

Resources for Direct Loan Borrowers

<https://studentaid.ed.gov> or <https://studentloans.gov>

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Find out your student loan repayment options here

Log in to StudentLoans.gov with your verified FSA ID

LOG IN

Undergraduate Students

Graduate/Professional Students

Parent Borrowers

Repayment & Consolidation

- Complete Entrance Counseling
- Complete Loan Agreement for a Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan (MPN)
- Complete Financial Awareness Counseling
- Complete Exit Counseling
- Use the Repayment Estimator

Begin by clicking on the “LOG IN” button.

Once in, select Entrance Counseling. Read through the important information about being a responsible borrower. When completed you will also need to sign a Loan Agreement/ (MPN) Master Promissory Note before any funds will be credited to your bill. Be sure to add the school code of 002170 when prompted.

The completed Entrance Counseling and Loan Agreement/ (MPN) Master Promissory Note will be sent electronically to HCC, usually within 72 hours.

You must complete both of these requirements:

1. Entrance Counseling
2. Loan Agreement/(MPN) Master Promissory Note

Additional Resources:

HCC Online Chat-

If you have any questions about your status we now have an online chat called, “Don’t Sweat Your Debt” on Tuesdays between 2:00 and 3:00.

*Join the conversation at <http://www.hcc.edu/loan-chat>.

What You Must Know When Borrowing a Federal Stafford Loan

Direct Stafford Loans, from the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program, are low-interest loans for eligible students to help cover the cost of higher education. Eligible students borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education. A student must be enrolled in at least 6 or more countable credits to be eligible to borrow a Direct Stafford Loan. Repayment does not begin until six months after the borrower ceases half-time attendance.

There are two kinds of Direct Stafford Loans:

- **Direct Subsidized Loans** – Direct Subsidized Loan borrowers must demonstrate financial need. Direct Subsidized Loan borrowers are not charged interest while enrolled in school at least half-time (6 or more countable credits). Interest will be charged on Direct Subsidized Loans when they go into repayment.
- **Direct Unsubsidized Loans** – Direct Unsubsidized Loan borrowers are not required to demonstrate financial need. Interest accrues (accumulates) on Direct Unsubsidized Loans once the loan is disbursed to a student's account. Borrowers have the option of paying the interest while in school or allowing it to accrue and be capitalized (added to the principal amount of the loan), prior to the loan entering repayment. Typically the Department of Education bills borrowers quarterly for accrued interest.

General information regarding Direct Loans:

- Direct Loan funds are paid in two equal disbursements over the loan period.
- Direct Loan funds are not expected to be available for 30 to 45 days after the semester begins.
- Loan fees are deducted from your Direct Loan prior to disbursement.
- Borrowers may only use the Direct Loan funds for costs associated with attendance at Holyoke Community College for the specified loan period. Direct Loans cannot be used for costs incurred prior to the loan period.
- New borrowers as of July 1, 2013 will have subsidized loans limited to 150% of the length of a student's academic program.

Loan Requirements:

Borrowers have the option to accept or reduce the loan to a lesser amount other than what was offered or decline the loan.

- **To decline the loan**
 - Go to Online Services at under My HCC at <http://www.hcc.edu/>.
- **To accept or reduce the loan to a lesser amount.**
 - Go to Online Services at under My HCC at <http://www.hcc.edu/>.
 - Sign a Loan Agreement/ (MPN) Master Promissory Note on-line at <https://studentloans.gov> if you have not completed one in a prior year at HCC or any other school. All borrowers must sign this agreement (MPN) prior to receiving any loan funds. The MPN is an agreement with the Department of Education to repay the loan after you leave school or drop below 6 countable credits. The MPN stays active for 10 years with the Department of Education. You will need to provide basic demographic information, as well as 2 references. The references you provide are not obligated to repay the loan, but merely serve as an additional means to contact you. (See the reverse side of this form for more information.)
 - Complete an **Entrance Counseling** session on-line at <https://studentloans.gov> if you have not previously completed one. The Entrance Counseling session will review basic facts about borrowing a Direct Stafford Loan, along with your rights and responsibilities as the borrower. Borrowers are asked to complete a short quiz about what they learned. The HCC School code (002170) must be provided so the results are sent directly to HCC. (See the reverse side of this form for more information.)

*****The HCC Financial Aid Office cannot pay any loan funds to a student's account prior to the receipt of all requirements.*****

Student Responsibilities:

- If you withdraw from school, stop attending all of your classes, or fall below 6 countable credits, you may lose all or part of your loan.
- You cannot receive the second half of a loan if you drop below half-time enrollment (6 countable credits) before it has paid.
- After you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time enrollment (6 countable credits), you will have a six month grace period before you begin repayment.
- You should report any of the following changes to the Financial Aid Office:
 - withdrawal or dropout from school
 - drop below 6 countable credits
 - name or address change
 - transfer to another school
 - Exit counseling must be completed when you graduate, leave school or drop below half-time enrollment. Exit Counseling helps you understand your rights and responsibilities as a student loan borrower. It also provides useful tips and information to help you manage your loans. Exit Counseling can be completed at <https://studentloans.gov> or <https://www.nslds.ed.gov>