

Qualifications for Public Service Loan Forgiveness

UM Financial Education Program PSLF Workshop - 2019

In order for your loans to count towards PSLF you must have:

1. The correct amount of employment and type of employer

- If you have one employer: must work the number of hours the employer considers full time **OR** an average of 30 hours per week, whichever is greater. If you have more than one employer: must work an annual average of 30 hours per week
- Must be working for a government entity (Federal, State, Local, Tribal) **OR** a non-profit organization tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of IRS code **OR** a non-exempt non-profit that provides:

Emergency management

Military service

Public safety

Law enforcement

Public interest legal services

Early childhood education

Public service for individuals with disabilities

Public service for the elderly

Public health

Public education

Public library services

School library services

Other school-based services

2. The correct type of loans

- Your loans must have the word “Direct” in the title
 - All loans disbursed after July 1, 2010 were issued through the Direct Loan program. Any loans issued before that date could be through the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program and those would not qualify for PSLF.
 - To see what type of loans you have go to <https://nslds.ed.gov/npas> and log in with your FSA ID (if you don't have one already, create your FSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov>).
 - If you have loans that do not have the word “Direct” in the title, a consolidation will take those FFEL loans and make them “Direct”. This can be done at <https://studentloans.gov>

3. The correct servicer

- You must have FedLoan Servicing (also called PHEAA) as your loan servicer.
 - If you have another servicer (e.g. Navient, NelNet, Great Lakes, ACS, MOHELA, etc.) then submitting the [Employment Certification Form](#) will move your loans from your current servicer to FedLoan Servicing.

4. The correct type of repayment plan

- You must be on one of the qualifying repayment plans: Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE), Pay As You Earn (PAYE), Income-Based Repayment (IBR), Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) or the 10-Year Standard Repayment
 - Keep in mind that if you want to have a remaining balance to be forgiven by PSLF then you should *not* be on the 10-year Standard Repayment plan for the duration of your employment time.
 - If you are not on an Income-Driven Repayment plan, go to <https://studentloans.gov>, log in and click “Apply for an Income Driven Repayment Plan”
 - Every Income-Driven Repayment option must be renewed annually. Put a note on your calendar to renew your plan one to two months before it expires. Also re-submit your [Employment Certification Form](#) annually. Continue this process until your 10 years (120 monthly payments) are complete!
 - Do not pay above your minimum. Paying above your minimum puts the account in “paid ahead” status meaning that payment and all subsequent payments will not count towards PSLF. If you are in paid ahead status, call your servicer and have them bring the account current.

For assistance with any of these steps please schedule an appointment at
406-243-2800 or <http://www.umt.edu/starfish/>

PSLF Q&A: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service/questions>