

# STUDENT STACKS

## NEW STUDENT LOAN RULES TAKE EFFECT JULY 1



### Grandfathered Status

If you received a federal student loans before July 1, 2026, while enrolled in your current program, you may be able to continue borrowing under the prior federal loan regulations.

### You're Not Alone- MUSC Student Loan Support is Here






As student loan changes take effect, Student Financial Literacy is here to support you with trusted resources and personalized guidance.

## WAYS TO CONNECT

- [Financially Fit Podcast](#)
- [Book an Appointment](#)
- [Join a lunch n' learn](#)
- [Take a free financial literacy course through Brightspace](#)

# New Student Loan Rules Simplified

By: Robbie Pokora

REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PLAN vs. NEW STANDARD PLAN		
Key Differences for Borrowers		
FEATURE	REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PLAN	NEW STANDARD PLAN
 MONTHLY PAYMENT	Based on income and family size (typically lower payments)	Fixed amount based on loan balance (typically higher payments)
 PAYMENT AMOUNT	Can change over time as income changes	Stays the same each month
 REPAYMENT TERM	Up to 20 or 25 years (may be shorter based on loan balance)	10 years (under \$25,000) to 25 years (\$100,000+)
 FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY	Built-in flexibility for economic hardship (payments can be as low as \$0)	Less flexibility—payments remain the same regardless of income
 PSLF ELIGIBILITY	Eligible for PSLF if you work for a qualifying employer and make 120 qualifying payments	Not eligible for PSLF

1. Grad Plus Loans are being **eliminated**, unless students are “grandfathered into” the old system for a maximum of 3 years
2. The **amount** of Direct Unsubsidized Loans available to students will differ based on whether a student’s degree is classified by the Department of Education as “Professional” or “Graduate” level degree (see table below and link from Congress below defining “Professional Student”).
3. There will only be 2 repayment plans available to students (see image above).

<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48768>

Graduate Level Programs at MUSC	All other degrees	\$20,500 per year Maximum 4-year total: \$100k
Professional Level Programs at MUSC	PharmD, MD, DMD/DDS, PhD	\$50,000 per year Maximum 4-year total: \$200k

**Office of Student Financial Literacy**