026 and the school is “Lehman College”. Then follow the steps listed below.

STEP 1: Click the Awards tab on the left, then click on “Accept/Decline” link

STEP 2: In the middle section of the page, click on the “Edit” button

STEP 3: Under Award Decision, click the “Select” drop down, then click “Accept” to accept your loan. If you want a smaller loan than what has been offered, you can click on the “Reduce” box and enter the amount you wish to borrow. (*Be aware this is the TOTAL requested for Fall AND Spring). You will be offered your maximum eligible amount for the Fall and Spring. Note that this is a Fall/Spring loan. The total dollar amount of the loan will be disbursed half in the Fall, and half in the Spring.

STEP 4: Once you have accepted your loan and the amount you wish to borrow, click the “Submit” button, then “Yes” to submit your award decision.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- If this is your first loan at Lehman College, be sure to complete your Loan Entrance Counseling online [here](#).
- If this is your first Federal Direct Loan in the past 10 years, or if your previous Master Promissory Note has expired, be sure to complete a new Master Promissory Note [here](#).

Connect to a Live Financial Aid Representative: <https://www.lehman.edu/financial-aid/>

To Schedule an Appointment: <https://www.lehman.edu/financial-aid/schedule-an-appointment/>