

# CCOMMON CENTS

YOUR FINANCIAL LITERACY NEWSLETTER

## What do I need to know?



Don't you forget...  
to file your 22-23 FAFSA!

M1, M2, M3, PA1, PA2 students need to file their 2022-2023 FAFSA before December 1 in order to be considered for need based grants. Don't wait—file your FAFSA today! Remember to include your parental financial information on the FAFSA in order to be considered for need based grants.

### 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 2022 Loan Disbursement Dates

M2 & PA2 students: January 4  
All other students: January 10

### Financial Services Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 5:00  
Please stop by 1216 MERF if you need to speak with one of us!

Appointments are generally not necessary!

## Public Service Loan Forgiveness—The Facts Behind the Stats

Getting your loans forgiven (tax free!) sounds like an amazing opportunity, but only 2.41% of applications have been approved since the program began. Those numbers sound very discouraging, but there are reasons for the low approval rates. (And there is hope going forward!) So why are so many applicants getting rejected?

**Not enough qualifying payments:** This is the main reason that applicants have been getting denied for PSLF. All PSLF applicants have to make 120 on time monthly payments in order to qualify for forgiveness. It might have been 10 years since you started repayment, but if you missed some payments along the way, then you haven't completed your part of the agreement. Making 2 payments in one month does not count as 2 monthly payments. Loan servicers have made it MUCH easier to track these payments now.

**Incomplete paperwork:** Almost a third of the applications were denied simply because they did not complete the entire application.

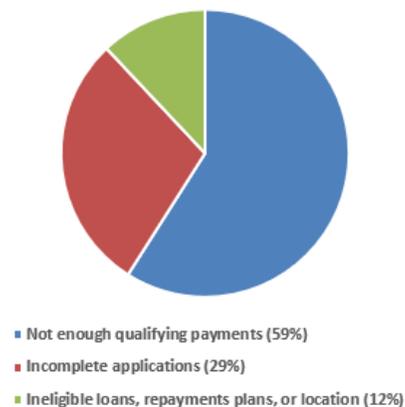
**Wrong Loans:** Only Federal DIRECT Student Loans count towards PSLF. If the loan doesn't contain the word "DIRECT" in the name of the loan, then it does not qualify for PSLF. (So Perkins Loans, FFELP Loans, Private Loans, and Collegiate Loans will not qualify) The good news is that most of these loans do not exist any more, so if you have federal student loans, they should qualify for PSLF. If you have Perkins or FFELP loans, you may be able to consolidate them so that they will become Direct Loans and qualify for the program.

**Wrong Repayment Plan:** Only income based repayment plans qualify for PSLF. Standard, extended, and graduated repayment plans do not count towards the program. Make sure that you are on a qualifying plan.

**Wrong Employer:** You need to be working at a qualifying employer while making those 120 payments. If you are completing your [Employee Certification Form](#) each year, then you will know whether you are working for a qualifying employer.

So there is hope for the future. We are already seeing higher rates of approvals, but due to the volume of people applying, the percentages are not very noticeable. The number of approvals between March 2019-March 2020 increased by 267%. The program works and if you know the qualifications, then you increase your chances of success!

Reasons for PSLF Rejections



## How to Track Your Student Loans

We don't want students spending hours dwelling on their student loan debt, but it is important that they be aware of it. Being aware of your overall loan debt helps students make wise financial decisions and keeps them from over-borrowing. There are two main ways that students can track the amount of Federal Student Loans that they have borrowed in undergraduate and graduate school.

**Your loan servicer's website:** This is the best place to see up-to-date information about your loans. (If you don't know who your loan servicer is, then log on to [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) and you can find it there) The information on their website is updated more often than the federal website so it is generally more reliable. You should be able to log on to their website and see all of your loan details such as loan amounts/disbursements, interest rates, overall balance, and total accrued interest.

[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) - This is the same website that you use to complete the FAFSA. You will be able to see a lot of loan detail on this site. To access this information, log on to that website, click on your name (upper right hand corner), click the *My Aid* link, and then click *View Breakdown*.