

19+ Years and Counting - The Conundrum of Credit, Debt and Student Loan Repayment After Graduate School

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Important Things for Students to Know

- Know your loan portfolio - loan types and relative cost
- Know your deferment and forbearance options
- Know the decision points and keep a calendar
- Know the cost before choosing a repayment plan
- Know your available resources
- Stay abreast of changes that might impact your loans



## Know Your Loan Portfolio

- Know what types of loans students have
: Perkins Loans
- Federal (Stafford, PLUS, Consolidation) Loans Direct Loans
Perkins Loans
- Perkins Loans
FFELP Loans (no longer originated as of $7 / 2 / 2010$ )
- Private/Alternative Loans
- Identify your servicers
- Who do they need to pay?
- Know how much they owe
- Know what borrower benefits are available


Identify Your Servicers

- Federal and/or private loans may not all be with one servicer
- Buying and Selling of Students Loans:
- Original lender may have sold a student's loan

This means a student has a new loan "holder" and/or "servicer". Fo example, a FFELP loan may have been sold to the Department of
Education who now holds the loan and is having it serviced by one of its federal loan servicers such as:

Direct Loan Servicing Center (ACS) Great Lake
Nelnet
edLoan Servicing (PHEAA)
rrowers must be notified if th
notified if the service provider of loan changes
The terms of a federal loan, as specified in the promissory note, will not change if sold or transferred to another servicer


Finding Your Federal Student Loans


Private Student Loan www. annualcredifreport.com



Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized Loans - which costs more?


Unsubsidized Stafford Loans
PLUS Loan for Graduate Students
Consolidation Loans
unsubsidized portion, which
includes the unsubsidized
includes the unsubsidized
Stafford loans plus any Perkins
Private Loans

examples

- Subsidized Stafford Loans*
- Pubsidized Stans
- Consolidation Loans- portion of Consolidation Loans- portion of
- Some institutional loans (see

Some institutional loans (see
promissory note or aid office)




Relative Costs of a Student Loan or How much am I REALLY in for?


## Relative Costs of a Student Loan

Interest Rate

- What the lender charges for the use of money
- The higher the interest rate, the more the loan will cost overall

Capitalization

- The addition of unpaid accrued interest to the principal balance of a loan

Borrower Benefits/Repayment Incentives

- Interest rate reductions
- Credits to loan balance
- Some benefits and repayment incentives impose eligibility requirements such as signing up for automatic debit or making a certain number of on-time payments



Interest Capitalization and Its Impact

- Interest on most loans accrues from the date funds are disbursed until the loan is paid in full Capitalization is the addition of unpaid accrued interest to the principal balance of a loan. The less frequent the better.
- Capitalization may occur more frequently for certain loans during forbearance

| Treatment of Interest During Forbearance Status | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Principal at } \\ & \text { Repayment } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Cap.Int, During Forbearance | Principal at end of Forbearance | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Pamment } \\ & \text { Amount } \end{aligned}$ | Total Amount epad | Total Interest Cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Int.is pada 3 sit accrues | \$25,000 | \$0 | \$25,000 | \$293 | \$44,321 | S20,393 |
| Int. is capitalized at end of status | \$32,360 | \$2,333 | \$35,667 | \$407 | \$48,790 | \$24,862 |
| Int. is capitalized quarterly and at end of status | \$32,360 | \$2,397 | \$34,757 | \$407 | \$48,880 | \$24,952 |

Tip: Students should consider asking family to help with interest


Interest Capitalization and Its Impact

| The chart provides estimates, for $\$ 50,000$ in Grad PLUS loans from a 4 year program with a $7.21 \%$ interest rate, of the monthly payments due at the end of a 12 month forbearance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Treatment of interest During Forbearance Status | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Principat at } \\ & \text { Repayment } \end{aligned}$ | Cap. Int. During Forbearance | Principal at end of Forbearance: | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Pament } \\ & \text { Pmount } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total Amount } \\ & \text { Repaid } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total Interest } \\ & \text { Cost } \end{aligned}$ |
| Int. is pad a sit tacrues | \$50,000 | so | \$50,000 | \$586 | \$88,642 | \$40,2 |
| Int. is capitalized at end of status | \$64,720 | \$4,666 | \$69,387 | \$813 | \$97,580 | \$49,724 |
| Int. is capitalized quarterly and at end of status | \$64,720 | \$4,794 | 59,51 | 815 | \$97,760 | S49,9 |

Tip: Students should consider asking family to help with interest


## Borrower Benefits/Repayment Incentives

Money-s aving borrower benefits and repayment incentives were typically offered to borrowers by lenders in recent years

- They took the form of interest rate reductions, credits to loan balance and/or cash rebates and imposed eligibility rules such as making a specific number of on-time payments


## Borrowers should make sure to:

- Find out if any of their loans are eligible for borrower benefits or repayment incentives by contacting loan service provider or consulting lender's web site
- Research the terms to know and understand the eligibility rules

Understanding Loan Repayment
or
This is Greek to me.....


## Understanding Grace Periods

Grace Period - period of time after a borrower graduates, leaves school or drops to less than half-time

- Payments may not be required during this period
- No application required
- Loan specific, varies according to loan - once used completely, it's gone
- Stafford loans have a six-month grace period*
- Perkins loans have nine-month grace
- Perkins loans may also have a 6 -month grace after deferment
- Private and Institutional loans: check your promissory note
- All Direct Stafford loans accrue interest during the grace period. The U.S. Department of Education pays the interest on Direct Stafford Subsidized loans during the grace period unless
the loan was first disbursed between the loan was first disbursed between July 1, 2012 and July1, 2014.
- Taking advantage of a grace period does not adversely impact credit


Understanding Federal Loan Deferments $\qquad$
Deferment: period when a borrower who meets certain criteria may postpone loan payments

Applicationmay berequired depend ingon deferment type. Recertification for subsequent deferment periods may also be
required required

Stafford deferments are "borrower" specific, meaning eligibility is attached to the borrower and there is a max deferment time allotted for certain deferments
The govemment pays interest on a borrowers behalf for
subsidized loans during authorized deferment perio
subsidized loans during authorized deferment perio ods


Unsubsidized loans continue to accrueinterest for which the
 of the deferment period. To reep your total loan oost lower, you
want to ocosider paying allor some of the interest that accues


## Understanding Federal Loan Forbearances

Voluntary Forbearance: allows a borrower who cannot make scheduled payments to temporarily delay or reduce the payments

- Interest continues to accrue on subsidized and unsubsidized loans during a forbearance period
Interest that accrues during the forbearance remains the borrower's responsibility.
Unpaid interest may be capitalized as often as quarterly and at the
end of the forbearance depending on the loantype and when the end of the forbearance depending on the loantype and when the
loan was disbursed. Adity there is a max forbearance time
allotted.

Capitalization of interest increases the amount to pay back, and will result in a higher payment amount after the forbearance. To keep
your total loan cost lower, you may want to consider paying all or your total loan cost lower, you may want to consider paying all or some of the interest that accrues during this time.
 -


Delinquency \& Default (Federal/Private Loans) Delinquencr\& defautro onstudent loans can adversel impact your CREDIT HISTORY

- Delinquency
- Failure to make payment(s) when due
- Can be reported to credit bureaus; affects borrowers history


## Default

- Collection agencies may take over adding to cost
- Lender can take legal action
- School can withhold records
- Federal defaults could result in wage garnishment \& withholding
of federal loan tax refunds
- Student loans are rarely discharged in bankruptcy



## Federal Loan Repayment Plans

Standard Repayment

- Level monthly payments that cover accruing interest and a portion of principal over a 10 -year period
- Higher monthly payments
- Lowest overall cost

Graduated Repayment

- Payments start low, increase over time
- Interest only payments followed by standard principal \& interest
- Finish in 10 years
- Higher overall cost - but provides lower initial payment amounts
- Can be combined with Extended Repayment



## Federal Loan Repayment Plans (Continued)

- Income Sensitive Repayment (Non-direct Federal Loans)
- Payments are based on percentage of your monthly income
- Payments must be sufficient to cover accruing interest
- Finish in 10 years (may be extended to 15 years)
- Income-Contingent Repayment (Direct Loans Only)
- Payment is based on income
- Negative amortization is allowed
- Up to 25 years to repay
- Balance remaining after 25 years' worth of payments can be forgiven

Federal Loan Repayment Plans (Continued)
Extended Repayment

- Available to borrowers who have accumulated more than $\$ 30 \mathrm{~K}$ in Direct or FFELP Federal Stafford,
PLUS \& Consolidation loans first disbursed on or after October 7, 1998
- Direct and FFELP Federal Loans are accumulated separately in determining eligibility

Repayment can be extended up to 25 years
Payments

Income-Based Repayment

- Available to borrowers of most federal student loans experiencing financial hardship

Borrower qualifies if annual monthly sudent loan payments exceed $15 \%$ of "discretionary income"
is exceed $10 \%$ of "discretionary income" for "new borrowers"
If eligible for IBR, borrowers monthly payment will be determined by a formula that takes into
account household size and adjusted gross income. Increases in income will impact the required account household size and adjusted gross incorme. Increases in incorme will impact the required
Unpaid balance may be forgiven atter 25 years of scheduled monthly payments or after 20 years of scheduled monthly payments for "new borrowers"


## Pay As You Earn (Direct Loans Only)

- Announced by ED December 21, 2012
- Available to new Direct loan borrowers (except Parent PLUS) experiencing financial hardship
- No loan balance as of October 1, 2007, and

Received a Direct loan on or after October 1, 2011

- Borrower qualifies if annual monthly student loan payments under a standard repayment plan exceed $10 \%$ of "discretionary income
- Similar to IBR, borrower's monthly payment will be determined by a formula that takes into accan family size and adjusted gross income. Increases in income will impact the required monthly payment amount
- Unpaid balance may be forgiven after 20 years of qualifying repayment


Federal Loan Repayment Plans

## (Continued)

- Loan Consolidation
- Provides the ability for borrowers to consolidate all of their federal loans into one new loan

FFELP and Direct Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans and PLUS Loans may be consolidated

- Interest Rate: weighted average of the interest rates on the loans being consolidated rounded to the nearest higher one-eighth of one percent
Multiple repayment options: Standard, Graduated, Extended, Income Contingent, Income Based
Benefits:
Posstente Longer repayment period
Potentia Lower
Single Servicer
- Application Process:
- Apply at www.studentloans.gov


Federal Loan Repayment Comparison-Grad 3 Year

| Repayment Plan | Intital Monthly <br> Payment | Long-term Monthily <br> Payment | Total Interest Paid | Yearsin Repayment |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Standard | $\$ 756.00$ | $\$ 756.00$ | $\$ 23,045.00$ | 10 |
| Graduated | $\$ 433.00$ | $\$ 1,299.00$ | $\$ 29,245.00$ | 10 |
| Extended | $\$ 442.00$ | $\$ 442.00$ | $\$ 64,837.00$ | 25 |
| Income Based | $\$ 281.19$ | $\$ 756.59$ | $\$ 40,939.48$ | 14.3 |
| Income Sensitive | $\$ 346.49$ | $\$ 756.48$ | $\$ 27,229.00$ | 11 |
| Pay asYou Earn | $\$ 187.46$ | $\$ 756.59$ | $\$ 44,694.03$ | 15.3 |
| Consolidation | $\$ 412.05$ | $\$ 412.05$ | $\$ 81,356.29$ | 30 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

 statutory limits for each AY.


Federal Loan Repayment Comparison - Grad 4 Year

| Repayment Plan | Intial Monthy Payment | Long-term Monthly Payment | Total Interest Paid | Yearsin Repayment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Standard | \$2,698.00 | \$2,698.00 | \$84,335.00 | 10 |
| Graduated | \$1,548.00 | \$4,644.00 | \$107, 192.00 | 10 |
| Extended | \$1,591.00 | \$1,591.00 | \$183,355.00 | 25 |
| Income Based | \$281.19 | \$2,698.03 | \$182,760.51 | 16.5 |
| Income Sensitive | \$1,263.93 | \$2,698.12 | \$99,569.12 | 11 |
| Pay as You Earn | \$187.46 | \$2,698.03 | \$186,833.20 | 16.8 |
| Consolidation | \$1,487.89 | \$1,487.89 | \$298,836.11 | 30 |

Assumes $\$ 162,000$ in graduate $S$ tafford Loans $(\$ 34,000$ subsidized and $\$ 128,000$ unsubsidized) over a 4 year period. Interest ratesfor subsidized Stafford Loanswere 6.8 S for all years, subsidized Stafford interest rates ranged from $5.41 \%$ to $6.8 \%$ based
on statutory linits for each AY. on statutory limits for each AY.


Federal Loan Repayment Comparison - Medical 4 Year

| Repayment Plan | Intial Monthly Payment | $\begin{gathered} \text { Long term Monthly } \\ \text { Payment } \end{gathered}$ | Total Interest Paid | Yearsin Repayment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Standard | \$3,929.00 | \$3,929.00 | \$127,940.00 | 10 |
| Graduated | \$2,263.00 | \$6,789.00 | \$122,741.00 | 10 |
| Extended | \$2,354.00 | \$2,354.00 | \$362,734.00 | 25 |
| Income Based | \$281.19 | \$3,930.27 | \$289,016.37 | 17.1 |
| Income Sensitive | \$1,908.20 | \$3,929.95 | \$150,934.10 | 11 |
| Pay as You Earn | \$187.46 | \$3,390.27 | \$293,465.27 | 17.3 |
| Consolidation | \$2,210.07 | \$2,210.07 | \$455,750.77 | 30 |
| Assumes $\$ 225,000$ in graduate Stafford Loans ( $\$ 34,000$ subsidized and $\$ 128,000$ unsubsidized) and $\$ 63,000$ in Grad PLUS over a 4 year period. Subsidized Stafford interest rates were at $6.8 \%$ and unsubsidized Stafford interest rates ranged from $5.41 \%$ to $6.8 \%$. Grad PLUS interest rates ranged from $6.41 \%$ to $7.9 \%$ based on statutory limits for each AY. |  |  |  |  |



Federal Loan Forgiveness Program for Public Service Employees
Eligibility limited to Federal Direct Student Loan Program (FDLP), Stafford PLUS and Consolidation

- FFELP Stafford, PLUS and Consolidation are not eligible

FFELP Borrowers may consolidate in the FDLP.
Additionally, borrowers must have:

- Made 120 on-time monthly payments beginning after October 1, 2007 during eligible public service employment.
Payments must be made under one of the payment plans: Income Based, Pay As tou Eam, Income
Contingent or any payment equivalent to the 10 -year stand Work full any payment equivalent to the 10 -year standard payment amount.
- Must be employed in an eligible public sempice job at time remaining loan balance is forgiven.

Other loan forgiveness programs may also be available - do your research!


Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

- A new "Dear Borrower" letter was released earlier this year and provides important information about the Program, including how to determine if your employment and loan payment history meet the Program's loan forgiveness requirements.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

| and wos created to ericourage nctvoluls to enter lower-poping but visily mportant pepac sector jobs such is <br>  wivie makng 120 quibing poyments <br> This befter procides mportiont ndomation about the PSLF Program, incuaing intamation on how to deternine a <br>  you the U4. Department of Edocation (ED) 5 provdro a seriss of moteriats, ncuring an emotoyment |
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PSLF Employment Certification Form

- It will take you at least 10 years to make the 120 qualify ying payments necessary to receive PSLF
- During this time you'll want to track your periods of qualifying employment

The Employment Certification Form will allow you to get your employer's certification of employment while you are still employed


Learn More: $\mathrm{http}: / /$ studentaid.ed.gov/publicservice


## Income Based Repayment (IBR) -

## Additional Details

- Program is designed for federal loan borrowers experiencing "partial financial hard ship"

Borrower qualifies if annual monthly student loan payments under a standard repayment plan exceed 15\%
of "discretionary income" of if such payments exceed $10 \%$ of "discretionary income" for "new borrowers"

- AGI minus $150 \%$ of Poverty Income Guidelines $\times 15 \%$ or $10 \%$ for "new borrowers"

If eligible for IBR, borrower's monthly payment will be determined by a formula that takes into account household size and adjusted gross income
Negative amortization may occur with this option because itallows minimum monthly payments to be less
than accruing interest than accruing interest
IBR provides for up to a 36-month interest subsidy period when a scheduled monthly payment amount on
a subsidized loan is less than accrued interest
Gour monthly payment will never be more than the 10 -year Standard Repayment Plan amount, even if
Unpaid balance may be forgiven after 25 years of scheduled monthly payments (or after 20 years of scheduled monthly payments for "new borrowers" which includes periods of economic hard ship
deferment, but not other periods of deferment and forbearance


## Income Based Repayment(IBR) - Additional Details

- IBR eligibility test is based on larger of:
- Balance of IBR-eligible loans at beginning of repayment
- Balance of IBR-eligible loans when enrolled in IBR
- Spouse loans are factored into the eligibility test if they file a joint tax return
- Payment formula will take spouse's loans into account

Example: If IBR payment is $\$ 750$, borrower has $\$ 150,000$ in loans and spouse has
$\$ 75,000$ in loans, borrower's share of the payment is $\$ 500$-since borrower has $2 / 3$ of the total loan balance


IBR Eligibility Example

| Balance at start of repayment' | \$150,000 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Total standard payments for IBR-eligible loans | \$1,726 |
| 12 months' worth of payments | \$20,714 |
| AGI | \$47,000 |
| State of Residence | Florida |
| Household size | 1 |
| 2014 Poverty Income Guideline | \$11,670 |
| 150\% of Poverty Income Guiddine | \$17,505 |
| 15\% Discreitionay heome [0.15 '(s47.000-817.505)] | \$4,424 |
| Is borrower experiencing partial financial hardship? Does a year's worth of payments exceed $15 \%$ discretionary income? | Yes |
| Intial Monthly Payment Under IBR | \$369 |



> Income Based Repayment (IBR) Additional Details (continued)

Effective for new borrowers July 1, 2014:
Under current legislation, IBR limits for FFELP and Direct student loan payments to $15 \%$ of discretionary income, and provides for loan forgiveness after 25 years of payments

Congress passed legislation in 2010 to change the IBR payment cap to $10 \%$ of discretionary income and to forgive all debt after 20 years of payments, effective for Direct Loans made to new
and towers on or after July 1, 2014
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

Private Loan Repayment

- Private loans are almost always unsubsidized for the life of the loan
- Repayment terms vary
- Choice of repayment plans may be available
- Residency and internship deferments may be available
- Forbearances may be available
- Consult your loan servicer


Student Loan Interest Deduction

- Borrowers may be eligible to deduct student loan interest
- Deduction may not exceed $\$ 2,500$ per year
- Voluntary payments of interest during school, deferment or forbearance may be eligible for deduction
Interest paid on consolidation loans may be deducted
There are eligibility rules, including income limits
- The limits for Federal Tax Year 2013 are shown in the table below:

|  | Full Deduction | Partial Deduction | No Deduction |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sngle |  | \$60,001 10 \$74,999 | \$75,000 or more |
| Marred Filing jointy | Mocilied Adjusted Gross Income is <br> d- $\$ 125,000$ | \$125,001 10 \$154,999 | \$155,000 or more |

Source - hitp://mww.irs.pov/pulications/p97/ch04. Itmliten US 2013 publink 1000178280
NOIE: for information about your specifictax situation and anytax a adice, plese contat atax professional


The Budgeting Process

## FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- Communicate
- Consider personal or family situation
- Setgoals

- Estimate expenses

Balance the budget plan

- Put the budget into action
- Keep track of income and spending
- Adjust the budget as necessary
- Use for future planning



## Budgeting Tips

- Keep it simple
- Be realistic and consider all expenses
- Build in a margin of safety
- Keep working until you find a system that works well for you
- Provide for personal allowances in your plan
- Don't try to use someone else's budget
- Distinguish between wants and needs
- Borrow with care
- Develop an emergency fund



## Keep Good Records

- Get all loan documents together: keep them on file!
- Promissory notes
- Disclosure statements
- Award Letters

- Exit interview information
- Open and READ student loan mail
- Bookmark loan servicer's websites
- Notify loan servicer(s) of name \& address changes
- Document calls to servicer: date/time of call \& person who handled the call
- Keep important numbers available



## Recognize The Signs of Financial

## Difficulties

## UNCIAL

- Some warning signs of financial problems:

You have to wait for your paycheck or other income to pay bill
Your credit cards are charged up to the maximum
The amount you owe gets bigger every month
You bounce checks

- You've received letters or calls from creditors
- Actions you can take:
- Review your spending plan/budget
- Ask for assistance from parents or mentor

Consider credit counseling


## If I could do it all over again....

- I would begin paying my loans during my studies
- I would have taken all subsidized loans and no unsubsidized ones
- I would have taken out just enough and not the maximum amount
- I would pay interest as I went
- Pay some early on loans
- Rethink how to spend my loan
- Take more classes per semester to cut down on cost
- I would borrow less, have a better understanding of loan repayment options, and not accept refund checks to make my loan smaller
- Find out exactly how much I am borrowing
- Found other resources and researched how much education would cost
- Get a loan counselor


Resources

- School financial aid office
- Lender/servicer
- Federal Student Aid Ombudsman
- U.S. Department of Education - FSA Ombudsman
http://www.ombudsman.ed.gov or 1-877-557-2575
- Federal Loan Services:
fedloan


800-699-2908 - wewnyfedhan or o
nelnet
$888-486-4722$

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Questions?

