

Bridging the Gap

Private Loan Strategies in a Post -PLUS Landscape

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Understanding the Gap in Funding

The OBBBA Shift: Effective July 1, 2026, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* fundamentally alters graduate funding.

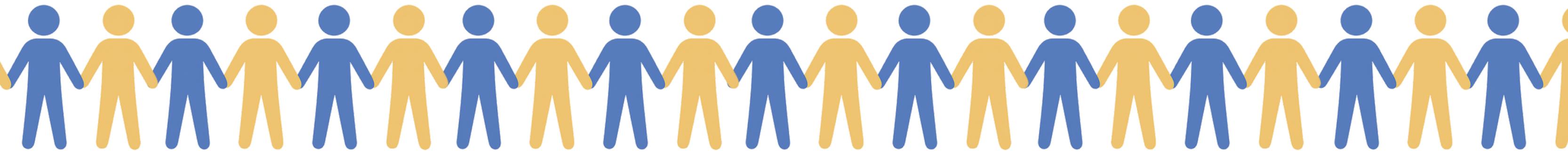
End of Grad PLUS: Access to federal funding, covering up to the full cost of attendance, is being eliminated.

The New Caps for Graduate Students:

- Annual Limit for Graduate Federal Unsubsidized Loan - \$20,500
- Aggregate Limit for Non -Professional Grad Programs - \$100,000
- Annual Limit for Professional Federal Unsubsidized Loan - \$50,000
- Total Combined Graduate/Professional Limit - \$200,000
- Total Aggregate Limit (Including UG borrowing) – \$257,000

The Legacy Provision: Borrowing a federal loan *before* July 1, 2026, secures your access to expiring limits for up to three years or until their educational program ends under the provision.

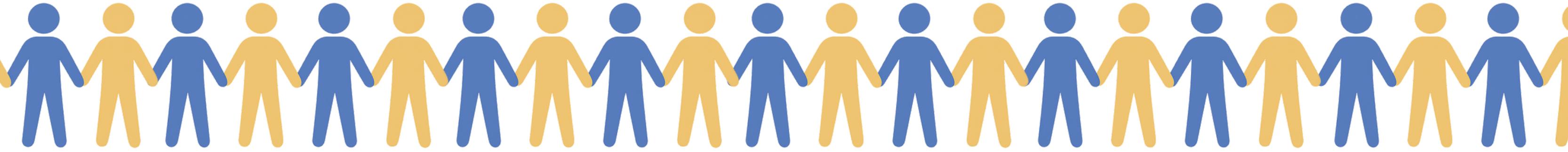
Students will now depend heavily on private loans for their academic journey



Example Program Funding Gap

Marian University CRNA/DO Program

<p>Doctor Nurse Practitioner CRNA</p> <p>Graduate Program</p>	<p>– Program Length: 3 Years Annual Tuition: \$41,400 Maximum Federal Loan: \$20,500</p> <p>Total Cost of Attendance: \$80,349</p>	<p><u>Tuition Gap</u> Tuition: \$41,400 Federal Loan: \$20,500</p> <p>Tuition Gap: \$20,900</p>	<p><u>Total COA Gap (Tuition + Living)</u> COA: \$80,349 Federal Loan: \$20,500</p> <p>Total Gap: \$59,849</p>
<p>DO – Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine</p> <p>Health Profession Program</p>	<p>Program Length: 4 Years Annual Tuition: \$63,600 Maximum Federal Loan: \$50,000</p> <p>Total COA: \$93,684</p>	<p><u>Tuition Gap</u> Tuition: \$63,600 Federal Loan: \$50,000</p> <p>Tuition Gap: \$13,600</p>	<p><u>Total COA Gap (Tuition + Living)</u> COA: \$93,684 Federal Loan: \$50,000</p> <p>Total Gap: \$43,684</p>



The Full Program Reality

Financial aid is packaged **year by year** , so students often focus only on **annual borrowing** .

In many graduate and health profession programs, students must borrow across **multiple years to cover both tuition and living expenses** .

CRNA Program

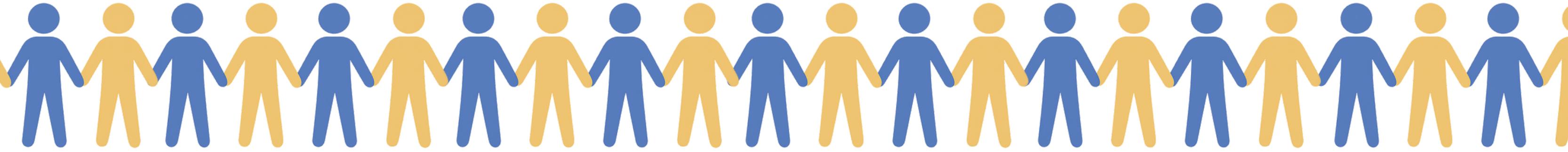
Annual Gap: \$59,849

Example 3- Year Projection
\$179,547

DO Program

Annual Gap: \$43,684

Example 4- Year Projection
\$174,736



Institutional Best Practice - Show Full Program Projection

Because financial aid is packaged **year by year**, students often focus only on the **current academic year** when making borrowing decisions.

Our institution provides **total program borrowing projections** to help students understand the full financial commitment of their program.

Why we do this:

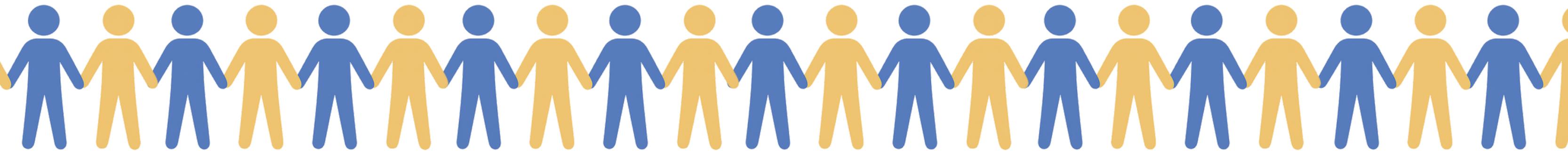
- Sets realistic borrowing expectations
- Encourages early financial planning
- Supports responsible borrowing decisions
- Help students plan for **living expenses across the entire program**

Shift conversations from:

“How do I pay this year?”

to

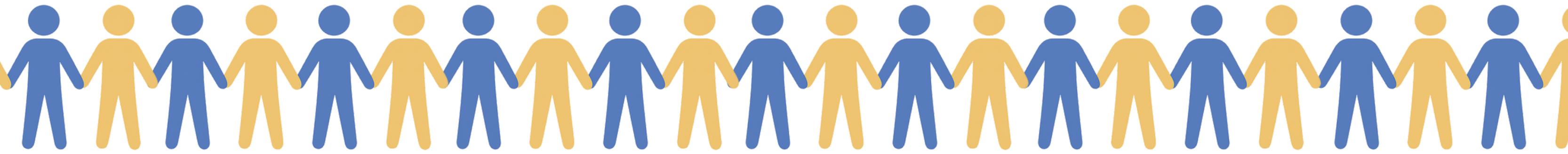
“How do I responsibly finance this program?”



Strategic Planning for “Bridging the Gap”

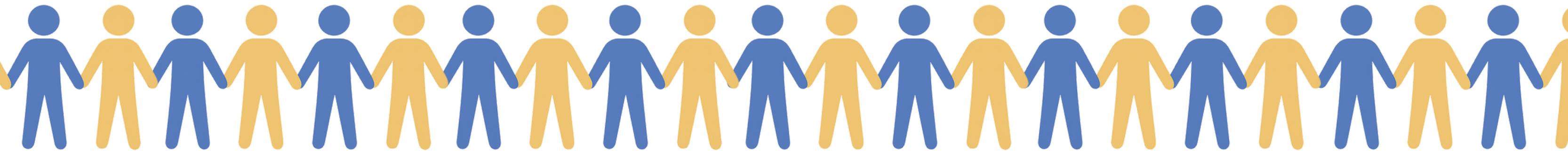
Planning effectively:

- Calculate the "True Gap":
 - (Total Tuition + Fees + Personal Costs) – \$20,500 Federal Limit = **Private Loan Target Amount**
- Limit or Avoid "Just in Case" Borrowing:
 - Planning to borrow for essential costs to minimize high -interest accumulation.
- Knowing the Power of a Co - signer:
 - Essential for students without extensive credit history to secure the lowest possible rates.
- Understanding Repayment Plan Impacts



Private Lending Resources

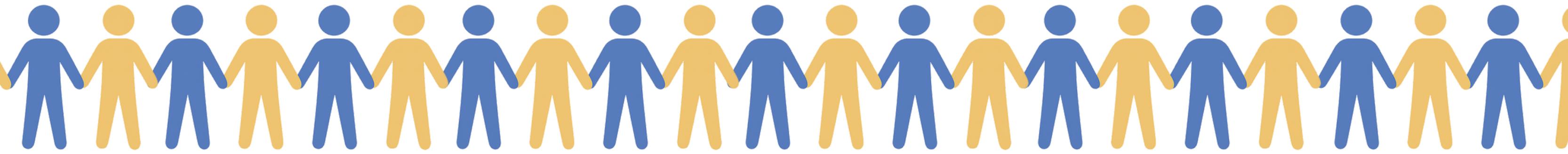
- **Leveraging Historic Lender Lists**
 - Bolstering your existing lender lists
 - Indiana-specific lenders and resources
 - Using tools and marketplaces that offer “soft credit check” comparisons
- **Creating a Timeline for Success**
 - 4 – 6 Months Prior to Start: Monitoring credit scores and exploring options
 - 2 – 4 Months Prior to Start: Comparing marketplace rates and pre-qualifying
 - 1 – 2 Months Prior to Start: Finalizing Private Loan Applications for academic year



Financial Literacy and Wellness

Helping students understand the power of:

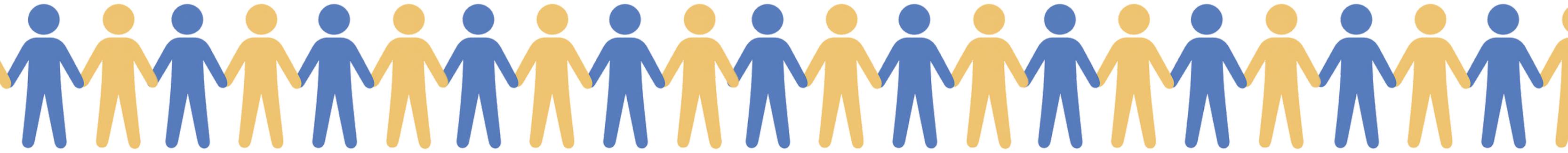
- Building a budget!
 - Audit for savings and tracking irregular costs
 - Maximizing every dollar!
- **Wellness Resources**
 - Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
 - FDIC Money Smart for Adults
 - JumpStart Clearinghouse
- **“Psychological Wellness”**
 - Normalizing the “No” and Planning for Joy



Learning as a Community

How can we work together as a community to impact the strategic planning of prospective and current students?

How are you planning at your institutions for this connection point with students and families?



Thank you!



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**Stronger Together:
Resilience Through Community**