Public Service Loan Forgiveness
Overview & Legislative Update

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Objectives

1. Overview of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program
2. Discuss recent legislative updates that impact PSLF in 2021
3. Review Congressional changes in the House and Senate that will impact advocacy efforts for continued support of loan forgiveness initiatives
The PSLF Program forgives the remaining balance on your Direct Loans after you have made 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying employer.

1. Do you have Direct Loans?
2. What are 120 qualifying payments?
3. What is a qualifying repayment plan?
4. Who is a qualifying employer?

The best way to get started is by using the PSLF Help Tool to navigate your unique situation:

https://studentaid.gov/pslf/
Timeline

Complete your annual taxes
This is highly variable for each individual's current financial situation

Graduate
Your COM will send a notification to your loan servicer. Double check that they do this. This enters you into 6-month Grace Period

Send in PSLF Employment Certification Form / Application
After first two months or so of residency, complete this form to start monitoring, then submit annually

Choose IBRP
If you do not consolidate, you will want to still choose an IBRP and cancel your 6-month Grace Period to begin benefitting from $0.00 payments

Consolidate loans
If this is the best option for you, between graduation and starting residency is the best time to consolidate. This will take you out of 6-month Grace Period and placed into an IBRP
- 3 years of Residency CAN count towards PSLF, if your employer meets criteria
- Do not make payments and then consolidate your loans, they won’t count
- Send in the Employment Certification Form (ECF) at least **annually** (some say every 6 months) once you have started making payments
- Work with Program Coordinator to get the ECF completed. You will upload to FedLoans dashboard online (for faster processing)
- They will not accept your ECF if you have not made any payments (so don’t send until you make a few or have waited a few months)
- Only once you have submitted the ECF and it has been accepted will your account reflect that you have made PSLF qualifying payments
Legislative Update on Student Loans

- On March 20, 2020, the office of Federal Student Aid began providing the following temporary relief on ED-owned federal student loans: suspension of loan payments, stopped collections on defaulted loans, and a 0% interest rate.

- On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) became law, providing for the above relief measures on ED-owned federal student loans through Sept. 30, 2020.

- On Aug. 8, 2020, the COVID-19 emergency relief measures were extended on ED-owned federal student loans through Dec. 31, 2020.

- On Dec. 4, 2020, the COVID-19 emergency relief measures were extended on ED-owned federal student loans through Jan. 31, 2021.

- On Jan. 20, 2021, the COVID-19 emergency relief measures were extended on ED-owned federal student loans through Sept. 30, 2021.
Loan Servicer Changes 2021 & Beyond

- In June 2020, Dept. of Education announced contracts with new federal student loan servicers as part of their Next Gen FSA Initiative (to improve borrower experience)
- Make it less complicated and more standardized for federal loans
- As of December 2020, current contracts were extended through December 2021

What should I do now in preparation for future changes?

- Print out all correspondence or statements from your current loan servicer now and in the future
- Pay close attention to your email and U.S. postal service mail for any correspondence regarding student loan payments or changes

https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertfarrington/2020/12/01/student-loan-borrowers-will-see-their-loan-servicers-changeheres-why/?sh=579e3f54755c
Congressional Updates

1. Committees
2. Members
3. Follow on social media
4. 30 individual “hits” to initiate staff

### Projected Congressional Leadership Relevant to OME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker of the House</td>
<td>Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)</td>
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<td>Majority Leader</td>
<td>Chuck Schumer (D-NY)</td>
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<td>Minority Leader</td>
<td>Mitch McConnell (R-KY)</td>
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<td>President Pro Tempore</td>
<td>Patrick Leahy (D-VT)</td>
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<td>Vice President Pro Tempore</td>
<td>Richard Shelby (R-AL)</td>
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<td>Kay Granger (R-TX)</td>
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<td>Richard Shelby (R-AL)</td>
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<td>House Education and Labor</td>
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<td>Bobby Scott (D-VA)</td>
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<td>Chuck Grassley (R-IA)</td>
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<td>Jerry Moran (R-KS)</td>
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<td>Richard Burr (R-NC)</td>
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Follow on social media:

- [30 individual “hits” to initiate staff](#)
- Federal Student Aid Website: https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service

- PSLF Jobs Website: https://pslfjobs.com/


- Coronavirus and Forbearance Info for Students, Borrowers, and Parents: https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus
Thank you

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out!

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