

PERKINS LOAN ENTRANCE COUNSELING

Borrowers of Perkins Loans must complete Entrance Counseling before the loans may disburse to student accounts.

Things you need to know:

1. You **MUST** pay back your loan. This is true no matter what path you take – even if you don't finish school. If you don't pay the loan back it will affect your credit in the future.
2. UNH is your lender for the Perkins loan. Heartland/ECSI is the loan servicer which will be billing your loan. Make sure the school and/or billing servicer are aware of any changes to your address or phone number.
3. Stay informed. Keep records updated and accurate. Know the total amount of loans borrowed. Read all the information on your Promissory Notes.
4. Think about a budget. This will help you manage your debt later.

What Is a Federal Perkins Loan?

The Federal Perkins Loan is a low interest (5% fixed) loan for both undergraduates and graduate students with exceptional financial need. The loan comes from government and school funds.

Federal Perkins Loans have certain cancellation and deferment benefits, based on various circumstances. Deferments can delay payments on your loan. Cancellation provides a way to have all or a portion of the loan reduced so you do not have to pay the full amount. Deferments and cancellations require you to complete forms and submit them to your school or servicer. New deferments need to be submitted before the expiration of present one. Cancellations forms are required yearly.

All rights and responsibilities are documented on the Perkins Master Promissory Note. You may request a copy of your signed promissory note from the school or servicer. Deferments and cancellations are granted based on the promissory note provisions. More deferment info: <http://www.ecsi.net/bwr/forms/index.html>

What happens after you leave school?

Several things happen after you leave school or drop below half-time registration. First, you get a 9-month grace period. This is a period of time when interest is not accruing and payments are not due. (You can repay your loan without penalty at any time.)

During the grace period, Heartland/ECSI will send you a repayment schedule, giving the interest rate, payment amount and methods of payment accepted, such as coupon books, monthly bills, autopay. Your payments will be monthly, and will commence when your grace period ends. Perkins Loans have a minimum monthly payment of \$40, although your payment could be higher depending on the amount of your loan balance. The repayment term is 10 years.

What if you reenroll in school?

You can defer your payments if you enroll at least half-time. If this occurs before the end of your initial grace period, you will get another 9-month grace period when you drop below half-time. If you reenroll after the grace period ends, your next grace period will be 6 months.

U.S. Department of Education Contacts

FSA Ombudsman

877-557-2575

<http://www.ombudsman.ed.gov/>

National Student Loan Data System

<http://nslds.ed.gov/>

I acknowledge I have received and reviewed this document.

NAME (please print)	
UNH Student ID (9-digits)	
SIGNATURE	
DATE	