



Borrowing for Higher Education

What you should know

Your Presenters



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Objectives

- Understand the basics of financial aid
- Understand borrowing options
- Learn the types of student loans
- Review repayment options
- Learn how credit affects your rates
- Develop strategies for managing debt



PHEAA: Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

Your State agency that provides information on attending and funding Higher Education

- **Established by the Pennsylvania state legislature in 1963**, PHEAA is an Independent State Agency created by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- **Our Statutory Mission:** To increase student and family access to affordable higher education.
- **Our Vision:** To be the premier not for profit financial aid services organization in the marketplace measured by operational excellence and growth in public service benefits for students, their families, and schools.
- **PHEAA** has provided more than \$1 Billion in public service benefits over the past 10 years.



Don't borrow more to get your education than you can reasonably expect to make during your first year in the workforce.

This keeps
your loan
payment
<12% of
gross
earnings

Recommendation from
the National Endowment
for Financial Education
(nefe.org)

Excellent Resource



EducationPlanner.org

Career Exploration

Expected Salaries by Location

Colleges & Academic Majors

Colleges Academic Standards

Self Assessments

Student & Parent Guidance



Financial Aid Made Simple:

5 Steps to Financial Aid

STEP 1. LOOK FOR "FREE" MONEY FIRST.



STEP 2. KNOW YOUR SPECIFIC DEADLINES.



STEP 3. FILL OUT THE FAFSA®.



STEP 4. COMPARE SCHOOLS' FINANCIAL AID OFFERS CAREFULLY.



STEP 5. BE SURE YOU HAVE THE MONEY YOU NEED.



Ways to Reduce the Need for Financial Aid

- Graduate on Time
- Research and find the right school and major
 - Minimize transfer and change of major
- Earn College Credits while in High School through AP courses, Vo-Tech, dual enrollment
- Consider Options for Cutting Costs (commute, take summer classes, buy used books, make practical meal plan and housing choices)
- 2 + 2 Strategy (2 years at a Community College then transfer credits to a 4 year school)
- 3 + 2 (Master's Degree)

Financial Aid and Affordability

Review the Financial Aid webpage

- Costs to attend vary - Tuition, Room, Board, +
- Look for Scholarships... and Apply!
 - » Applications or School Awarded
- Use the NET PRICE CALCULATOR to estimate costs
 - » Tool provided on the Financial Aid webpage
- School Participation in Financial Aid programs
 - » What Forms are required and **DEADLINES**
- What can you and your family afford to contribute
- Does the cost match your potential salary
 - » www.MySmartBorrowing.org and MyNextMove.org

MySmartBorrowing.org

An interactive, online tool created by PHEAA that helps students and families:

- Estimate career salaries & college tuition
- View the impact of savings on overall cost
- Calculate loan repayment
- Avoid overborrowing



Net Price Calculator



ESTIMATED data provided by each institution:

- Total price of attendance
- Tuition, Fees, Room and Board
- Expenses (ie personal, transportation..)
- Estimated merit and need based grant aid
- ESTIMATED NET PRICE (attendance minus grant aid)

Does not always include internal Scholarships



Estimated Cost of Attendance

Tuition & Fees	\$33,994
Room & Board	\$8,932
Total Estimated Direct Cost	\$42,926
Books & Supplies	\$1,150
Other (personal, transportation...)	\$1,960
Total Estimated Cost	\$46,036

Estimated Scholarship

Benedictine Scholarship	\$17,000
Total Estimated Scholarship	\$17,000

Estimated Scholarship & Gift Aid

Estimated Other Gift Aid	\$10,600
Total Estimated Gift Aid	\$27,600

Estimated Net Price: \$18,436

Other Financial Assistance

The aid shown below is not "free money". Loans must be paid back and work study must be earned.

Estimated Other Assistance	
Estimated Loans	\$5,500
Estimated Work Study	\$2,500
Total Estimated Other Assistance	\$8,000

Other Financial Assistance

The aid shown below is not "free money". Loans must be paid back and work study must be earned.

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Total Estimated Other Assistance	\$8,000

Click [here](#) to view other forms of financial assistance.

Types of Financial Aid

Funds provided to students and families to help pay for **Postsecondary** Educational expenses include:

GRANTS – Free Money based on Need and Merit

SCHOLARSHIPS – Free Money based on criteria

Work Study – Earned money during the school term

LOANS – Borrowed money –

- Direct Student Loan - DOE
- PLUS loans - DOE
- Private Student loans – Banks, Institutions, State
- Private Parent Loans – Banks, Institutions, State
- Personal Loans – Banks, Institutions, Personal options



Borrowing for Higher Education

Always consider Federal Student loans first

They have the best interest rates and repayment provisions for students

- » Direct Student Loan (currently 2.75% fixed) – undergraduate students
- » Direct Graduate Loan (currently 4.30% fixed) – graduate students

Other options:

- » PLUS Loan (currently 5.30% fixed) – parent and graduate student options
- » Private Education Loan (variable and fixed rates)

Smart Borrowing Tips



- Begin with a goal in mind
- Research the expected salary in your future career, find an affordable school, and borrow realistically
- There are many paths to the same degree
- Research every option, including community colleges and commuting
- Only attend a school you can reasonably afford
- Only borrow what you absolutely need to attend
- Approach education from a consumer standpoint
- Is there a Career Services Department?
- Much depends on you and your choices

Federal Direct Loan Program

- Available to ALL students REGARDLESS of need
- Additional unsubsidized funds available for Independent & Parent PLUS denials
 - » 2.75% interest rate (AY 2020-21), 1.059% fee
 - » Rates set every July 1st for the life of that year's loan; fees set Oct 1st and are deducted from disbursement
- In student's name, no collateral or credit check, must sign MPN
- Available loan amounts increase in subsequent years
- No payments required while attending school & six-month grace period
- Flexible Repayment options

Based on FAFSA, students may be offered a combination of:

- **Subsidized:** govt pays interest in school and grace status
- **Unsubsidized:** interest accrues in school and grace



Federal Direct Stafford Loan Borrowing Limits

Undergraduate Students			Graduate Students
Annual Limits	Dependent Students	Independent or dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS Loan	Graduate or Professional Studies
1st Year	\$5,500 Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	\$9,500 Total No more than \$3,500 may be subsidized	\$20,500 each academic year Graduate / Professional students are no longer eligible for subsidized loans
2nd Year	\$6,500 Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	\$10,500 Total No more than \$4,500 may be subsidized	
3rd Year and beyond	\$7,500 Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	\$12,500 Total No more than \$5,500 may be subsidized	
Aggregate Limits	\$31,000 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	\$57,500 Total No more than \$23,000 may be subsidized	\$138,500 Total No more than \$65,000 may be subsidized

Federal Direct PLUS Loans

- Parent is the borrower
- Credit check is required
- Cost minus financial aid received (max)
- Repayment begins 60 days after disbursement
 - » Parent can choose to defer payments while student is enrolled (Interest accrues)
- **Interest/Fees:** 5.30% rate and 4.236% fee (AY 20/21)
- Apply at www.studentaid.gov

Plan for Federal Direct Loan Repayment

- ❑ Standard Repayment
10 years of on-time payments
- ❑ Public Service Loan Forgiveness
Certified work at a qualified non profit or government agency
- ❑ Income-driven repayment plans
- ❑ Graduated and Extended options
- ❑ Loan Consolidation – Federal and Private



Benefits of Paying Interest

Paying now will reduce what is capitalized!

- Interest accrues on your unsubsidized student loan until you enter repayment after 6 month grace at graduation or leaving school.
 - » Every day, from the day the loan is disbursed until you enter repayment, then interest is capitalized until you make the last payment
 - » Even if your loan is not in active repayment
- Interest begins on your subsidized student loan after leaving or graduating school and 6 month grace
- Interest accrues on PLUS loans from day of disbursement
 - » Every day, from the day of disbursement, even if not in active repayment

Calculating Accrued Interest

- To calculate your daily interest accrual, use the following formula:
- Interest rate x current principal balance ÷ number of days in the year = daily interest

Example - Sara Student has a \$10,000.00 current principal balance and 2.75% interest rate this year. Using the formula:



$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \$10,000 & & .0275 & & 365 & & \$0.753425 \\ \text{current principal} & \times & \text{interest} & \div & \text{days in} & = & \text{round} \\ \text{balance} & & \text{rate} & & \text{a year} & & \text{to } \$0.75/\text{day} \end{array}$$

Loan Calculator

4-Year College

Loan Balance:	\$28,500.00
Adjusted Loan Balance:	\$28,500.00
Loan Interest Rate:	2.75%
Loan Term:	10 years
Minimum Payment (regardless of loan balance):	\$50.00
Total Years in College:	4 years
Monthly Loan Payment:	\$271.92
Number of Payments:	120
Cumulative Payments:	\$32,630.57
Total Interest Paid:	\$4,130.57

THE POWER *of* ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS *on a* TYPICAL LOAN



Contribute **50¢ EXTRA**
a day to **SAVE \$2,285** and
PAY OFF **13 MONTHS EARLIER!**

Contribute an
EXTRA \$1 a day
to **SAVE \$4,120**
and PAY OFF **ALMOST**
2 YEARS EARLIER!



Contribute
\$2 EXTRA a day to
SAVE \$7,235 and
PAY OFF **ALMOST 3½**
YEARS EARLIER!



Estimated savings are based on a 10 year loan of \$15,000 at a 6.8% interest rate with no capitalized interest, and with extra payments being made from the start of repayment until the loan is fully paid off.

All Student/Education Loans

Must be paid back, even if...

- » You don't get a job in the field you studied
- » You don't find a job
- » You don't graduate
- » You go on to graduate school
- » You can't afford to
- » You don't want to



Smart Borrowing Tip



Inconsistent or untimely loan repayment could affect your future.

- Unlike other forms of debt, student loans may be difficult to discharge in bankruptcy.
- Your credit score may be affected by inconsistent/untimely payment.
- Deferment or forbearance is an option if you are having trouble making payments, but may increase the total owed if the accrued interest is not paid.

Prepayment of Student Loans



- You can make prepayments on your student loan(s) without penalty
- Will reduce total interest paid on loan
- Target prepayment at loan(s) with highest interest rate
(contact servicer to determine how to target prepayments without advancing next payment due date)
- Contact your loan servicer for information on how prepayments are applied to principal/interest
- **Make prepayments online at your loan servicer's website**

Private/Alternative Loans

- From private lenders or financial institutions
 - » In student's name/co-signers likely required
 - » Can borrow up to the Cost of Attendance
 - » Generally based on credit scores and debt-to-income
 - » Generally repayment may be deferred until education completed
 - » Terms vary by lender – compare before making choices
 - » Students must sign a “Self Certification Form” per DOE
 - » ELMSelect.com (find list of lenders)
- **READ THE FINE PRINT**

PA Forward Loan Program & Eligibility Requirements

- The PHEAA PA Forward student loan program was launched on April 30, 2019
 - » Includes undergraduate, graduate, parent, and refinance programs
- Student
 - » PA Resident attending any Title IV approved school
 - » DE, NJ, NY, OH, MD and VA resident attending a PA Title IV approved school
 - » Enrolled at least ½ time
 - » Seeking a Degree, Certificate or Diploma
 - » Aggregate limit of \$150,000 (\$300,000 for grad and refi)
 - » Very competitive, fixed interest rates
 - » No fees

PA Forward Undergraduate & Graduate Loans

- Student borrower alone, or with a credit-worthy cosigner¹
- Borrow up to 100% Cost of Attendance²
- No fees
- No pre-payment penalty
- Past Due Balances (180 days)
- Fixed interest rates based on credit risk scoring
 - » 4.47 – 6.92% interest rate (4.03% - 6.56% APR)³
- Model to include FICO score, repayment option chosen, and repayment term selected (10 or 15 years)⁵
- Credit is valid for 120 days

PA Forward Undergraduate & Graduate Loans

- Multiple repayment options⁴
- Repayment terms
 - » Borrower selects 10 year or 15 year term⁵
- 0.25% interest rate reduction upon enrollment in Direct Debit
- 0.50% interest rate reduction as a graduation benefit
- Bi-weekly payment options to promote positive repayment habits
- Death and Disability forgiveness
- Co-signer release option after 48 consecutive on-time monthly payments and meeting credit criteria
- Deferment and Forbearance options

PA Forward Education Loans

Pennsylvania's Student Loan Program

1. The PA Forward Student Loan Program is a credit-based loan program. Applicants, including co-signers, are subject to credit qualifications, completion of an application and credit agreement, and verification of application information.
2. Subject to aggregate loan limits
3. **Annual Percentage Rate (APR) Calculations** - The lowest APR is based on the following assumptions: a loan of \$10,000 made in a single disbursement, a borrower who selected an Immediate Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 120 months, monthly payments of \$100.78 and a final payment \$78.64, a fixed periodic interest rate of 4.47%, and a total amount financed of \$12,149.33. The borrower in this sample qualified for a 0.25% *Direct Debit* benefit for the entirety of the repayment period and a 0.50% graduation benefit was applied 47 months into repayment.
The highest APR is based on the following assumptions: a loan of \$10,000 made in a single disbursement, a borrower who selected a Fully Deferred Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 180 months, monthly payments of \$116.26, a fixed periodic interest rate of 6.92%, and a total amount financed of \$20,925.92. The borrower received an in-school deferment of 46 months and a grace period of 6 months. The borrower in this sample did not qualify for any interest rate discounts.
These APRs are estimates and may differ from the actual rates received.
4. **Partial Interest Payment** - After the in-school and grace periods, any unpaid interest will be repaid along with principal. For example, a borrower of a \$10,000.00 loan will pay \$25.00 per month for 52 months (46 months in school and 6 months in grace). Following that time period, if that borrower selected a 10-year repayment plan and received a periodic interest rate of 5.27%, and no interest rate discounts, the borrower would have an APR of 5.14%, monthly payments of \$117.95 for 120 months, and a total amount repaid of \$15,454.45.
5. **Repayment Terms** - A borrower of a \$10,000 loan who selects a 10-year (120 months) repayment term may receive an APR between 4.46% and 6.04%, monthly principal and interest payments between \$103.49 and \$144.62, and a total amount repaid between \$12,419.26 and \$17,354.07. A borrower of a \$10,000 loan who selects a 15-year (180 months) repayment term may receive an APR between 4.96% and 6.56%, monthly principal and interest payments between \$78.92 and \$116.26, and a total amount repaid between \$14,206.17 and \$20,925.92. No interest rate discounts were applied to these examples.

PHEAA reserves the right to discontinue all programs or benefits without prior notice.

PA Forward Parent Loans¹

- Parent / Guardian – Borrower
- Borrow up to total cost of attendance²
- No fees and No prepayment penalty
- Very competitive fixed interest rate based on³ credit risk scoring⁶
 - » 4.47 – 6.42% interest rate (4.21% - 6.40% APR)
- Repayment options
 - » Interest only while student is enrolled at least half-time
 - » Principal and interest
- Repayment terms
 - » Borrower selects 10 or 15 year term⁴
- 0.25% interest rate reduction upon enrollment in Direct Debit
- Bi-weekly payment options to promote positive repayment habits

PAForward Education Loans

Pennsylvania's Student Loan Program

1. Applicants are subject to credit qualifications, completion of an application and credit agreement, and verification of application information.
2. Subject to aggregate loan limits.
3. **Annual Percentage Rate (APR) Calculations** - The lowest APR is based on the following assumptions: a loan of \$10,000 made in a single disbursement, a borrower who selected an Immediate Repayment Plan, monthly payments of \$102.29 for a period of 120 months, a fixed periodic interest rate of 4.47% and a total amount financed of \$12,275.28. The borrower in this sample qualified for a 0.25% *Direct Debit* benefit for the entirety of the repayment period.

The highest APR is based on the following assumptions: a loan of \$10,000 made in a single disbursement, a borrower who selected an Interest Only Repayment Plan and a repayment term of 180 months, monthly payments of \$53.50 for 46 months and monthly payments of \$86.67 for the remainder of the repayment term, a fixed periodic interest rate of 6.42% and a total amount financed of \$18,061.88. The borrower in this sample did not qualify for any interest rate discounts.

Please note these APRs are estimates and may differ from the actual rates received.

4. **Repayment Terms** - A borrower of a \$10,000 loan who selects a 10-year (120 months) repayment term may receive an APR between 4.46% and 5.91%, monthly principal and interest payments between \$103.49 and \$110.62, and a total amount repaid between \$12,419.26 and \$15,543.64. A borrower of a \$10,000 loan who selects a 15-year (180 months) repayment term may receive an APR between 4.96% and 6.40%, monthly principal and interest payments between \$78.92 and \$86.67, and a total amount repaid between \$14,206.17 and \$18,061.88. No interest rate discounts were applied to these examples.

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IMPACT OF INTEREST RATE & REPAY TERM



TEST@EMAIL.COM [Log Out](#)

[MY LOANS](#) > [LOAN SUMMARY](#) > [TERMS](#)

SELECT YOUR TERMS

\$15,000 education loan

APPLICATION ID #4001084

USE THE FILTERS TO CREATE THE LOAN THAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU.

REPAYMENT LENGTH (TERM)

- 10 Years
- 15 Years

PAYMENT OPTION

- Immediate Repayment
- Interest Only
- Partial Interest
- Full Deferral

Repayment Length (Term)	Payment Option	Interest Rate Type	Interest Rate / APR	Monthly Payment in School	Monthly Payment After School	Total of Payments	
10 Years	Immediate Repayment	Fixed	5.450 % / 5.460 %	\$162.47	\$162.47	\$19,495.04	Select
10 Years	Interest Only	Fixed	6.250 % / 6.260 %	\$78.76	\$168.44	\$26,234.19	Select
10 Years	Partial Interest	Fixed	6.250 % / 5.830 %	\$25.00	\$214.45	\$27,658.18	Select
10 Years	Full Deferral	Fixed	6.750 % / 6.090 %	\$0.00	\$246.95	\$29,633.11	Term Selected
15 Years	Immediate Repayment	Fixed	5.950 % / 5.960 %	\$126.22	\$126.22	\$22,719.48	Select
15 Years	Interest Only	Fixed	6.750 % / 6.760 %	\$85.07	\$132.76	\$30,400.93	Select
15 Years	Partial Interest	Fixed	6.750 % / 6.320 %	\$25.00	\$173.30	\$33,116.13	Select
15 Years	Full Deferral	Fixed	7.250 % / 6.610 %	\$0.00	\$200.75	\$36,131.88	Select

Personal borrowing options

- Personal Loans from a bank or lender
 - » Unique criteria based on product and borrower
- Credit Cards
 - » Normally higher interest rates and uses up limits
- Equity Loans
 - » From mortgage lender or banks; uses equity value in your home
- 401K / Retirement Loans
 - » Understand the pros and cons; speak to your HR department or advisor
- From family
 - » Understand repayment agreements



Loan Repayment Calculators

- YouCanDealWithIt.com
- StudentAid.gov
- finaid.org
- Excel "PMT" function

Repayment Examples



Loan Balance:	\$37,000.00
Adjusted Loan Balance:	\$37,396.02
Loan Interest Rate:	4.53%
Loan Fees:	1.06%
Loan Term:	10 years
Minimum Payment:	\$50.00
Enrollment Status:	In Repayment
Degree Program:	Bachelor's Degree
Total Years in College:	4 years
Average Debt per Year:	\$9,250.00
Monthly Loan Payment:	\$388.11
Number of Payments:	120
Cumulative Payments:	\$46,572.82
Total Interest Paid:	\$9,572.82

It is estimated that you would need an annual salary of \$46,573 to be able to afford this loan payment.

Grace Period

What is a Loan Grace Period?

- Not all loan products include a grace period
- Begins when you graduate, withdraw, or otherwise drop to less than half-time status
- You only get one, and it lasts 6 months
- You will receive your repayment obligation, which includes:
 - Date payments are to begin
 - Monthly payment amount
 - Repayment terms
 - Current principal balance
 - Interest rate



Does Every Loan have a Grace Period?

Loans with a Grace Period

- Direct Student Loans
 - Subsidized and Unsubsidized
 - 6 months
- Perkins Loans
 - 9 months
- Private Student and Parent Loans (depends on lender)
- PA Forward Undergrad & Grad loans – Yes

Loans without a Grace Period

- Parent PLUS
 - Repay begins after disbursement unless deferred
- Consolidation/Refinance
 - Repay begins after disbursement
- Prior loans where grace period has been used
- Private Student and Parent Loans (depends on lender)



What is Interest?

**Goal:
Keep Interest
Low**

Interest on consumer borrowing is the Fee you pay for using someone else's money

- based on your 'credit rating' and 'risk' of paying it back
- APR – annual percentage rate - cost expressed in a yearly rate
- Fixed Rate – doesn't change
- Variable Rate – fluctuates based on Prime or Libor or other index
(most credit cards use Prime)

Get your credit report FREE Plan for loan borrowing

FTC and Fair Credit Reporting Act of Sept.2005 created:

www.annualcreditreport.com

FREE review, Once / year – from all 3 agencies

Equifax	1-800-525-6285	www.equifax.com
Experian	1-800-397-3742	www.experian.com
TransUnion	1-800-680-7289	www.transunion.com

Report Review is FREE, Nominal fee can be charged for scores

There are many free options available – don't pay!

What is Credit?

- Credit is an arrangement to receive goods, products or services now and pay later. It's basically a measure of your financial reliability.
- **There are different types of credit.**
 - Revolving credit
 - Installment loans
 - Mortgage loans



Credit Score



The FICO® guidelines for a credit score range:



How scores can affect YOU



Effects of your scores

- » Eligibility for future credit
- » Insurance, Employment, Housing
- » Interest rates on future loans

*How much
can you save*



Below chart is based on a 36-month car loan for \$15,000 with no money down and no trade in.

Credit Score	500--589	590--619	620--659	660--689	690--719	720--850
Interest Rate	17.19%	16.04%	11.01%	7.30%	5.13%	3.70%
Monthly Payment	\$536	\$528	\$491	\$465	\$450	\$441

Data provided by Informa Research thru www.homebuyinginstitute.com



Consolidation – What Is It?

- **Consolidation Loans** combine several **student** loans into one **single loan** from a single lender, which is then used to pay off the balances on the other **loans**.
- Provides an opportunity for potentially lower monthly payments. Total interest paid may be higher, due to extended repayment term.
- Federal Direct Consolidation
- Private Refi/Consolidation

Postponing Payments

Deferment

- A postponement of payment on a loan that is allowed under certain conditions (Unemployment, In-School, Economic Hardship)
- Interest will not accrue on
 - » Direct Subsidized Loans
 - » Federal Perkins Loans

Forbearance

- A period during which your monthly loan payments are temporarily suspended or reduced
- Interest will continue to accrue



Applying for a deferment or forbearances may be an unnecessary detour!

Consider a long-term solution with an Income-Driven (IDR) Repayment Plan – federal loans only

Student Loan Delinquency



Delinquency

- A loan is delinquent when loan payments are not received by the due dates
- A loan remains delinquent until the borrower makes up the missed payment(s) through payment, deferment, or forbearance
- Contact your loan servicer to discuss options to keep the loan in good standing
- If the delinquency continues for a set period of time, your loans will default and you can have your wages garnished

Consequences of Default



- Your wages may be garnished
- Your federal and state income tax refunds may be intercepted
- You may be ineligible for deferments
- Subsidized interest benefits will be denied
- You may not be able to renew a professional license you hold
- Your defaulted loans will appear on your credit history for up to 7 years after the default claim is paid

Getting Out of Default

Don't get discouraged if you default on your federal student loan.

There are options available to you.



4.

Loan Repayment

Loan Rehabilitation

Loan Consolidation

Student Loan Repayment Help

Repayment Tips

- » Always forgetting to send your payment? Sign up for automated payments and never worry about sending a check again.
- » Realize you forgot to put the check in the mail the day before it is due? Make the payment by phone or online.
- » Have a Smart Phone? Many servicers have apps you can download for payments.
- » Does your payment due date fall on other important bill dates? Call your lender/loan servicer to ask if you can change the due date.
- » Payments too high?
 - Call to discuss other repayment options.
 - Check out YouCanDealWithIt.com.
 - Consider consolidation.

Get Organized – Do You Know How Much You Owe???

- Create a student loan checklist that lists all of your student loans.
- Put all your paperwork for each loan in its own file folder labeled with the lender name, date borrowed, original loan balance and account number.
- Notify the lender about any changes in address or contact information.
- Put a note in your calendar at least a week before your first payment is due.

Keep track of your Federal Debt at StudentAid.gov

The screenshot shows the StudentAid.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following items: "An official website of the United States government", "Help Center", "English | Español", "Federal Student Aid" logo, "UNDERSTAND AID", "APPLY FOR AID", "COMPLETE AID PROCESS", and "MANAGE LOANS" (which is circled in orange). To the right of the navigation bar are "Log In" and "Create Account" links. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a list of loan management options: "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", "Delinquency and Default", "Avoiding Default", "Collections", and "Getting Out of Default". On the left side, there is a "Log In" form with fields for "FSA ID Username, Email, or Mobile Phone" and "Password", each with a "Forgot My" link below it. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screenshot.

How much did you borrow?

Who is your servicer?

What are your interest rates?

Servicer contact info?

Goals

If you don't control your money, Your money will control you

- **Create a budget and monitor your expenses**
- **Keep more of your money**
 - » Savings; less spending; control cash
- **Work toward better interest rates**
 - » Higher credit scores = lower private rates
- **Use common sense, balance accounts**
 - » Respond, don't React
- **Only borrow what you NEED**
- **Don't borrow more than you'll earn in Year 1**



Resources

Watch for upcoming webinars on more Affording Education topics...and...

Join us every 1st & 3rd Friday for our live Q&A's and get your questions answered!
See posts for details.



Resources

- **FAFSA.gov**
 - » Questions about FAFSA or FSA ID
 - 800.433.3243
- **PHEAA.org**
 - » Questions about the PA State Grant & other State programs
 - 800.692.7392
- **EducationPlanner.org**
- **LiveCareer.com**
- **PA529.com**
- **StudentAid.gov** – information on federal loans
- **MySmartBorrowing.org** – comparing college costs for smart borrowing
- **MyNextMove.org** – Bureau of Labor Statistics on Career earnings
- **CollegeCost.ed.gov** – Links to other sites



Resources

- **Federal Trade Commission**
<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/>
<https://www.ftc.gov/faq/consumer-protection/get-my-free-credit-repor>
- **Free Annual Credit Report**
<https://www.annualcreditreport.com/>
- **Transunion (credit bureau)**
<https://www.transunion.com/>
- **Equifax (credit bureau)**
<https://www.equifax.com/>
- **Experian (credit bureau)**
<https://www.experian.com/>
- **Bankrate.com**
<https://www.bankrate.com/>
- **Nerdwallet**
<https://www.nerdwallet.com/>
- **CreditKarma**
<https://www.creditkarma.com/>





Questions? Comments?



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