# Managing Your Student Loans



### **Locating Loans**



### Where to locate student loan information:

### Federal -

- o studentaid.gov
  - Select "View Your Loan Information"

### Private –

- Loan statements/personal records
- Credit report
- Financial Aid Office records
- Documents, including promissory note

### Federal Student Loan Types











Please note that if you took out federal loans prior to June 30, 2010 you may have taken them under the FFEL Program

### Who Do You Repay?

### Federal Loans





aid**V**antage





### **Private Loans**

Students should work with the lender they borrowed the loan from



Payments may be made directly to lender or to a servicing organization

### **Defining Interest**

Interest rates are fixed for federal loans, but private loans may have either fixed or variable rates

FIXED 6



Rate will not change for the entire term of the loan

VARIABLE 🗾



Rate is subject to change periodically based on economic indicators like SOFR

### **Defining Capitalized Interest**

Interest capitalization occurs when unpaid interest is added to the principal amount of a student loan

ORIGINAL LOAN AMOUNT	INTEREST RATE	ACCRUED INTEREST AFTER 4 YEARS AND 6- MONTH GRACE PERIOD	PRINCIPAL BALANCE AFTER 4.5 YEARS
\$15,000	5.05%	\$3,408.75	\$18,408.75
\$15,000	7.10%	\$4,792.50	\$19,792.50
\$25,000	5.05%	\$5,681.25	\$30,681.25
\$25,000	7.10%	\$7,987.50	\$32,987.50
\$50,000	5.05%	\$11,362.50	\$61,362.50
\$50,000	7.10%	\$15,975.00	\$65,975.00
\$100,000	5.05%	\$22,725.00	\$122,725.00
\$100,000	7.10%	\$31,950.00	\$131,950.00

### **Grace Period**

### **Standard Grace Period**

Time before start paying on your loans

Type of Loans	Length
Subsidized/ Unsubsidized	180 days (6 Months)
Graduate PLUS	180 days (6 (6 Months)
Perkins	9 Months
Private Loans	Varies

### **Stop Attending School**

(Exhausted Your Grace Period)

Type of Loan	When Repayment Starts
Federal Loans	Right after Graduation Within 30-45 days
Private Loans	Right after Graduation Within 30-45 days

### Current Federal Student Loan Repayment Plans

### **Standard**

- Fixed payments
- Repayment Plan
  - Up to 10 years
  - 10-30 years if consolidated
- Minimum payment \$50 per month
- Assigned payment plan

### **Graduated**

- Gradual payments
- Repayment Plan
  - Up to 10 years
  - 10-30 years if consolidated
- If your income is low now, but you expect it to increase steadily over time

### **Extended**

- Federal debt greater than \$30,000
- Repayment Plan
  - Up to 25 years
- Fixed or graduated payments
- Minimum payment \$50 per month

### Income-Driven Repayment Plans

### **Income-Driven Repayment Plans**

- Income-Based Repayment (IBR Plan)
- Pay As You Earn Repayment (PAYE Plan)
- Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR Plan)
- Saving for a Valuable Education (SAVE Plan)

### **Payments**

- % of discretionary income and family size
- Recalculated annually
- May be \$0 loan balance
- Forgiven after 20 or 25 years depending upon plan
- You may have to pay income tax on the amount forgiven

You should work with your loan servicer to choose what plan is right for you!

Income driven plans require submitting paperwork annually to determine yearly payment amount

## Post July 1, 2026 Only 2 Federal Student Loan Repayment Plans

### **Standard**

- Fixed payments
- Repayment Plan
  - < \$25k = 10 years
  - < \$50k = 15 years
  - < \$100k = 20 years
  - > \$100k = 25 years
- Assigned payment plan



### Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)

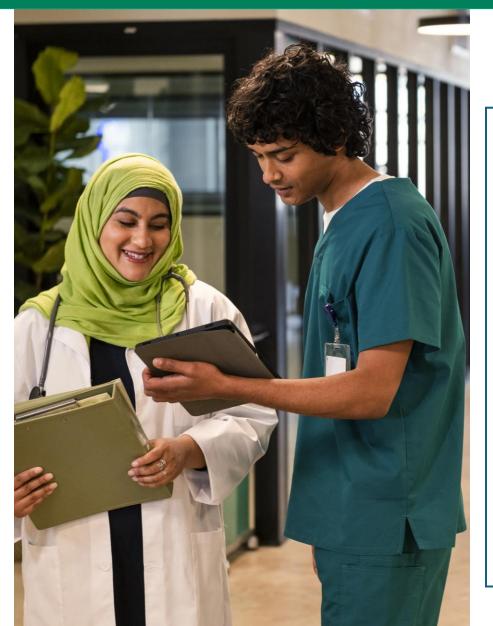
- New Income Driven Plan
- Replaces SAVE, ICR and PAYE in 2028
- Payments calculated on AGI, not discretionary income, \$10 minimum
- Loans forgiven after 30 years
- Not available for Parent PLUS

### Repayment Assistance Program- RAP

- Payment is the below divided by 12:
- AGI of \$10K or less = \$10 per month \$120 per year
- AGI between \$10K- \$20K = 1% of AGI
- AGI between \$20K \$30K = 2% of AGI
- Etc. with max of 10% AGI over \$100k

Important note: Anyone borrowing after July 1, 2026 is only eligible for Standard or RAP

### Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)



## Forgives the remaining balance on Federal Direct Loans

- To qualify for PSLF borrowers must
  - Be employed by a government organization,
     501(c)(3) not for profit organization or other
     not-for-profit organizations providing
     specific qualifying services
  - Working full time for that qualifying employer
  - Repay the loans under an income-driven repayment plan
  - Make 120 qualifying payments
- To find out if they qualify, borrowers should submit the PSLF Employer Certification
   Form found on studentaid.gov

### Private Refinance vs. Federal Consolidation

#### Private Refinance

Combine **private** and federal payments into one payment

Possibly lower interest rate and/or payments

Interest is based on your (or your co-signer's) creditworthiness with **choice** of fixed or variable rate

Current interest rates and/or loan term can lower the overall cost of the loan

Pays off existing loans and may reflect a **lower** monthly payment on your credit report

You should **compare rates** and terms and apply with the lender of your choice

### Federal Consolidation

Combine **federal** payments into one payment

Possibly **lower monthly payment** with longer loan term

The interest rate is the weighted average of included loans, rounded up to the nearest 1/8th of a percent

You will **pay more interest** over the life of the loan if the repayment period is extended

You **may lose** some benefits offered with the original loan

Apply for a direct consolidation loan at <a href="https://studentaid.gov">https://studentaid.gov</a>

### Avoiding Delinquency & Default

Falling behind on federal student loan payments can have major ramifications!

### **Delinquency**

 Federal loan servicer has not received payment by the stated due date

### **Default**

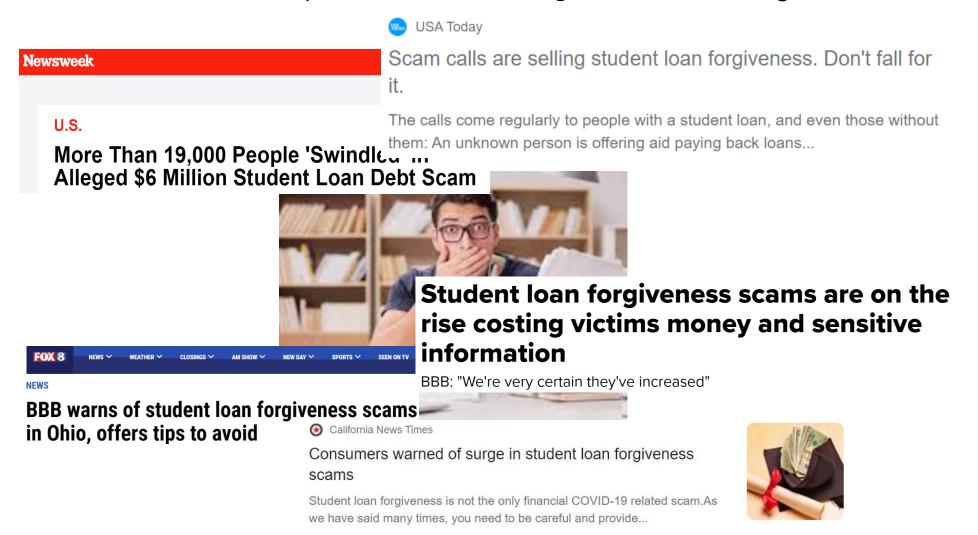
•If a federal student loan is delinquent for more than 270 days, it goes into default

### **Default Consequences**

Loans may become due immediately (fees and collection costs)
State and Federal Income Tax Returns withheld
Wage Garnishment
Damaged Credit Score
Difficulty getting hired
Unable to renew professional license
Higher interest rates
No more federal financial aid
Lawsuits and court costs

### **Avoid Student Loan Scams**

"You never have to pay for help with your federal financial aid or student loans. Make sure you understand which companies and claims are legitimate." studentaid.gov



### Student Loan Summary



### Steps You Should Be Taking

- ☐ Get to know your loans —studentaid.gov
- ☐ Update your contact information
- ☐ Figure out how much your monthly payments will be
- ☐ Make your loan payments automatic
- ☐ Determine if you qualify for Loan Forgiveness
- ☐ Pay more if you can
- ☐ Ask about employer assisted loan repayment programs (new employer match)
- ☐ Can you consolidate/refinance? Should you?

# Q&A



## Thank You