Step by step workshop on applying for PSLF

Webinar |September 2022



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The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is a 21st century agency that helps consumer finance markets work by making rules more effective, by consistently and fairly enforcing those rules, and by empowering consumers to take more control over their economic lives.



Consumer education seeks to prevent harm

We serve the general public and focus on special populations:

- Servicemembers, veterans, and their families
- Older Americans, their families and caregivers
- Traditionally underserved and economically vulnerable consumers
- Students and young consumers: Educate and engage students to help students navigate financial products and services and avoid student loan default or other negative financial events



Student loan updates

- On August 24, 2022, the White House announced Student Loan debt relief plan
 - Extension of payment pause through December 31, 2022
 - Targeted debt relief to low- and middle-income families up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation to Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 in debt cancellation to non-Pell Grant recipients.
 - individual income must be less than \$125,000 or \$250,000 for households
- Go to <u>https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement</u>
- Sign up for "New!! Federal Student Loan Borrower Updates" at <u>https://www.ed.gov/subscriptions</u> to be notified when the process has officially opened



Speaker

Amy Czulada is the Outreach & Advocacy Manager at the Student Borrower Protection Center, where she has engaged in a lot of its PSLF Waiver education and outreach work. Prior to her work on student debt issues, she was in the labor movement conducting research for a large east coast union representing property service workers.



STUDENT BORROWER PROTECTION CENTER

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Presented by the Student Borrower Protection Center

2022

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Four Requirements:

- 1. Right type of loan
- 2. Right type of repayment plan
- 3. Right type of employment
- 4. Right number of payments



Requirement One: Right Type of Loan

- Only Direct Loans are eligible for PSLF
- Borrowers with FFELP or Perkins loans can consolidate
 - www.studentaid.gov to start consolidation process
- Borrowers with individual Direct Loans will lose any progress made towards PSLF if they consolidate
- Parent Plus loans can qualify if consolidated

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Requirement Two: Right Type of Repayment Plan

- Income-driven repayment plans
 - Can be as low as \$0 per month
- 10-year standard repayment plan
- Extended repayment *does not* qualify
- Graduated repayment sometimes qualifies
- Consolidation application will give you the option to enroll in IDR

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Requirement Three: Right Type of Employment

- It doesn't matter what you do. It matters where you work
 - Government organization
 - 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization
 - Other not-for-profit providing certain qualifying services
- Full-time
 - Greater of
 - 30 hours per week
 - Employer's definition of full-time
 - Can combine multiple part time jobs

Requirement Four: Right Number of Payments

- 120 qualifying payments:
 - Payments made in full
 - Partial payments made within 15 days of the due date
 - Only prepay/make lump-sum payments for up to 12 months

PSLF: during COVID

Payment pause months count toward 120 payments, BUT

- You still need to meet all the other criteria
- Job loss or reduced hours
- Delays
- Retirement

Public Service LoanForgiveness Broken Promises

The New Hork Times DealBook/ Business Student Loan Company Accused of Mismanaging Debt Forgiveness Program	Servio	ERS World Business Markets Politics TV 017/5:00 PM / 8 MONTHS ACO cing issues may hamper U.S. nt-loan forgiveness for thousands
N P r Why Public Service Loan Forgiveness Is So Unforgiving	forgiv reject	overnment loan eness program has ed 99% of wers so far
The 'broken' public service student I forgiveness system is particularly bi military veterans		TOTTORY PICK SLADD Views Aug 12, 2000, 0230pen EDT New Report Shows Public Service Loan Forgiveness Is A Mess

PSLF: sharing borrower stories

- 60 day comment period
- Nearly 50,000 comments
- Teachers, veterans, nurses, social workers, firefighters, doctors, legal aid, home health aides, adjuncts, public defenders, seniors, students, parents, grandparents, private borrowers



Time-Limited Waiver of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Requirements

Limited PSLF Waiver

- Loan type: Credit for payments on FFEL and Perkins loans if the borrower consolidates (or already has)
- Payment plan: any payment counts
- Employer and payment count still apply
- Military deferments and forbearances count
- Current employment not necessary



Limited PSLF Waiver

- Not completely automatic
 - FFEL/Perkins must consolidate
 - File ECF if have not previously
- FFEL and Perkins borrowers are at greatest risk of missing out

Direct Loans	
IDR	
Public Service Employer [30 hours]	
120 payments	

OCTOBER 31, 2022, DEADLINE TO ACT

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What Borrowers Need to Know

1.Is your employer a qualified public service employer?2.What loans do you have?3.Have you certified your employment with the PSLF form?

1. Is your employer a qualified public service employer?

- Check on the <u>www.studentaid.gov</u> PSLF Help Tool to see if any of your employers since 2007 are already qualified as public service employers. If so, then consolidate.
- If your employer is not listed, but you work for a government, 501(c)3, or certain other non-profit organizations, you can likely still qualify.

2. What loans do you have?

- \circ If you have anything other than a Direct Loan, you must consolidate.
- If you have a Direct Loan or already consolidated into a Direct
 Consolidation Loan, your loan types qualifies for PSLF.

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3. Have you certified your employment with the PSLF form?

- If you have a Direct Loan and certified employment since having that loan, the Department will automatically review your account for PSLF credit.
- If you have a Direct Loan and have never certified, you must submit the PSLF Form (formerly an ECF) using the <u>www.studentaid.gov</u> PSLF Help Tool.
- If you have to consolidate into a Direct Loan, you must submit the PSLF Form (formerly ECF) after you consolidate.

Confirming Employers

Log in at https://studentaid.gov/

An official website of the	United States government.			Help Center Submit a	Complaint English Español
Federal Studer		APPLY FOR AID Y COMPL	LETE AID PROCESS 🗸	MANAGE LOANS Y	ng In Create Account Q
About Loan Repayment Who's My Servicer? Repayment Plans	Complete Exit Counseling Complete TEACH Grant Conversion Counseling Make a Payment Loan Simulator Consolidate My Loans	Lower My Payments Apply for an Income-Driven Repa Recertify an Income-Driven Repa Cosign Your Spouse's Income-Dr Application Get Temporary Relief	ayment Plan	Qualify for Loan Forgiveness Public Service Loan Forgiveness Teacher Loan Forgiveness Closed School Discharge Perkins Loan Cancellation and Discharge Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Discharge Due to Death Discharge in Bankruptcy Borrower Defense to Repayment False Certification Discharge Unpaid Refund Discharge	Delinquency and Default Avoiding Default Collections Getting Out of Default

Confirm your employer



Confirm your employer

				Search Results	1-2 of :
Search for Employer Employer Identification 146013200 How do I find my EIN? This is my current Employment Start Date	Number (EIN)	Employment End Date		 If you recognize the name of the employer that resulted encourage you to select a result that relates to your employer if the name differs slightly, the name is for a larger organization or agency that there is no address, the address is different from where you typically we the address is a P. O. Box. 	loyer's name. You should do this t your employer belongs to, rork, or a common EIN to pay their
09/02/2019	0	To 07/02/2021		federal agencies share EINs so you may need to click thr employer. As a last resort, you can manually add the nar doing so will add review time and delay your PSLF form	ough multiple pages to find your me of your employer, however,
Q Search Previous			Continue	14-6013200 State of New York No address on file	C English

Identifying Your Student Loans

How to tell what type of federal student loan you have



How to tell what type of federal student loan you have

Loan Types

2 Consolidation Los	ans		\$136,916	0
Loan Type	Principal	Interest	Total Bala	ince
Direct Consolidation Unsubsidized	\$126,965	\$0	\$126,	965
Direct Consolidation Subsidized	\$9,951	\$0	\$9,	951
Total	\$136,916	\$0	\$136,	916
3 Graduate PLUS L	oans		\$0	\odot
1 Perkins Loans			\$0	\odot
3 Subsidized Loans	i s		\$0	\odot
6 Unsubsidized Loa	ans		\$0	\odot

Consolidating Your Student Loans

Log in at https://studentaid.gov/

An official website of the	United States government.		Help Center Submit a Complaint English Es
Federal Studer		APPLY FOR AID V COMPLETE AID PROCESS V	MANAGE LOANS ~ Log In Create Account (
About Loan Repayment Who's My Servicer? Repayment Plans	Complete Exit Counseling Complete TEACH Grant Conversion Counseling Make a Payment Loan Simulator Consolidate My Loans	Lower My Payments Apply for an Income-Driven Repayment Plan Recertify an Income-Driven Repayment Plan Cosign Your Spouse's Income-Driven Repayment Plan Application Get Temporary Relief	Qualify for Loan ForgivenessDelinquency and DefaultPublic Service Loan ForgivenessAvoiding DefaultTeacher Loan ForgivenessCollectionsClosed School DischargeCollectionsPerkins Loan Cancellation and DischargeGetting Out of DefaultTotal and Permanent Disability DischargeDischargeDischarge Due to Death Discharge in BankruptcySorrower Defense to Repayment

Unpaid Refund Discharge

DIRECT CONSOLIDATION LOAN APPLICATION

What is Loan Consolidation?

If you have multiple student loans you may be able to combine them into one loan with a fixed interest rate based on the average of the interest rates on the loans being consolidated. Learn more about loan consolidation.

A Direct Consolidation Loan allows you to consolidate multiple federal education loans into one loan at no cost to you.

Through your completion of the free Federal Direct Consolidation Loan Application and Promissory Note, you will confirm the loans that you want to consolidate and agree to repay the new Direct Consolidation Loan.

Once the consolidation is complete, you will have a single monthly payment on the new Direct Consolidation Loan instead of multiple monthly payments on the loans you consolidated.

Alert! On Oct. 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced a temporary period during which borrowers may receive credit for payments that previously did not qualify for PSLF or TEPSLF. Learn more about this time-limited opportunity.



Who should complete this?

Borrowers who want to consolidate their federal student loans and borrowers who have outstanding FFEL or Perkins loans and want to take advantage of the Limited PSLF Waiver.

Note: There is no application fee to complete a Direct Consolidation Loan application. You may be contacted by private companies that offer to help you consolidate your loans, for a fee. These companies have no affiliation




The notice that ED sends will include information about the loans I listed in the Loans You Want to Consolidate section of this Note. If I have additional loans that are with a holder of a loan listed in the Loans You Want to Consolidate section, but I did not list those

Certifying Employment

Log in at https://studentaid.gov/

An official website of the	United States government.		Help Center Submit a Complaint English Españ
Federal Stude r		APPLY FOR AID V COMPLETE AID PROCESS	✓ MANAGE LOANS ✓ Log In Create Account Q
About Loan Repayment Who's My Servicer? Repayment Plans	Complete Exit Counseling Complete TEACH Grant Conversion Counseling Make a Payment Loan Simulator Consolidate My Loans	Lower My Payments Apply for an Income-Driven Repayment Plan Recertify an Income-Driven Repayment Plan Cosign Your Spouse's Income-Driven Repayment Plan Application Get Temporary Relief	Qualify for Loan Forgiveness Delinquency and Default Public Service Loan Forgiveness Avoiding Default Teacher Loan Forgiveness Collections Closed School Discharge Getting Out of Default Perkins Loan Cancellation and Discharge Getting Out of Default Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Discharge Due to Death Discharge in Bankruptcy Borrower Defense to Repayment False Certification Discharge Unpaid Refund Discharge

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09/02/2019	0	To 07/02/2021		federal agencies share EINs so you may need to click thr employer. As a last resort, you can manually add the nar doing so will add review time and delay your PSLF form	ough multiple pages to find your me of your employer, however,
Q Search Previous			Continue	14-6013200 State of New York No address on file	C English

Generating an Employer Certification Form



Submitting an Employer Certification Form





What will happen after you submit this form for processing?

Once FedLoan Servicing receives your form, they will begin their review. Once they review your employment, they'll determine the number of qualifying payments you've made and will send you a notice informing you of that number.

Note: It may take up to 120 days to process your employment information and review your payment information.

You will not receive confirmation that your loan, employment, or payments qualify for PSLF or TEPSLF, or that you are eligible for forgiveness until you submit this form.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

Some of your loans do not qualify for the PSLF Program, but there are actions you could consider taking.

GET OUT OF DEFERMENT OR FORBEARANCE

The loans listed below are in deferment or forbearance; therefore, you aren't making eligible monthly payments on those loans. If you can't afford your monthly payments, use *Loan Simulator* at <u>StudentAid gov/loan-simulator</u> to estimate payments on different repayment plans. It's important to stop postponing payments so you can make qualifying payments for the PSLF Program.

Loan Type	Loan Status	Servicer	Qualifying Payments Made
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Forbearance	DEPT OF ED/MOHELA	0
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Forbearance	DEPT OF ED/MOHELA	0
Direct Unsubsidized Loan	Forbearance	DEPT OF ED/MOHELA	0

Special Notice for the COVID-19 Emergency Payment Pause

As part of the COVID-19 emergency relief, federal student loan payments were paused. Payments will restart after Jan. 31, 2022.

You do not need to remove your loans from the COVID-19 payment pause to qualify for PSLF. As long as you are employed full-time for a qualifying employer during this time, you can receive credit toward PSLF.

Want to see your qualifying payments show up in your account? Submit a PSLF form to certify your employment for the

Have you made 120 qualifying payments? ③

If you don't know, take your best guess! We will always review to see if you are eligible for forgiveness, so your answer won't negatively impact you in any way.

Why do we ask this question?

Yes, I have made 120 qualifying payments and qualify for forgiveness right now.

Choose this option if you think you have made at least 120 qualifying payments on at least one of your loans while working for a qualifying employer.

Are You Sure?

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Based on your loan information, you have not been in repayment for at least 10 years and do not yet qualify for PSLF. Select "No" in response to this question to continue.

O No, I haven't made 120 qualifying payments.

Choose this option if you just want to find out how many qualifying payments you have made to date, or if your employer is a qualifying employer and you don't think you qualify for forgiveness right now.

PSLF Qualifying Payment Details

Loan Sequence	Disbursement Date	Loan Program		PSLF Qualifying Payments (Total)	Payments	Estimated Eligibility Date for PSLF
0001	11/02/2021	DLSCNS	3	1	119	03/2032
0002	11/02/2021	DLUCNS	3	1	119	03/2032

TEPSLF Candidates: We will send you separate correspondence with additional details, if you are eligible for reconsideration under TEPSLF.

Good to Know! The charts above display the total number of eligible and qualifying payments you have made (out of the required 120) on your eligible loans for PSLF and TEPSLF, including any periods we have assessed as eligible or qualifying under the Limited PSLF Waiver. Please ensure that you have certified all periods of eligible employment.

TLXH7TH FS068PSAID	8254085945	ENOTIFY	8300000548700130	20220112102020 20220112103455
TLXH7TH FS068PSAID	0251005515	ENOTIEY	8300000648700130	20220112102020 20220112103455

P.O. Box 69184, Hamisburg, PA 17105-6184 I M-F 8AM to 9FM (ET) 1 855-255-4038 I International 717-720-1985 I 2711

If you believe you may have additional eligible employment, please submit a PSLF Form for the appropriate period. For more details regarding your payments made towards both PSLF and TEPSLF, please visit us on the web at MyFedLoan.org/PSLF. 49

Important Takeaways

Important Takeaways

- Credit will be given for months during which any loan type was in repayment
- Deadline of October 31, 2022, to consolidate and/or submit PSLF Form (ECF)
- Confirm your employer
- Confirm your loan types
- Consolidate if necessary
- Submit a PSLF Form
- File a complaint if you experience any issues

- Applying for public service loan forgiveness (PSLF) can be a complex process. We want to hear your consumer experience in applying for any loan forgiveness program
 - Have you applied for PSLF limited waiver opportunity already?
 - Sign up to share your consumer experience with us
- To sign up, email the Students team at <u>Students@cfpb.gov</u> before 9/12/2022
 - $\,\,{}_{\,\circ}\,\,$ Interviews will be held the week of September 19^{th}
 - Limited slots available for participants



Resources for additional help

- Visit Department of Education's FAQs on the PSLF Limited Waiver at <u>https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/pslf-limited-waiver</u>
- Use the Department of Education's PSLF Help tool at <u>https://studentaid.gov/pslf/</u>
- Want to consolidate your loans? Visit the Department of Education's application at https://studentaid.gov/app/launchConsolidation.action
- Need additional help? Contact your student loan servicer for additional questions.
- Run into a problem?
 - Contact the FSA Ombudsman Group: <u>https://studentaid.gov/feedback-ombudsman/disputes/prepare</u>
 - □ Submit a complaint to the CFPB: <u>www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint</u>



Questions?

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Thank you!

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Join our mailing list: <u>https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/students/signup/</u>

To watch the replay of today's presentation and download a copy of the slides visit: <u>https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/students/student-young-consumers-training-webinars/</u>

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