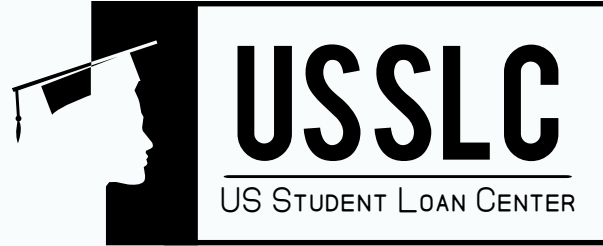




The Definitive Guide *to*
**STUDENT LOAN
FORGIVENESS**





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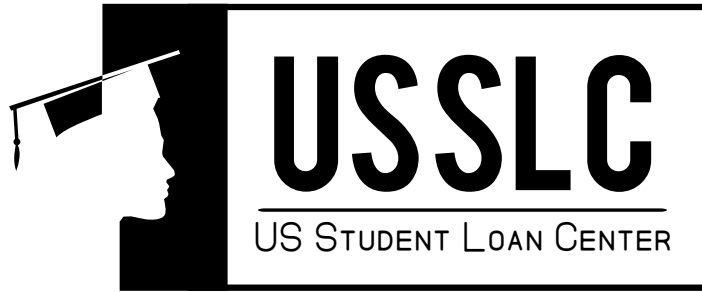
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About US Student Loan Center

USStudentLoanCenter.org is a privately owned company made up of several teams of different people who have made it their jobs to help student loan borrowers make good decisions about their debt. Our goal is to help you manage and pay off your student loans in the best way possible so that you too may have a better financial future.

We thrive on 3 things:

- Lowering Student Loan Payments to make them more affordable
- Enrolling Borrowers Into the Most Beneficial Repayment Programs
- Helping Borrowers Access Student Loan Forgiveness

Plus... we are the constant support system that the student loan community is currently missing.

If you need help managing, paying off, or have questions about your student loan debt, you can call us, email us, or get instant access to our most popular and useful articles circulating around student loans and you.

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The Closest You'll Come To a Magic Trick

If you are a former college student, college graduate or even a parent carrying your child's student loan debt, I'm glad you're here...

Because student loan forgiveness is something you're going to want to hear about...

Trust me!

Student loan borrowers often dream of having their loans *poof* disappear from their lives forever.

But since there's no magic trick to make that happen, student loan forgiveness is the next best thing.

Student Loan Forgiveness has already been the saving grace for THOUSANDS of student loan borrowers who both wanted and needed to help get out of their debt.

It will shave \$1,000's, \$10,000's and even \$100,000's off of federal student loan borrowers loan balances by the time it goes into effect.

But there are still thousands more who are missing out on student loan forgiveness and who have been thrown out into the cold to wander the world of student loan repayment on their own for one reason and one reason only...

Bad information.

Their student loan servicers (Sallie Mae/ Navient, Great Lakes, ACS, etc) do a terrible job at giving them the information and understanding they need to pay off their debt the best and most beneficial way possible, and because of it, you the student loan borrower and so many others, are largely missing out.

There's just not a whole lot out there that makes it an easy task to learn how to achieve federal student loan forgiveness or how to find out what "forgiveness" even means in the first place...

So, we're not just going to tell you everything you need to know and more about Student Loan Forgiveness, but we're also going to show you real life examples of how you can use this to get out of debt and move forward with your life.

By the end of this, you're going to know which forgiveness program you need and the steps you need to take to actually ACHIEVE your student loan forgiveness so you can be confident that this is the right move for you.

So if you're ready to get started... let's get started ;-)

First thing you ought to know...

What is Student Loan Forgiveness?

The short answer... ***the opportunity to pay back way LESS than what you owe on your student loan balance.***

A longer (and more boring) version of that answer... in 2007 an enactment was passed by congress under the Obama Administration called the William D. Ford act. This is also known as the Direct Loans Program. It was designed to *help relieve the strain of huge masses of student loans on federal student loan borrowers by allowing them to enter certain repayment programs that lower a monthly payment and cut the amount they have to pay back if they make a certain amount of on-time payments every single month for a given term.*

Student Loan Forgiveness will literally help hundreds and thousands of borrowers get out of debt easier and faster than any other way out there.

Take my friend Sean for example, who is having \$118,175 forgiven from his student loan balance...

Sean is a 28-year-old Tampa resident who recently graduated law school. He plans to marry his fiancé, Maria in the next year and then hopes to go on and live his life like your average American family does... buy a house, probably have some kids, and not worry about having to afford a mortgage or a car payment. But when Sean graduated from law school he also graduated with \$176,175 in student loan debt. His monthly payment would come out to be about \$1,900 not including interest and his new income wouldn't even come close to covering the costs.

Luckily, Sean qualified for and entered a Student Loan Forgiveness repayment program. His payments were lowered to \$82 a month and at the end of the day Sean will only be paying back about \$58,000 versus \$176,175.

Sounds like a freaking good amazing deal, right?

And it is!

But with student loan forgiveness comes a big giant lie...

The biggest lie you have ever been told about you student loans...

The lie that only a few can become qualified for student loan forgiveness...

Truth is, tons of people can qualify for student loan forgiveness.

They just don't know how to.

Here is how you can qualify for Student Loan Forgiveness

Through repayment programs, the type of work you're in, your annual income and several other factors we'll go over, you can easily determine if you are one of the thousands of people who can take advantage of student loan forgiveness.

Let's start with repayment programs that offer student loan forgiveness...

Student Loan Repayment Programs That Offer Student Loan Forgiveness

Income Driven Programs

When it comes to making monthly payments, Income driven programs are exactly what they sound like... they are based off of your income.

Meaning they will limit your monthly payment to what the government thinks you will be able to afford based on the amount of money you make and the number of people you support.

All of these income driven repayment programs offer student loan forgiveness. The only difference is the terms in which the forgiveness is offered.

So we've broken it down by repayment program type for you:

- Income Based Repayment Program (IBR)
- Pay As You Earn
- Revised Pay As You Earn
- Income Contingent Repayment Program

Income Based Repayment Program

Income Based Repayment or IBR is one of the most common student loan repayment programs available to borrowers by the Department of Education.

What's so great about IBR?

It caps your student loan payment at 10-15% of your discretionary income (income after taxes), which is wonderful since any repayment program outside of an income driven program would have your monthly payment at about **1% or higher of your total student loan balance.**

While enrolled in IBR, any remaining balance that you still owe after making 20-25 years of consecutive on-time payments will be forgiven.

But the key here is consecutive, on-time payments.

If you miss any payments throughout the term of your IBR program, you will be considered ineligible for receiving any forgiveness.

Who can qualify:

The Income Based Repayment is created for those with student loans who were facing financial hardship. So therefore, you have to be considered by the government to be facing some sort of financial hardship to qualify.

More specifically this means that your payment on the Standard Repayment program would be higher than 10% or 15% of your annual income.

The Standard Repayment program is what you are placed on automatically after you graduate unless you choose to go into a different repayment plan. While you will pay off your loans the fastest in the Standard Repayment Plan, your payments are also usually too high for the average income of most loan borrowers.

What student loans qualify for IBR?

The first major qualification for entrance into IBR is that you have federal loans. Any private loans will not be applied to your IBR program or be eligible for any forgiveness (or any other income driven plan for that matter).

Other than that, the IBR plan only takes federal loans that are Direct Loans or FFEL loans.

Here's a full list:

- Direct Loans
- Direct PLUS loans for graduates and professionals (Direct Plus loans made to parents are not eligible)
- Direct Consolidation loans
- Federal Stafford loans
- FFEL PLUS Loans made to graduate or professional students
- FFEL Consolidation Loans, which did not repay any PLUS loans made to parents

Pro Tip: **If you have loans that are NOT Direct or FFEL loans, you can consolidate your loans into Direct loans to qualify for IBR and become eligible for student loan forgiveness.**

Who IBR is best for?

IBR is best suited for student loan borrowers who first and foremost **want to lower their student loan payment**. But since Pay As You Earn and RE-Pay As You Earn forgiveness programs also will typically lower a student loan payment, here's a good starting question you should ask yourself in order to know if you are best qualified for IBR...

- When did you take your loans out?

If it was after July 1, 2014, IBR is a good qualification for you since you'll be paying 10% of your monthly income. Anything before July 1, 2014 will give you a higher monthly payment since it will be limited at 15% of your income.

So if this is the case, you'll probably want to take a look at some of the other options.

Pay As You Earn

Pay As You Earn or PAYE is also a very popular forgiveness program that is offered by the Department of Education.

While it has more specific eligibility requirements than some of the other forgiveness repayment programs, making it a little sticky to skim through, PAYE offers forgiveness and perhaps a better payment situation than any other program.

The hardest part is figuring out if you qualify... but don't let this scare you away. We'll help you get there. So stick with me here as we skim through the stickiness...

What's so great about PAYE?

It caps your monthly payment to no more than 10% of your income instead of 15% and you'll see forgiveness kick in at 20 years instead of 25 like you see with IBR. So with PAYE, you'll have a lower payment AND you'll pay back even less of your balance than with IBR.

Just like the other forgiveness programs though, you have to make on time payments every single month for the entire forgiveness term. You will also have to recertify every single year to stay in the program. Otherwise you could be kicked out of the program and thrown into the Standard Repayment Program,

which does not offer forgiveness and your payments will be much higher.

Who is PAYE Is Best For?

PAYE was created in 2012 after IBR to help expand the program to more grads who needed help with student loans and finding forgiveness.

As a result, PAYE is geared more toward 2012 graduates who had student loans. Grads most likely to qualify for forgiveness with PAYE are grads who started borrowing in 2008 and graduated in 2012, but then went back to school later and borrowed again. (I told you it was sticky, didn't I?)

Borrowers who first started borrowing federal student loans after September 30, 2007 and took out more loans after September 30, 2011 are the ones that will fall into PAYE eligibility.

Who Can Qualify for PAYE?

Because PAYE is also an income driven plan, the government requires that you show you are in partial financial hardship to become eligible.

In this case, your payment on PAYE must be less than what it would be on the Standard Repayment Plan.

A good rule of thumb: Your payment on the Standard Repayment Plan is usually about 1% of your total student loan balance.

What Student Loans Qualify?

Again, just as in IBR, the first major qualification for entrance into PAYE is that you have federal loans. Any private loans will not be applied to your PAYE program or be eligible for any forgiveness (or any other income driven plan for that matter).

The loans that are eligible under the Pay As You Earn plan include:

- Direct Stafford loans
- Direct Grad PLUS loans
- Direct Consolidation loans, excluding those that include a Parent PLUS loan or a loan made prior to October 1, 2007

Pro Tip: If you have loans that are not Direct Loans, you can consolidate your loans into Direct Loans to qualify for IBR and become eligible for student loan forgiveness.

RE- Pay As You Earn

RE-Pay As You Earn or REPAYE is one of the newest repayment programs around that offers student loan forgiveness. In December 2016, the Department of Education created REPAYE as an extension to the previous repayment plan, PAYE.

REPAYE opens up more forgiveness opportunity to more graduates with student loan debt than the more popular repayment plans, PAYE and IBR.

So, what's so great about RE-Pay As You Earn (REPAYE)?

Unlike PAYE which is more restricted in terms of eligibility, REPAYE is available to a wider set of student loan borrowers. Particularly those borrowers WITHOUT financial hardship.

REPAYE caps a monthly payment at 10% of a person's income regardless of how much they make and it does not require the borrower to be experiencing any kind of financial hardship that proves that they cannot afford the standard payment. The most popular repayment programs, IBR and PAYE do require these.

In other words, higher income professionals with student loan debt can now lower their payment and get forgiveness too after 20 or 25 years of payments. Whereas before, a large majority of borrowers considered "high income" were locked out of such forgiveness programs.

Who is REPAYE best for?

REPAYE could be best for borrowers who are considered to make a larger income and who would otherwise find themselves ineligible for PAYE or IBR.

As an example we used to see a lot of before REPAYE came around, lots of doctors who accumulated lots of debt in med school often couldn't qualify for IBR or PAYE because their income was too high. But now, with REPAYE, doctors who make a good amount of money can now utilize a lower payment as well as student loan forgiveness too.

Pro Tip: **Keep in mind that Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness could always be a secondary way to get student loan forgiveness regardless of the amount of money you make.**

Who qualifies for REPAYE?

The truly great thing about getting forgiveness through a repayment plan like REPAYE is that almost everyone can qualify for it!

There is no income restrictions and eligibility isn't based off of when you took the loans out either.

The only restriction is the type of loans that you have...

What Loans Qualify for REPAYE?

- The loans must be federal student loans
- The loans must be direct loans

Parent Plus loans unfortunately don't qualify and if you have Perkins loans or FFEL type loans, you always have the option of consolidating those types of loans to make them into Direct loans and become eligible for REPAYE.

Income Contingent Repayment Plan

Income Contingent Repayment or ICR, is the oldest income driven repayment option around.

While it usually doesn't give borrowers seeking a lower payment the lowest payment they can get (like IBR or PAYE do) but it is still a great option for many people.

Here's why...

What's so great about ICR?

ICR will still offer a lower payment than your Standard payment, but it won't be as low as it would be if you went into an IBR, PAYE or even REPAYE repayment program. But it caps your payment at 20% of your income (vs. 10% or 15%) and it still offers forgiveness to borrowers for any remaining balance after 25 years of repayment.

It's worth noting that since your payment will only be slightly lower on ICR, the amount you have remaining on your balance after 25 years of payments will likely be minimal.

Who is ICR best for?

It isn't the best option for forgiveness since it doesn't lower your payment as much as the other income driven plans, but it IS the best option for those who cannot qualify for the other plans because of the type of loans they have.

If you are ineligible for the other income driven plans and ICR is your only option, and you can afford to stay on the Standard Repayment payment, it might make more sense to stay on Standard Repayment since your loan term will stay at 10 years. But remember, on Standard Repayment, you don't get any forgiveness.

So if forgiveness is your main objective and ICR is all you are eligible for, ICR could be a good option...

Especially for those borrowers with Parent Plus Loans to their name...

Who qualifies for ICR?

Eligibility into ICR isn't based off of income or the year you took your loans out like some of the other income driven plans. It is more flexible in regards to who can take advantage of the slightly lower payment and the forgiveness after 25 years.

Perhaps one of the best qualities about who can qualify for ICR is that it allows borrowers with Parent Plus Loans to find relief as well, where IBR, PAYE, and REPAYE do not.

What Loans Qualify for ICR?

While borrowers with Parent Plus Loans can qualify for ICR, they still have to be made into federal direct consolidation loans.

After consolidating the Parent Plus Loans into federal direct consolidation loans with a student loan consolidation, borrowers with these types of loans can finally be able to find relief with a lower payment and forgiveness where they never have been able to before.

That's it for the income driven plans that offer student loan forgiveness. But luckily there are tons of other ways to find and qualify for student loan forgiveness with the type of work you do.

Check it out...

Careers That Qualify You For Student Loan Forgiveness

Now that we have the repayment plans that offer student loan forgiveness figured out, let's talk more about other types of forgiveness that fly under the radar most of the time.

The type of career you have can determine whether you qualify for student loan forgiveness. Here are those types of forgiveness...

Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness

What's so great about Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)?

Public service is perhaps the most popular and BEST ways to have part or the entire loan balance forgiven. Such forgiveness can shave YEARS off your loan debt and allow you to enjoy a higher standard of living without a large debt hanging over your head.

Under the PSLF program, **you are eligible for loan forgiveness after 120 consecutive on-time payments** (10 years). These payments must be made under a qualifying repayment program:

- Standard Repayment
- Income Contingent Repayment (ICR)
- Income Based Repayment (IBR)
- Pay As You Earn (PAYE)

*Pro Tip: Combining the power of PSLF and IBR or PAYE repayment programs can be life changing and save borrowers from having to pay back \$10,000's and even \$100,000's of borrowed student loan money. The kicker is in the payment reduction and the forgiveness that kicks in after 120 payments. **The lower the payment, the less you have to pay back.***

Who can qualify for PSLF?

These are going to be your social workers, firefighters, police officers, public defenders, military personnel, nurses, teachers... the career types like these!

Because in order to qualify for loan forgiveness under the Public Service clause you must be an employee of a non-profit, tax exempt organization such as federal, state, local or tribal government...

A not-for-profit organization that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code 52.

In order to qualify and stay qualified for Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness, you must be considered a full time employee of a public service employer.

Full time in the eyes of the Department of Education is at least 30 hours a week.

More Types of Careers Eligible For PSLF:

- Education
- Military Service
- Public Safety
- Peace Corps/Nurses
- Non-profit organization
- Law enforcement
- Full time jobs at federal, state or local government agencies

What Student Loans Can Qualify for PSLF?

Only Direct Loans are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

Loans that ARE NOT eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness:

- Federal Family Education Loan
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Any other student loan program

Pro Tip: Consolidating Federal Family Education Loans and Federal Perkins Loans into a Direct Consolidation Loan will allow you to take advantage of the PSLF Program.

Student Loan Forgiveness For Nurses

Nurses with student loans may have the most options available for student loan forgiveness!

Besides being able to qualify for Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness, nurses with student loan balances can take advantage of programs specifically designed to help them get out student loan debt.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) for Nurses

Fortunately, there are a lot of nursing employers that qualify as Public Service. Under PSLF, qualifying nurses can aim to lower their loan payment and enter the forgiveness program at the same time. Lowering your payment allows you to have more forgiven at the end of the 120 payments made under PSLF.

Make sure to go back and read through the section on Public Service Loan Forgiveness if you're a nurse working in a public service institution or employer. It's on page 14!

Programs like the **NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program**. In this program, nurses that work for underserved communities for at least 32 hours per week can get up to 60% of their student loans paid off after working for two years.

Nurses also have the additional available option to have another 25% forgiven and paid for by the program after a third year as well.

Nursing Forgiveness by State

Fortunately there are many States that offer forgiveness and loan help to nurses based on area. Be sure to check them out and research them with a quick google search. Here are the states that have state level programs available you may be able to take advantage of:

Alaska	Arizona	California
Colorado	Florida	Hawaii
Idaho	Illinois	Iowa
Kansas	Kentucky	Louisiana
Maryland	Michigan	Minnesota
Montana	Nebraska	New Hampshire
New Jersey	New Mexico	New York
Ohio	Oregon	Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	Tennessee	Texas
Vermont	Virginia	Washington
West Virginia	Wisconsin	Wyoming

Nursing Perkins Loan Cancellation and Discharge

Nurses with Federal Perkins Loans can get 100% (that's not a typo) of their student loan balance forgiven or discharged. The loans can be eligible for discharge after five years of full-time employment.

Student Loan Forgiveness For Teachers

Teaching is perhaps one of the most important yet underpaid career choices of our time. There's no denying that what our teachers do is important but many have trouble paying back their loans that they took out for their own education since the pay is usually subpar.

But teachers... You too, can get student loan forgiveness just for getting up every morning and teaching your students.

What's so great about Teacher Student Loan Forgiveness?

Qualifying borrowers who are teachers can have up to \$17,500 in student loan forgiveness. It may not cover ALL of a borrower's loan balance but who is going to deny chipping off a debt chunk like that??

Hopefully you won't pass up on this one just because this forgiveness type may be more limited than the others!

***Pro Tip:** While the Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness program and the Teacher Forgiveness program cannot overlap, if you plan on teaching in a low income school that also qualifies for PSLF for 15 years or more, you can use both of these plans to your loan forgiveness advantage. Using Teacher Forgiveness program for the first 5 years to forgive up to \$17,500 and then moving into PSLF for the next 10 to forgive the remaining balance (if you have any).*

Who qualifies for teacher student loan forgiveness?

If you're a teacher, you can get teacher student loan forgiveness, as long as you:

- Work in a low income, public elementary or secondary school
- Are a state certified teacher and considered "highly qualified"
- Have worked as a full time teacher for 5 consecutive academic years
- You have no loans in default status
- Took out your first loan after Oct. 1, 1998

What student loans qualify for Teacher Student Loan Forgiveness?

- Direct Loans
- Federal Stafford Loans

**** Parent Plus loans don't qualify :- (***)*

Student Loan Forgiveness For Lawyers

There are a few states that offer special student loan forgiveness programs to lawyers. However, most states do not offer these benefits.

States that offer student special loan forgiveness programs for lawyers with the names of their programs:

- Washington D.C.- The District of Columbia Bar Foundation Loan Repayment Assistance Program awards up to \$12,000 annually
- Florida- The Loan Repayment Assistance Programs for Lawyers awards up to \$5,000 annually
- Michigan- The John R, Justice Student Loan Repayment Program awards up to \$10,000 annually and \$60,000 total.

Student Loan Forgiveness For Doctors

There are a few states that offer special student loan forgiveness programs to doctors. However, like the lawyer forgiveness programs, most states do not offer these benefits either.

Here are the states that offer student special loan forgiveness programs for doctors and the names of those programs:

- **New York:** The Regents Physician Loan Forgiveness Award Program awards up to \$10,000 annually for 2 years.
- **Washington:** The Health Professional Loan Repayment Program awards up to \$35,000 per year for 2 years.
- **Pennsylvania:** Doctors and Primary Care Practitioners who work in an underserved medical field can be awarded up to \$100,000 for working full-time for 2 years.

The BEST KEPT SECRET in The Student Loan Industry That Your Student Loan Servicer Hoped You'd Never Find Out

So, now you know the best ways you can qualify to achieve student loan forgiveness... congratulations!

But what's next?

The next step to make sure you can get the best forgiveness results possible is to apply for and enter the student loan forgiveness program of your choice.

Easier said than done, right?

Odds are, if you asked a random person on the street how to do this, the answer would be something along the lines of "yeah, I have no idea where to start..."

But I'm going to let you in on a little secret... It's perhaps the biggest secret in the student loan industry and definitely a secret that your loan servicer hoped you'd never hear...

The easiest and best way to apply for and enter a student loan forgiveness is by consolidating your student loans.

Why, you may ask?

Because consolidating your federal student loans opens up repayment programs like the Income Based Repayment, Pay As You Earn and many other student loan repayment programs that help lower a student loan payment.

And the combined power of lowering your student loan payment and qualifying for loan forgiveness (which you now already know if you do!) can save you from paying back \$1,000's, \$10,000's and yes, even \$100,000's in student loan debt!

Remember my friend Sean the lawyer from Tampa who is paying back \$58,000 versus \$176,175 on his student loans?

A \$118,175 difference!!!

He is able to get those awesome forgiveness results because he consolidated his federal loans, lowered his payment from \$1,900 to \$86 with the Pay As You Earn program, and knew he qualified for student loan forgiveness.

	Sean <u>BEFORE</u> Consolidating	Sean <u>AFTER</u> Consolidating
Total Balance	\$176,175	\$176,175
Monthly Student Loan Payment	≈ \$1,900	\$82 (lowered by \$1,818)
Repayment Program	Standard	Pay As You Earn
Projected Loan Forgiveness	\$0	≈ \$118,175
Total Amount Sean Has To Pay Back	≈ over \$200,000 (with interest)	≈ \$58,000

Usually, you have to go through the loops and mazes of the Dept. of Education and your loan servicer to consolidate your loans and do it right (and even then, are you 100% sure if they are doing it right?!)

But now you can confidently complete a student loan consolidation and get your student loan forgiveness all on your own with the **Ultimate Guide to Student Loan Consolidation**.

With the Ultimate Guide to Student Loan Consolidation, you won't ever question if you're doing it right because you'll have the answers right there in front of you with step by step directions.

The best part is you don't have to talk to ANY government officials or any student loan servicer to get the student loan forgiveness results you want through a consolidation. You can do it all in record time, without mistakes and without any outside help from any student loan servicers or Department of Education workers!