**Loan Forgiveness, Deferments and Cancellations**

In certain situations, borrowers might qualify for loan forgiveness, deferment or cancellation of their student loans. A separate request must be filed each year in a timely manner to avoid penalties.

About Deferments

You (the borrower) can request to “defer” (temporarily stop) or, in some cases, reduce payments on your student loans for up to a year at a time, under certain qualifying conditions. Deferment options vary, depending on the type of loan you owe, and you might be required to pay monthly interest during the deferment period.

**Types of Deferments**

* **Education:** relates to the borrower’s enrollment status as a student at an educational institution (sometimes referred to as “in-school” deferment).
* **Public Service:** applies to borrowers that are in the armed forces, Peace Corps, volunteers, or in public health service.
* **Economic Hardship:** applies to borrowers dealing with specific types of economic hardships or unemployment.

**Deferment Forms**

* [In-School Deferment Request (PDF, 667 KB)](https://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/attachments/GEN1602Attach18450011SCHFINAL.pdf)
  + Use to defer repayment of your on your Direct Loans, FFEL Program Loans, and Perkins Loans, if you are enrolled in an eligible school (see specific requirements on form).
  + File yearly at the end of every deferment period.
* [Rehabilitation Training Deferment Request (PDF, 667 KB)](https://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/attachments/GEN1602Attach18450011RHTFINAL.pdf)
  + Use to defer repayment on your Direct Loans, FFEL Program Loans, and Perkins Loans, if you are enrolled in an eligible Rehabilitation Training Program (see specific requirements on form).
  + File yearly at the end of every deferment period.
* [Unemployment Deferment Request (PDF, 675 KB)](https://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/attachments/GEN1602Attach18450011UNEMFINAL.pdf)
  + Use to defer repayment on your Direct Loans, FFEL Program Loans, and Perkins Loans, if you are unemployed (see eligibility requirements on form).
  + File yearly at the end of every deferment period.
* [Economic Hardship Deferment Request (PDF, 676 KB](https://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/attachments/FP0606HRD.pdf))
  + Use this form to request an economic hardship deferment on your Direct Loans, FFEL Program Loans, and Perkins Loans.
  + File yearly at the end of every deferment period.
* [Mandatory Forbearance Request (PDF, 663 KB)](https://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/attachments/GEN1214SLDB.pdf)
  + Use this form to request a student loan debt burden mandatory forbearance (temporarily postpone payment, extend the time for making payments, or temporarily make smaller payments) on your Direct Loans, FFEL Program Loans, and Perkins Loans.
  + File yearly at the end of every deferment period.

Forgiveness, Cancellation, or Discharge

In [certain limited circumstances](https://www.ecsi.net/help/regs_00007.html), you may be able to cancel payments on your **federal student loan**, either in whole or in part - meaning that you no longer have to pay it. In some situations, you won't be able to cancel the entire loan, but you may be able to get rid of a portion of the loan.

**Types of Cancellations**

* **Teaching:** applies to full-time teachers at eligible institutions or schools
* **Public Service:** applies to borrowers that are in the armed forces, Peace Corps, volunteers, or other
* qualifying public service

**Cancellation Forms**

Select the cancellation form that applies in your situation. File the form yearly, at the end of every deferment period.

| **Type of Forgiveness, Cancellation, or Discharge** | **Direct Loans** | **Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program Loans** | **Perkins Loans** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service) | X | X\* | X\* |
| [Teacher Loan Forgiveness](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher) | X | X |  |
| [Perkins Loan Cancellation](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/perkins) (includes Teacher Cancellation) |  |  | X |
| [Total and Permanent Disability Discharge](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/disability-discharge) | X | X | X |
| [Death Discharge](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/death) | X | X | X |
| [Bankruptcy Discharge](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/bankruptcy) (in rare cases) | X | X | X |
| [Closed School Discharge](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/closed-school) | X | X | X |
| [False Certification of Student Eligibility or Unauthorized Signature/Unauthorized Payment Discharge](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation#false-certification) | X | X |  |
| [Unpaid Refund Discharge](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation#unpaid-refund) |  |  |  |