

CCOMMON CENTS

YOUR FINANCIAL LITERACY NEWSLETTER

What do I need to know?

All Students:

If you have extra loan money and would like to return it to your loan servicer, just email Chris Roling by December 2 and let him know how much you would like to return.

M1, M2, M3, PA1, PA2 Students

Don't forget to file your 2020-21 FAFSA before December 1. Need based scholarship are awarded on a first come, first served basis. Don't wait—file your FAFSA today!

PA3 students

It won't be long before you are officially Physician Assistants! That means that loan repayment is not too far away. Be sure to schedule a loan exit counseling appointment with Chris Roling. Find out the facts about loan repayment and get estimates on what your monthly payments might look like!!

Spring 2020 Loan Disbursement Dates

M2 & PA2 students: January 6
All other students: January 13

Financial Services Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 5:00
Please stop by 1216 MERF if you have any financial or debt management questions! Appointments are generally not necessary!

New Financial Literacy Class for M4 students

A new financial literacy class has been approved for M4 students during the spring semester in 2020. Austin Kazarian (M3) has been working hard to get this two week financial literacy class established for M4 students to learn more about financial literacy before they begin residency. The class will be taught by Dr. Scott Truhlar, a radiologist that also earned his MS in Personal Financial Planning. The class is called Financial Management for Rising Interns and is scheduled for 3/23–4/3. The class will cover a wide variety of topics that would be relevant to medical students who will be entering residency. Topics include how to pick a financial planner, how to minimize tax burden, investment types and strategies, planning for retirement, living wills, powers of attorney, planning for children's future, and loan repayment strategies. The class will be capped at 20 students and offered on a first come, first served basis. Be watching for your chance to sign up for this great class!

The Dangers of Minimum Payments on Credit Cards

Credit cards are a convenient and easy way to pay for items. They can even be a valuable tool to help build your credit score if they are used correctly. But they can also become a trap if they are misused. Maxing out a credit card can actually hurt your credit since you have less line of credit available so you don't want to carry a large balance on your account.

Credit card companies are extremely willing to lend people money and they only require a small minimum monthly payment in return. They are willing to do this because they are making millions of dollars in interest every year from borrowers that are paying the minimum amount on their credit card debt. If the balance on your credit card gets high enough, then the minimum payment might not actually cover the monthly interest that is charged. Paying the minimum amount due can be a costly mistake. Look at the impact of paying the minimum amount due:

Amount Borrowed	Interest Rate	Length of time it would take to pay off while making the minimum \$20 payment	Total amount of interest paid (this amount is in addition to the principle amount borrowed)
\$2000	16%	11 years, 3 months!	\$1,722
\$5000	16%	17 years, 8months!	\$5,151

FAFSA Has Gone Mobile!

The FAFSA has come a long way since the days of paper applications! This year they introduced a mobile app so that students can complete the FAFSA on their smart phone. I used the app to complete my daughter's FAFSA and it was extremely easy to use! You can still complete the FAFSA online but now they offer you the convenience of a mobile app! So go to the app store and download the MyStudentAid app and complete your FAFSA today (if you haven't filled it out already—remember that December 1 is the priority deadline for need based grants and scholarships!)

