

# CCOMMON CENTS

YOUR FINANCIAL LITERACY NEWSLETTER

## What do I need to Know?

### All Students:

Remember that if you return your spring loans within 120 days of disbursement, the interest is cancelled on that part of the loan. In order to return spring loans before the 120 day deadline, email [Chris Roling](mailto:Chris.Roling@uiowa.edu) before April 20.

### M3 Students

Don't forget that you will be registering for Step 2 exams this spring. \$1,920 was included in your spring loan disbursement to cover these expenses.

### M4 students

- The AAMC Debt Management Session will still be held on March 24 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. This event will now be held online. An email about this workshop was sent out to M4's on 3/17.
- You can still schedule a loan exit counseling session with Linda or Chris! These sessions can be done over the phone or online (Zoom) and will last about 45 minutes. Spouses, partners, and significant others are welcome to attend! To sign up for an exit counseling session email [Chris Roling](mailto:Chris.Roling@uiowa.edu).

### 2020-21 Loan Disbursement Dates

#### Summer Loans:

M3, M4, PA2, PA3: July 6  
PA1: June 7

#### Fall Loans

All CCOM students: Aug 17

## Alternatives to Paying Back Loans

The thought of paying back student loans can be overwhelming at times, but there are several organizations that offer loan repayment opportunities for health professionals. Most students have heard of Public Service Loan Forgiveness, but that is just one of many loan repayment programs that are available to physicians and physician assistants. In most cases, only 3-6 years of service are required and the financial savings is well worth the short commitment.

**Local Rural Repayment Programs:** Every state in the country is experiencing a shortage of healthcare providers in the rural areas of their state. To combat this growing concern, most states have created a rural loan repayment program. For example, the state of Iowa has a Rural Iowa Loan Repayment Program that will pay primary care providers up to \$200,000 in student loan debt in exchange for five years of service in an approved rural location. Check out this [website](#) for a list of other state loan repayment programs.

**Military:** Most branches of the military offer their own loan repayment opportunities. Some of these branches also offer financial incentives to students during medical school and residency.

**Army**—The Army provides up to \$120,000 towards loan repayment in exchange for three years of active duty service under the Health Professions Student Loan Repayment Program.

**Army Reserve**—The Medical Corps offers up to \$50,000 in loan repayment in exchange for three years of service.

**National Guard**—The National Guard also has a student loan repayment plan that will pay up to \$50,000 in student loan repayment in exchange for six years of service.

**Navy**—The Navy will provide up to \$40,000 (minus tax liability) for each year of service.

**Air Force**—The Air Force Financial Assistance Program (FAP) will provide \$45,000 (minus tax liability) for each year of service in the program. They will also provide a \$2,000 per month stipend to help with living expenses.

**Service Programs:** There are many organizations that will offer loan repayment in exchange for service in shortage areas.

**National Health Service Corps Students to Service Loan Repayment Program** (MD) this program will pay \$120,000 in loan repayment in exchange for three years of service at an NHSC approved sign in a designated shortage area. Eligible specialties include Family Medicine, General Pediatrics, General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, OBGYN, and Psychiatry. Students should apply for this program in the fall of their M4 year.

**National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program** (MD and PA) Primary Care Physicians and Physician Assistants can earn \$50,000 in loan repayment for two years of service in underserved areas. Those NHSC providers that work beyond those two years may be able to receive additional loan repayment benefits. Eligible specialties for MD include General Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, OBGYN, and Geriatrics. PA's in Primary Care are also eligible for this loan repayment program.

**Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program** (MD) In exchange for two years of service serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities, physicians can receive up to \$40,000 in loan repayment. You are able to extend your service until your loans are forgiven.

**National Health Service Corps Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program** (MD and PA) this program will pay MD's and PA's up to \$75,000 in loan repayment in exchange for three years of full time service at an approved NHSC. Eligible specialties include Family Medicine, General Pediatrics, General Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, OBGYN, and Psychiatry. Qualifying specialties for PA's include Primary Care and Geriatrics.

Is there a topic that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter? Email [chris-roling@uiowa.edu](mailto:chris-roling@uiowa.edu)