

Student Stacks

Empowering students to make informed financial decisions to reduce student loan debt

Podcast

Financially Fit Students

Think PSLF is too good to be true? Too rare to count on? Hear firsthand how an MUSC employee successfully earned forgiveness and learn what made a difference.



[Episode 27](#)

Appointments

Meet. Plan. Succeed.



Get personalized answers, strategies, and support in a 1:1 appointment.

Schedule a 1:1 to turn your questions into a clear, confident next step.

[Book Now](#)

The New Era: Student Loan Changes in Effect

Starting July 1, significant changes to federal student loans will take effect. It impacts how much students can borrow and how they fund their education moving forward.

Under the new rules, after July 1st newborrowers will be subject to updated borrowing limits. Grad Plus loans will no longer be available and new lifetime caps will apply. Graduate students can borrow up to \$100,000 with a \$20,500 annual cap while professional degrees can borrow up to \$200,000 with a \$50,000 annual cap.

What does this mean for you?

These changes require students to think more strategically about financing their education, with lower federal borrow limits:

- Some students may need to rely on more private loans
- Strong credit may become increasingly important
- Careful planning will be essential when deciding how much to borrow.

Students with federal direct loans disbursed for their current program before July 1st may qualify for a limited exception, allowing them to be grandfathered into previous loan rules for up to three years or their expected time to complete their credential, whichever is shorter.

How we're here to support

01

Build a personalized budget with our team to understand what you truly need.

02

Learn how indirect expenses vary and how you may be able to adjust.

03

Attend upcoming credit-building workshops, especially if private loans are needed.

Know Your Numbers

Mallory George, FSM, P4

Before accepting loans, take a moment to look at the full picture: what your program will cost, and compare that to what you'll earn after graduation. The White Coat Investor calls this your *debt-to-income (DTI) ratio*. It can be done in a few easy steps



1. Find your program's Cost of Attendance
2. Divide this by your estimated future salary

If you need help with that planning, we are here for you!

Don't forget, you have control. Borrow only what you need, reduce costs where possible, and practice living below your means. Understanding your numbers now helps you make informed choices and build a financial future that supports your goals.

Build Credit

You may require private loans at some point in your educational journey. Start building your credit now by:

- Pay every bill on time
- Use credit cards strategically by paying off your balance each month
- Keep old accounts open to increase length of history
- Limit new credit applications
- Monitor your credit report

Financing your education can feel overwhelming. You are not alone.
Book an appointment with us to get support.