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## Changes to the Direct Loan Program Beginning with the 2026-2027 Academic Year

### Who This Affects

This change applies to students who are enrolled less than full time. Full time enrollment is 12 credits or more per semester. If you are enrolled in 6 to 11 credits your loan amount may be reduced.

### What Has Changed

Starting in 2026–2027, your loan amount will be adjusted based on the number of credits you are taking each term and students taking fewer credits will receive a smaller loan amount. Your loan eligibility is now directly tied to how many credits you are taking and students enrolled in 6-11 credits will have reduced loan eligibility.

### What Has Not Changed

You must still be enrolled in at least 6 credits at the time your loan is disbursed. If you are enrolled in 12 credits or more you are a full-time student and your loan will not be adjusted.

### Important to Know

Your loan amount may change if your enrollment changes. If you add or drop classes, your loan eligibility may be recalculated.

### Questions or Need Assistance

If you have questions about how this change affects your financial aid, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 315-574-4035 or [Finaid@herkimer.edu](mailto:Finaid@herkimer.edu). We are here to help and can walk you through your individual situation.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Will I still get a loan if I am taking 6 credits?**

Yes. Students enrolled in at least 6 credits remain eligible to borrow, but the loan amount may be reduced for those enrolled in 6-11 credits.

#### **What happens if I change my classes after my loan is awarded?**

Your loan may be adjusted based on your updated enrollment. This could affect future disbursements.

#### **Do I need to do anything differently?**

No additional steps are required, but it is important to understand that your loan amount now depends on your enrollment level.

#### **How will I know if my loan was adjusted?**

Every time we update your financial aid award you will receive an email notification. Keep in mind that changes to your class schedule will likely result in a change to your loan amount. You can also contact the Financial Aid Office at any time if you would like assistance reviewing your financial aid.