

Financial Aid Exit Loan Counseling

Online Exit Counseling Instructions:

Federal regulations require students who are graduating from Berklee Online to complete Exit Counseling for Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans. This counseling session provides you with your rights and responsibilities, as well as information about how to manage your loan(s).

To complete your Online Exit Counseling:

1. Visit www.studentloans.gov
2. Sign in with your FSA ID (user name and password for FASFA). *If you do not have your FSA ID, go to www.fsaaid.ed.gov.*
3. Click "Complete Exit Counseling" for the current academic year (e.g. 2017-2018)
4. Follow the onscreen prompts. Be sure to read the information provided and answer all questions.

Types of Loans:

- **Direct Subsidized Loans and Subsidized Federal Stafford Loans (Subsidized Loans)** are for undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree students. You must have financial need to qualify for a subsidized loan. The federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans while you are enrolled at least halftime, during your grace period and during deferment periods.
- **Direct Unsubsidized Loans and Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans (Unsubsidized Loans)** are also for undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree students. You are not required to have financial need to qualify for an unsubsidized loan. You are responsible for paying the interest on unsubsidized loans during all periods, starting from the date the loan is first disbursed.
- **Direct PLUS Loans and Federal PLUS Loans (PLUS Loans)** are for graduate or professional degree students, and also for parents of dependent undergraduate students (this counseling session covers only PLUS loans for graduate or professional degree students). You are responsible for paying the interest on PLUS loans during all periods, starting from the date the loan is first disbursed.
- **Direct Consolidation Loans and Federal Consolidation Loans (Consolidation Loans)** allow student and parent borrowers to combine multiple federal education loans into one loan with one monthly payment.

Loan Terminology:

- **Loan** is the money borrowed from a lending institution or the Department that must be repaid.
- **Grace Period** is the six-month period after you graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment during which you are not required to make payments on subsidized and unsubsidized loans. The repayment period begins at the end of the grace period. PLUS loans do not have a grace period.
- **Master Promissory Note (MPN)** is a binding legal document that you signed before receiving your student loans and by which you agreed to repay your loan(s). You may have received more than one loan under this MPN as it covers a period of up to 10 years to pay for your educational costs, as long as your school was authorized to use the multiyear feature of the MPN and chose to do so. If your school was not authorized to use the multiyear feature of the MPN or chose not to do so, or if you did not want to receive more than one loan under the MPN, you must have signed a new MPN for each loan you received. The MPN also contains a Borrower's Rights and Responsibilities statement that explains the terms and conditions of the loans Direct Loans on the Web: www.direct.ed.gov 3 you received. It is important to read and save this document because you'll need to refer to it later when you begin repaying your loan.
- **Lender** is the organization that made the loan initially; the lender could be a bank, credit union, or other lending institution (for FFEL Loans); or the Department (for Direct Loans).
- **Loan Holder** is an entity that holds your loan promissory note and has the right to collect from you. Many banks sell loans, so the initial lender and the current holder could be different.
- **Loan Servicer** is an organization that handles billing and performs other loan servicing functions on behalf of the lender.
- **National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)** is the Department's central database for student aid. NSLDS contains information about all of the student loans and other financial aid you have received through the Department's federal student aid programs. You can access this information online using your Department of Education PIN.

Berklee Financial Aid Contact Information:

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