

Student Loan and Financial Planning Checklist

To help you stay organized, we've created this checklist to assist you in finding and recording your loan information. Step through the checklist, and use the chart on the reverse to track your repayment strategy. Be sure to collect your student loan documents and keep them in one file.

YOUR FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

- Know what you owe.** Log in to *My Federal Student Aid* to review a summary of your:
 - Loan type
 - Total borrowed
 - Loan date
 - Outstanding principal
 - Outstanding interest
 - Optional MyStudentDataDownload

- Know your loan servicer(s) and gather contact information.**
Tip: you may have more than one servicer.

- Loan documents: master promissory notes, disclosure statements:**
 - Federal Loans — Direct Loans
 - Federal Loans — FFEL Loans
 - Federal Perkins Loan documents

- Repayment plans and calculators** – Research and identify the repayment plan option that's best for you. Enroll in an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan at [StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov) if needed.
 - Income-based Repayment (IBR)
 - Pay As You Earn — Direct Loans only
 - Income-contingent Repayment (ICR) — Direct Loans only
 - Standard Repayment
 - Graduated Repayment
 - Extended Repayment
 - Income-sensitive Repayment (ISR) — FFEL Loans only

- Use the repayment estimator** to get an early look at which plans you may be eligible for and to estimate your monthly and overall payments.

- Postponing repayment** – Research deferment, forbearance, and other forms of payment relief.

- Research loan consolidation** to determine if it's the best option for you. To apply visit [StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov) to complete the application and promissory note electronically.

- Check eligibility for loan forgiveness, cancellation, and discharge** for federal loans.
 - [Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\)](https://studentloans.gov/pslf)
 - [Discharge/Cancellation](https://studentloans.gov/discharge)
 - [Cancellation and Deferment Options for Teachers](https://studentloans.gov/teachers)

HELPFUL RESOURCES

[StudentAid.gov/login](https://studentaid.gov/login)

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[StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov)

- Contact your lender or servicer
- Contact your school financial aid office

[StudentAid.gov/repay-loans/understand/plans](https://studentaid.gov/repay-loans/understand/plans)
[StudentLoans.gov](https://studentloans.gov)

[StudentAid.gov/repayment-estimator](https://studentaid.gov/repayment-estimator)

[StudentAid.gov/deferment-forbearance](https://studentaid.gov/deferment-forbearance)
or contact your servicer

[StudentAid.gov/consolidation](https://studentaid.gov/consolidation)
or contact your servicer

[StudentAid.gov/forgiveness](https://studentaid.gov/forgiveness)
Contact your servicer to apply

YOUR PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS

- Loan documents:** Promissory notes, truth-in-lending disclosures, bills, emails, letters
- Repaying your loans** — Refer to the promissory note and communications from your servicer.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Contact your lender or servicer

Contact your lender or servicer

GENERAL

- Save time – manage your account online** and receive email communications from your servicer.
- Save money** – Sign up for automatic debit and research any borrower benefit or repayment incentive that may save you money.
- Keep your contact information up to date.** Update your address with the [National Student Loan Data System \(NSLDS®\)](https://nslds.ed.gov).
- Know your payment amounts and key dates that require action.** When your loan(s) enter repayment, contact your servicer for assistance as needed.
- Understand student loan interest deduction** - IRS Form 1098-E (*Student Loan Interest Statement*)

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Contact your servicer

Contact your servicer

[NSLDS.ed.gov](https://nslds.ed.gov)
or contact your servicer

Contact your servicer

Contact your loan servicer(s)
or your tax advisor

