

Repaying your student loans: Useful tips

As you begin to repay your loans, these strategies can help make the process simpler.

Tips for managing your loans and finances



Make automatic payments

Sign up for auto debit and you won't need to worry about late payments. You may also get an interest rate reduction.



Make payments every month

Missing payments, along with deferment or forbearance, will typically cost you more in the long run, due to accruing interest.



Pay a little extra each month

Extra payments may help you pay off your loan faster and lower your total loan cost.



Create a budget

Track your monthly expenses to help you cut out unnecessary items and pay down your loan(s) even faster.



Reach out if you need help

Call your loan servicer to discuss your options. Changes to your payment plan may give you some flexibility.



Build an emergency fund

If you can, try to save \$500 to \$1,000 to cover unexpected expenses.



Beware of scams

Fraudulent companies might claim to offer easy ways to lower your loan payments and charge you fees. Don't fall for it!



Don't miss important information

Update your post-school account info—address, email, phone—with your loan servicers so notices and statements reach you.

Definitions

Accrued interest	The amount of interest that has been charged to the loan during the billing period.
Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	The annual cost of borrowing. This includes interest, fees, premiums, etc., expressed as an annualized percentage rate based on the expected terms—in other words, the amount of time
Interest rate	The rate a lender charges you to borrow money.
Capitalized interest	Unpaid, accrued interest that's added to your principal amount.
Grace period	The amount of time after leaving school when no loan payment is due— typically six months. If you were making in-school payments on your loan, you may need to continue those payments during the grace period.
Repayment term	How long you're responsible for making principal and interest payments on your loan. This period generally begins the day after the last day of your grace period.

How to find your student loans

Federal student loans: Visit the National Student Loan Data System at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

Private education loans: The best resource is to request a copy of your credit report.

(Note: Not all servicers may report their loans, so your credit report may not include all private education loans.)



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