



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

APPLICATION FOR BORROWER DEFENSE TO LOAN REPAYMENT

OMB Number: 1845-0146
Expiration Date: 06/30/2023

If your school misled you or engaged in other misconduct, you may be eligible for "borrower defense to repayment," which is the forgiveness of some or all of your federal student loan debt.

FORM INSTRUCTIONS: To apply, you must complete, sign, and submit this form to the U.S. Department of Education for review.

You may attach additional documents, such as transcripts, enrollment agreements, and promotional materials from your school. Once completed, please submit this form and any additional documents you believe will help us review your application by email to BorrowerDefense@ed.gov or mail to US Department of Education - Borrower Defense to Repayment, PO Box 1854, Monticello, KY 42633.

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required for your application to be considered complete.

SECTION I: BORROWER INFORMATION

Please provide contact information for the borrower:

*Name (First, Middle, Last)		*Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	*Social Security Number (Last 4 Digits)	
*Telephone Number	*Email Address			
*Street Address		*City	*State	*Zipcode

*Are you a PARENT who took out a federal loan on behalf of the student?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If yes, please enter the full name of the student (Last, First, Middle):

*If yes, please enter the student's Social Security Number (last 4 digits):

SECTION II: SCHOOL INFORMATION

*School

Campus (including on-line campuses for distance education borrowers)

*Location (City, State)

* Enrollment Dates at this school:

*From (month/year):

*To (month/year):

☐ If you are still attending this school/campus, please indicate by checking the box.

☐ Check if the enrollment dates above are approximate, or if you are unsure of them.

If your attendance at the school listed above was not or has not been continuous (for example, from October 2015 to March 2016, then again from August 2016 to November 2016), please describe all dates that you attended.

*Program Name or Major (e.g. *Nursing, Medical Assistant, Paralegal*).

Credential/Degree Sought (e.g. *Certificate, Diploma, Associates, Bachelors, Masters*).

If you enrolled in multiple programs at the school listed above, please describe all programs that you were enrolled in.

*Current Status at school listed above

☐ Graduated ☐ Transferred Out ☐ Withdrew ☐ Attending

SECTION III: OTHER LOAN REDUCTION OR TUITION RECOVERY REQUESTS

*Have you made any other requests to have your Federal loans forgiven (for example, under a closed school discharge or false certification discharge from the U.S. Department of Education)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If yes, please describe these other request(s), including the amount of any loan forgiveness that you received, and attach any documentation about the requests, if available.

*Have you made any requests to anyone else to recover tuition amounts that you paid to your school (for example, a lawsuit against the school or a claim made to a tuition recovery program)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

*If yes, please describe these other request(s), including the amount of the payment that you received (if any), and attach any documentation about the requests, if available.

SECTION IV. BASIS FOR BORROWER DEFENSE

Answer the questions for each section below that applies to you.

For each section below that applies to you, please provide a **detailed** description of why you believe you are entitled to borrower defense, including the following information:

1. How the school communicated with you, whether in a brochure, online, over the phone, by email, or in person
2. The name/title of people who you believe misled you (if known)
3. What the school told you or failed to tell you.
4. Why you believe you were misled.

Attach any related documents, such as transcripts, enrollment agreements, promotional materials from the school, emails with school officials or your school's manual, or course catalog.

Note: You only need to provide information for the sections below that apply to you, but you must complete at least one section. If you are a Parent PLUS borrower, the word "you" in the following sections also refers to the student.

If you need more space to complete any section, please attach additional pages to your application.

EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS

Did the school mislead you (*or fail to tell you important information*) about promises of future employment, likelihood of finding a job, eligibility for certification or licensure in your field of study, how many students graduate, and/or earnings after graduation?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, you must provide detailed information about how the school misled you. Please also describe any financial harm to you as a result of the school's conduct.

*Did you choose to enroll in your school based in part on the issues you describe above?

☐ Yes ☐ No

PROGRAM COST AND NATURE OF LOAN

Did the school mislead you (*or fail to tell you important information*) about how much your classes would cost, how you would pay for your education, the terms of loan repayment, and/or other issues about the cost of your education?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, you must provide detailed information about how the school misled you. Please also describe any financial harm to you as a result of the school's conduct.

*Did you choose to enroll in your school based in part on the issues you describe above?

☐ Yes ☐ No

TRANSFERRING CREDITS

Did the school mislead you (*or fail to tell you important information*) about transferring your credits from this school to other schools?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, you must provide detailed information about how the school misled you. Please also describe any financial harm to you as a result of the school's conduct.

*Did you choose to enroll in your school based in part on the issues you describe above?

☐ Yes ☐ No

CAREER SERVICES

Did the school mislead you (*or fail to tell you important information*) about the availability or quality of job placement, career services assistance, or the school's connections to employers within your field of study?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, you must provide detailed information about how the school misled you. Please also describe any financial harm to you as a result of the school's conduct.

*Did you choose to enroll in your school based in part on the issues you describe above?

☐ Yes ☐ No

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Did the school mislead you (*or fail to tell you important information*) about educational services, such as the availability of externships, qualifications of teachers, instructional methods, or other types of educational services?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, you must provide detailed information about how the school misled you. Please also describe any financial harm to you as a result of the school's conduct.

*Did you choose to enroll in your school based in part on the issues you describe above?

☐ Yes ☐ No

ADMISSIONS AND URGENCY TO ENROLL

Did the school mislead you (*or fail to tell you important information*) about the importance of enrolling immediately, the consequences of failure to enroll, how difficult it was to be admitted, or anything else about the admission process?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, you must provide detailed information about how the school misled you. Please also describe any financial harm to you as a result of the school's conduct.

*Did you choose to enroll in your school based in part on the issues you describe above?

☐ Yes ☐ No

OTHER

Do you have any other reasons relating to your school that you believe qualify you for borrower defense, such as your school failing to perform its obligations under its contract with you, or that there is a judgment against your school in a Federal court, a State court, or in front of an administrative board or that you believe that you have a state law cause of action against the school?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is there some other reason you feel your school misled you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, you must provide detailed information about how the school misled you. Please also describe any financial harm to you as a result of the school's conduct.

*Did you choose to enroll in your school based in part on the issues you describe above?

☐ Yes ☐ No

SECTION V: FORBEARANCE/STOPPED COLLECTIONS

If you are not currently in default on your federal student loans, you may request to have them placed into **forbearance** status while your application is under review. **Forbearance means that you do not have to make loan payments and your loans will not go into default.** Forbearance will continue until the borrower defense review process of your application is completed. Your servicer will notify you when your loans have been placed into forbearance status.

If your federal student loans are in **default**, you may request to have debt collection on your loan stopped ("**stopped collections status**"). **This means that the federal government or debt collection companies will stop attempting to collect on the loans, including by not withholding money from your wages or income tax refunds.** Stopped collections status will continue until the borrower defense review process of your application is completed.

Please see the "Common Questions and Answers Regarding Forbearance/Stopped Collections" section on the Borrower Defense website (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/borrower-defense>) if you have any questions regarding choosing to enter forbearance or stopped collections.

Note that interest will continue to accumulate on federal loans regardless of what status they are in, including subsidized loans. If your application for borrower defense is denied, or partially approved, the total amount you owe on those loans may be higher.

PLEASE NOTE: You do not have to place your loans in forbearance or stopped collections to apply for borrower defense relief.

For the most current information with regard to your rights and obligations regarding forbearance and stopped collections, please visit the Borrower Defense website at <https://studentaid.gov/borrower-defense>.

*Are you requesting forbearance/stopped collections?

- ☐ Yes, I want all of my federal loans currently in repayment to be placed in forbearance and for collections to stop on any loans in default while my borrower defense application is reviewed. During this time period, I understand that interest will continue to accrue.
- ☐ No, I do not want all of my federal loans currently in repayment to be placed in forbearance and for collections to stop on any loans in default while my borrower defense application is reviewed. During this time period, I understand that interest will continue to accrue and that I must continue to make loan payments.

If you do not select one of the options immediately above, your federal loans currently in repayment will automatically be placed into forbearance and collections will stop for any defaulted loans, and the Department will request forbearance for any commercially held Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program loans currently in repayment and for debt collection to stop for any defaulted, commercially held FFEL program loans that you have currently (*as applicable*).

SECTION VI. CERTIFICATION

By signing this attestation I certify that:

All of the information I provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. Upon request, I agree to provide to the U.S. Department of Education information that is reasonably available to me that will verify the accuracy of my completed attestation.

I agree to provide, upon request, testimony, a sworn statement, or other documentation reasonably available to me that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the U.S. Department of Education or its designee that I meet the qualifications for borrower defense.

I certify that I received proceeds of a federal loan, in whole or in part, to attend the school/campus identified in Section II (above).

I understand that if my application is approved and some or all of my loans are forgiven, I am assigning to the U.S. Department of Education any legal claim I have against the school for those forgiven loans. By assigning my claims, I am effectively transferring my interests in any claim that I could make against the school relating to the forgiven loans (including the ability to file a lawsuit over those forgiven loans and any money ultimately recovered in compensation for those forgiven loans in court or other legal proceedings) to the U.S. Department of Education. I am not assigning any claims I may have against the school for any other form of relief --including injunctive relief or damages related to private loans, tuition paid out-of-pocket, unforgiven loans, or other losses.

I understand that the U.S. Department of Education has the authority to verify information reported on this application with other federal or state agencies or other entities. I authorize the U.S. Department of Education, along with its agents and contractors, to contact me regarding this request at the phone number above using automated dialing equipment or artificial or prerecorded voice or text messages.

I understand that any rights and obligations with regard to borrower defense to repayment are subject to the provisions currently in effect under Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

I understand that if I purposely provided false or misleading information on this application, I may be subject to the penalties specified in 18 U.S.C. § 1001, including fines. I understand that I may be asked to confirm the truthfulness of the statements in this application to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury.

*Signature	Date
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Submit this form and any additional documents you believe will help us review your application by email to BorrowerDefense@ed.gov or by mail to: U.S. Department of Education - Borrower Defense to Repayment, PO Box 42633, Monticello, KY 42633.

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

Information required by subsection (e)(3) of the *Privacy Act of 1974*, as amended (*Privacy Act*) (5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3)) requires the following notice be provided to you:

The authorities for collecting the requested information from and about you are Section 455(h) of the *Higher Education Act of 1965*, as amended (*HEA*) (20 U.S.C. 1087e(h)) and 34 C.F.R. § 685.206(c) and the authorities for collecting and using your Social Security Number (SSN) are the same but also include 31 U.S.C. 7701(b). The primary purpose of the information collected is for the use and administration of the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid (ED/we) for borrower defense to loan repayment program. The information you provide ED on this form and your SSN are voluntary, but you may need to provide the requested information on this form, including your SSN and/or a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) that provides ED your verified SSN and other individual information pertaining to a student's or parent's Student Financial Assistance Programs account(s), for ED to process or complete our review of your borrower defense to loan repayment application. You may submit a form without your SSN or an FSA ID by filling out a form and sending it to ED via email or physical mail because disclosure of the information requested on this form is voluntary. However, without providing all the requested information on this form, ED may not be able to conduct a full investigation and complete the review of your application.

We use the information that you provided on this form including your name, SSN, date of birth, address, email address, telephone number(s), and / or an FSA ID, to receive, review, evaluate, and process requests for relief under the borrower defense to loan repayment regulations, to render decisions on the merits of such requests for relief, and, where requests for borrower defense to loan repayment are successful, to determine the relief that is appropriate to borrowers under the circumstances as well as to initiate appropriate proceedings to require schools whose acts or omissions resulted in the successful defenses against repayment to pay ED the amounts of the loans that apply to the defenses. Without your consent, ED may disclose the information that you provided and as otherwise allowed by the *Privacy Act*, pursuant to the routine uses identified in the system of records notice (SORN) entitled "Customer Engagement Management System (CEMS)" (18-11-11) and published in the Federal Register as [83 FR 27587-27591 \(June 13, 2018\)](#). These routine uses include, but are not limited to, a routine use that permits ED to disclose your information to foreign agencies, Federal agencies, State agencies, Tribal, or local agencies, accreditors, schools, lenders, guaranty agencies, servicers, and private collection agencies when further information is relevant to ED's resolution of your complaint, request, or other inquiry, tracking your application or your inquiry, and, where a request for borrower defense to loan repayment is successful, to determine the relief that is appropriate under the circumstances as well as to initiate the appropriate proceeding to require the school whose acts or omissions resulted in the successful defense against loan repayment to pay ED the amount of the loan that apply to the defenses. We may use your information for reporting, analyzing the data to make recommendations in student financial assistance programs, and assisting in the informal resolution of disputes. Disclosure of relevant information also may be made to the responsible foreign, Federal, State, Tribal or local agencies charged with investigating or prosecuting a violation or potential violation of law in the event that information indicates, either on its face or in connection with other information, a violation or potential violation of any applicable statute, regulation, or order of a competent authority.

In the event of litigation or alternative dispute resolution (ADR) involving ED or that we have an interest in and if that a party is either any component of ED, any ED employee in his or her official capacity, any ED employee in his or her individual capacity where representation for the employee has been requested or has been agreed to by ED or the Department of Justice (DOJ), or the United States where ED determines that the litigation is likely to affect ED or any of its components, we may disclose your information to DOJ, a court, adjudicative body, a person or an entity designated by ED or otherwise empowered to resolve or mediate disputes, or a counsel, party, representative, or witness if the disclosure is relevant and necessary to the litigation or ADR. ED also may disclose your information to DOJ to the extent necessary for obtaining DOJ's advice on any matter relevant to an audit, inspection, or other inquiry. We may send information to members of Congress if you ask them to help you with federal student aid or Student Financial Assistance Programs account(s) questions. Disclosures may be made to our contractors for the purpose of performing any programmatic function that requires disclosure of records. As part of such a contract, we will require the contractor to maintain safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of the records that are disclosed to the contractor. If a record is relevant and necessary to a borrower complaint regarding participants in any Federal Student Financial Assistance Programs under title IV of the *HEA*, ED may disclose a record only during the course of

processing, reviewing, investigating, fact-finding, or adjudicating the complaint to: any party to the complaint; the party's counsel or representative; a witness; or a designated fact-finder, mediator, or other person designated to resolve issues or decide the matter. ED also may disclose records to the DOJ or Office of Management and Budget (OMB) if ED concludes that disclosure is desirable or necessary in determining whether particular records are required to be disclosed under the *Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)* or the *Privacy Act*. ED may disclose your information to appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when ED suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of the system maintaining your information; which poses a risk of harm to individuals, ED (including its information systems, programs, and operation), the Federal agencies, or national security and the disclosure made to such agencies, entities, and persons is reasonably necessary to assist ED's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm. ED also may disclose your information to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when ED determines that your information is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity (including its information systems, programs, and operations), the Federal agencies, or national security, resulting from a suspected or confirmed breach.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE

According to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1845-0146. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average .5 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain a benefit (20 U.S.C. 1087e(h)). If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this application, please contact BorrowerDefense@ed.gov directly.
