

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS: BASIC CHECKLIST

1. Find out what kind of student loans you have:

- Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) from the Department of Education: www.pin.ed.gov
- Use the PIN to look up your federal student loans in the National Student Loan Data System: www.nslds.ed.gov
- Check for commercial student loans, which will not appear in the National Student Loan Data System. Commercial loans are not eligible for forgiveness. www.annualcreditreport.com

2. Get your FFEL loans into Federal Direct by consolidating:

- You must consolidate or reconsolidate all your FFEL loans into Federal Direct if you want those loans to be eligible for forgiveness: <http://loanconsolidation.ed.gov>

3. Choose an eligible repayment plan:

- Choose an eligible repayment plan: Income-Based Repayment, Income Contingent Repayment, Standard 10-year Repayment.
- Beware** - payments made on a “Standard” Repayment plan for a term of more than 10 years **do not** qualify towards forgiveness!

4. Make qualifying payments each month for 10 years while working in public service full-time:

- Check that your job qualifies. Your job qualifies if you work full-time for the government or a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
- Work in public service for 10 years.
- Make 120 qualifying payments (once a month for 10 years) on your Federal Direct loans.

5. Apply for loan forgiveness:

- The Department of Education will develop a form to fill out and will require supporting documents.

There are many details and fine print. For an expanded checklist and more information, visit www.equaljusticeworks.org

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