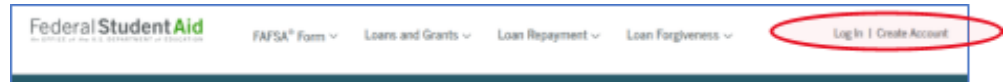


Signing Into Your Student Loan Accounts and Getting Oriented

Getting yourself ready for student loan repayment? Follow the steps below to log into your account, review your loans and your loan servicer, and find the links you will need. Please note: these steps are for federal student loans, the Federal Student Aid (FSA) website will not list any private loans you may have received.

1. Go to www.studentaid.gov and log in to your account.



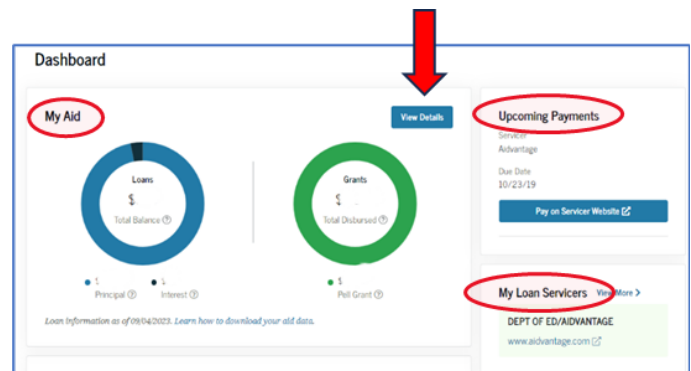
2. You can log in with your email, phone, or FSA ID – if you forgot your username or password, click on the links below the Log In button to recover these. If it's your first time logging into your account, you can click “Create an Account”. You will also be asked to set up two-step verification (using email or cell) if you have not already.



3. Click “accept” on the pop-up window, a feature of some government websites meant to keep you secure. Then confirm your contact information – you may want to write down your login details (keep them safe!)

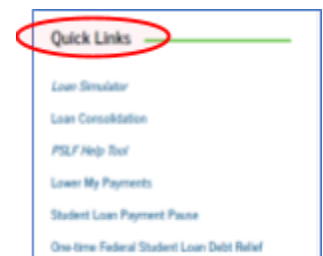
4. Now you should be in your Dashboard, which has lots of useful information and links – to get started, take a look at the following sections of the dashboard:

- a. “My Aid” at top left will show your total loan balance (principal + interest) and any federal grants you received for your education.
- b. Find your servicer in “Upcoming Payments” (top right) or “My Loan Servicer” (middle right). Confirm that the due date is correct when you receive your billing statement from your servicer.



- c. To see a breakdown of all your loans, click the “View Details” button in the “My Aid” section (see arrow above). You should pay most attention to loans with a remaining balance. Take a look at the “Loan Types” section, and click through each of your loan types to see if you have any FFEL or Perkins loans with remaining balances – consider consolidating these by the end of 2023 (read more on next page).

5. Make sure you know where to find important “Quick Links” on the right-hand side of your Dashboard. Here you will find the Loan Simulator tool, plus links for consolidation and key repayment programs like income-driven repayment and public service loan forgiveness (see more on the next page).



6. Log into your loan servicer account using the servicer links on the upper right of your Dashboard. Review your loan information, and check for your monthly payment amount and due date. It is possible that your payment amount has not been updated yet, so check back (and watch for your billing statement). You can also sign up for automatic payments from your bank account (look for “Auto Pay”). If you have Direct Loans, you will get a 0.25% interest rate deduction while you participate in automatic debit payments.

Next Steps: Using the Loan Simulator, Choosing a Payment Plan, and More

Now that you have logged into your FSA and servicer accounts, it's time to make sure you are in the right payment plan and review other programs that can put you on the path to forgiveness. We know the transition back to paying student loans may be challenging or confusing. Here are six steps you can take to prepare:

1. Use the Federal Student Aid Loan Simulator to make sure you are on the best repayment plan, especially if your financial situation has changed. You can find the Loan Simulator under the "Quick Links" section of your FSA Dashboard. Don't have time to finish right now, or something not looking right? You can always save and come back later - running through it more than once may be a good idea.

2. Consider applying for or switching to a new income-driven repayment (IDR) plan. You will find IDR information, and the link to apply, under "Lower my Payments" in the Quick Links. Most borrowers take less than ten minutes to complete the IDR application, and you can save your work and come back later. Plus, now you can provide consent to have FSA access your IRS data instead of entering this information manually.

An IDR plan can make your monthly payments more affordable and will put you on the path to debt forgiveness after a certain number of years. The Biden administration recently created a new IDR plan, called SAVE, that is the most affordable repayment plan available to most borrowers.

3. If you are a government or nonprofit employee, enroll in Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) to have your debt canceled after 10 years of qualifying payments. Use the "PSLF Help Tool" in the Quick Links to enroll today, and submit the PSLF form every year to stay on track.

4. Do you have loans in default? You should be able to see if any loans are in default when you log into your Dashboard. The Department of Education is offering a one-time temporary program called Fresh Start that can remove your loans from default and place them into repayment status, removing the default from your credit report. To take advantage you must contact the Department directly – enrollment will not happen automatically. You can enroll online by visiting www.myeddebt.ed.gov and logging into your account.

5. If you have older Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) or Perkins loans, then you should consolidate into a Direct Consolidation Loan by December 31st, 2023 to take advantage of a one-time payment count adjustment by the Department of Education that gives federal student loan borrowers more credit toward forgiveness under both IDR and PSLF. Click on "Loan Consolidation" in the Quick Links to get started.

6. Need more help? Visit www.cancelmystudentdebt.org or www.studentloanborrowerassistance.org, websites created by nonprofit student debt experts to help borrowers, for additional information. And for additional help managing or reducing your household debt, schedule an appointment for FREE one-on-one financial counseling from the Tulsa Financial Empowerment Center (www.cityoftulsa.org/FEC).

