

Bucknell University is dedicated to providing you with detailed loan exit counseling, in accordance with Pennsylvania's law Act 69 of 2024.

Federal Loan Servicers

The federal government contracts with a small number of private companies, called federal loan servicers, who manage student loan repayment. You are assigned a servicer when you first take out your student loans. Servicers send monthly bills, collect your payments and help you keep your loans in good standing by providing support and guidance. To determine which federal loan servicer is yours, log in to your account at <https://studentaid.gov>. You can also get in touch with any of the loan servicer contact centers by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243).

Student Loan Repayment Calculator

In order to help you estimate your monthly student loan payments, and select a loan repayment option that best meets your goals and needs, you should check out the loan simulator at <https://studentaid.gov/loan-simulator/>.

Beginning Repayment

All Federal Direct Loan programs have **one** standard six (6) month grace period which begins when you cease to be enrolled at least half-time. The last date of your attendance is reported to your federal loan servicer, and your loan payments will begin six months after the reported date. If you have previously dropped below half-time enrollment and have used all of your six (6) month grace period, you will immediately begin repayment upon your next drop below half-time enrollment. If you have previously dropped below half-time enrollment and have used a portion of your six (6) month grace period, you will begin repayment once you have fully exhausted the entire six (6) month grace period. Please contact your federal loan servicer to determine exact date you can expect to enter repayment.

Repayment Plans

Several repayment plans are available to help manage your student loan account. Each repayment plan has distinct requirements which may result in paying less interest over time or offer greater benefits such as loan forgiveness. Please refer to the enclosed repayment plan chart for more information on the various repayment plan options. If your circumstances do not fit the repayment plans listed, we encourage you to call your federal loan servicer to discuss other alternatives. If you do not choose a repayment plan, your loan servicer will automatically place you on the Standard Repayment Plan, which may result in a higher monthly payment.

Delaying Repayment: Deferment and Forbearance

Occasionally, you might find yourself in a financial bind. You may qualify for deferment or forbearance. Either of these options will allow you to temporarily suspend your payments. However, these options have both positive and negative results. Two important items to consider are that:

1. In most cases, **interest will accrue** during your period of deferment or forbearance. This means your balance will increase and **you'll pay more** over the life of your loan.
2. If you're pursuing loan forgiveness, any period of deferment or forbearance **may not count** toward your forgiveness requirements. This means you'll stop making progress toward forgiveness until you resume repayment.

Deferment – interest does not accrue on Subsidized Loans, but DOES accrue on all other loan types. You may be eligible if you are:

- undergoing cancer treatment
- experiencing economic hardship
- in a graduate fellowship program
- enrolled in school at least half-time
- performing qualifying military service
- a post-active duty service member
- enrolled in a rehabilitation training program
- unemployed

Forbearance – interest DOES accrue on all loan types. You may be eligible if you are:

- experiencing financial difficulties, such as medical expenses or changes in income
- serving in AmeriCorps
- performing service that would qualify you for partial loan forgiveness through the U.S. Department of Defense
- working in a medical or dental internship or residency
- serving in the National Guard
- have student loan payments that are high in relation to your income
- working as a teacher to qualify for Teacher Loan Forgiveness

Keep in mind, there are eligibility requirements for all the types of deferment and forbearance, and you will generally have to submit documentation to qualify. Learn more about eligibility, the types of deferment and forbearance available, and more at <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/lower-payments/get-temporary-relief#deferment-when>.

Loan Forgiveness

In certain situations, you can have your federal student loans forgiven, canceled, or discharged, meaning you will not have to pay back some or all of your loans(s). Some of the ways to qualify are if you:

- Are a teacher
- Are a government employee
- Work for a non-profit
- Are a doctor, nurse, or other medical professional
- Have a disability
- Repay your loans under an Income Drive Repayment (IDR) plan
- Are a victim of forgery
- Have declared bankruptcy
- Are serving or have served with AmeriCorps
- Are serving or have served in the military

For more information on loan forgiveness, please visit <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation>.

Most states have their own special student loan forgiveness programs, and there are currently over 140 programs in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. A useful website, which contains a comprehensive list with links to individual states and territories, can be found at <https://thecollegeinvestor.com/student-loan-forgiveness-programs-by-state/>.

Private/Alternative Loans

If you have borrowed a private/alternative loan during your enrollment at Bucknell University, you will need to contact your private/alternative loan lender to determine the grace period and repayment begin date, as they will vary by lender and repayment plan chosen during the application process.

We're here to help you in any way that we are able. Please do not hesitate to contact us at finaid@bucknell.edu or at 570-577-1331 with any questions you may have.