

STUDENT LOAN REFINANCING: WHAT TO KNOW FOR 2025

PRESENTED BY: TRICIA POPLICEAN

COLLEGE COUNSELOR

STUDENT CHOICE

SCHOLARHELP@STUDENTCHOICE.ORG



DISCUSSION TOPICS

- The Department of EducationUpdate
 - New Administration
 - Loan Forgiveness
- What is refinancing and is it right for you?
- Understanding your student loans – types, terms, and interest rates
- Choosing a lender
- Examples- Do the math



THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATE

- What is the Department of Education?
- Current Department of Education changes/updates
- Current Federal Student Loan borrower's
 - How federal loan programs may be impacted
 - Understand your federal student loans
 - Continue to make payments
- Private loans are not impacted



WHAT IS STUDENT LOAN REFINANCING?

Refinancing is replacing existing student loans with a new one. Offered by private lenders, including credit unions and banks.

- Federal and private student loans may be included
- May have a new lender/servicer
- New terms lower interest rate and shorter-term
 - Borrower gets to choose
- Calculated savings over the life of your loan

STUDENTAID.GOV

Federal Consolidation

Refinancing is different than federal consolidation programs, which simply combine existing federal loans. Federal consolidation is administered by the Dept. of Education. Your total payment amount and total interest will likely remain the same when consolidating.

IS REFINANCING RIGHT FOR ME?

- What type of student loans do you have?
- What is your current interest rate?
- Have you calculated your savings?
- Do you have the means to payoff quickly?
- Do you need a more manageable payment?
- Do you need to remove a co-borrower?
- You meet the lender requirements employment history, income, credit history



TAKE STOCK: FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS

Find information about your loans:



- You'll need your FSA ID
- Log in or create an account at https://studentaid.gov

What you should know about your loans:

- Your servicer and contact
- Current balance and repayment term
 - Repayment history
- Interest rate
- Subsidized or unsubsidized
- Monthly payment

If you have federal loans and anticipate needing or qualifying for federal loan benefits, these will not transfer to a private refinance loan. Federal benefits may be impacted by Department of Education updates.

Benefits

- Deferment after graduation
- Loan cancellation for death and disability
- Forgiveness programs for teaching and public service
- Repayment options
 - Standard Graduated –
 Extended Income Based
- Consolidation and refinance options
- Default
 - Fresh Start
 - Consolidation

FEDERAL CONSOLIDATION SOLUTION

No origination, processing or disbursement fees

Flexible terms up to 30 years

Fixed rate: weighted average of loans consolidated

Federal Student loans only

No co-signer

0.25% rate discount w/ACH

No credit or income verified

TAKE STOCK: PRIVATE STUDENT LOANS

Find information about your loans:

Annual Credit Report.com

- The <u>only</u> source for your free credit reports. Authorized by Federal law.
- Universities financial aid office
- Annualcreditreport.com
- Experian Equifax Trans Union

What you should know about your loans:

- Current balance and repayment term
- Interest rate: Fixed vs. Variable
- Subsidized or unsubsidized
- Monthly payment
- Servicer contact information

Benefits

- Varies by lender
- Co-signer release
- Interest reduction for automatic payments
- Forbearance options
- Graduated repayment options
- Refinance options

STUDENT LOAN (PRIVATE LOAN) REFINANCE

Usually no origination, processing or disbursement fees

Terms: 5, 10, 15 years

Fixed or Variable rate

Find My Rate

Co-signer may be needed

0.25% rate discount w/ACH

Underwriting Criteria

Federal Student Ioans, Private Student Loans, Institutional

CHOOSING WHERE TO REFINANCE

What to Ask:

- Interest rate and Fees
- Repayment terms
- Borrower eligibility
- Application process
- Member service

Benefits to Look For:

- Cash back
- Delayed payments/interest
- Auto-pay deduction



For more information, please visit https://www.studentchoice.org/

Why choose a credit union?

Credit unions are not-for-profit organizations focused on serving their communities. As memberowned cooperatives, they have your best interests in mind.

When you choose your credit union to refinance, you'll enjoy:

- Great rates
- Low fees
- Convenient repayment terms
- A life-long relationship with a lender you can trust

BORROWER REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

- Established credit history?
- FICO score?
- **Employment history?**
- Steady income?
- College graduate?



LOAN CALCULATORS – DO THE MATH

Current Loans:

- Balance \$61,000 (\$41,000 and \$20,000)-Private
- Rates 9% and 9.5%
- Term 180 months
- Monthly Payment \$630.99

New Loan Opportunities:

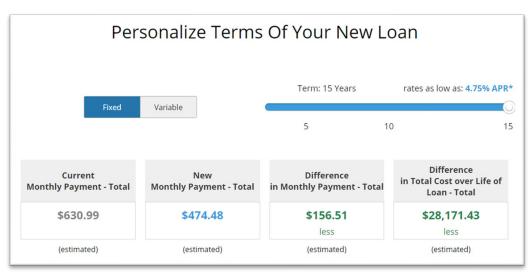
■ Rate – 4.25%

- Rate 4.75%
- Term 120 months
- Term 180 months
- New Payment \$624.87
- New Payment \$474.48

- Difference \$6.12
- Difference \$156.51
- Savings \$38,593.10
- Savings \$28,171.43

(All rates, terms and calculations are estimated)





https://www.studentchoice.org/student-loan-refinance/calculator/

EXAMPLE 1

Current Loans

- Six federal direct subsidized and unsubsidized loans: \$23,460
 - o **Interest Rates:** 3.6% 5.23% (fixed)
 - 10-year Term: 9 years remaining
- Three private student loans: \$32,330
 - o Interest Rates: 3.25% 4.6% (variable)
 - o **15-year Term:** 14 years remaining

Borrower's Main Objectives

Enrolling in graduate school next academic year

Did NOT Refinance

- Both federal and private loans may be deferred in graduate school
- Federal subsidized loan may not accrue interest while in deferment
- Private loans have low interest rate and manageable monthly payment
- Option to refinance after graduate school

EXAMPLE 2

Current Loans

Parent PLUS Loan: \$42,326

Interest Rates: 7.9 (fixed)

o **25-year Term:** 19 years remaining

Monthly Payment: \$367

Total Interest: \$62,189

Two private student loans: \$36, 740

○ **Interest Rates:** 9.4 – 11. 5 (variable)

o **20-year Term:** 14 years remaining

Monthly Payment: \$418

o **Total Interest:** \$58,399

Borrower's Main Objectives

Lower interest rate – fixed

Take over the responsibility of federal PLUS loan





New Loan

Interest Rate: 8.25

• 15-year term

Monthly Payment: \$767

Payment Decrease: \$18

• Total Interest: \$59,006

Total Savings: \$62,182

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

Tricia Poplicean

- College Counselor
- Student Choice

Please contact us with any additional questions:

scholarhelp@studentchoice.org