SENIOR LOAN EXIT INTERVIEW
DENTAL HYGIENE CLASS OF 2015

Repayment Strategies
for Managing Your Student Loans
Considerations

• Multiple ways to effectively handle your student loan debt
• Constantly evaluate your repayment objectives and repayment plan, and change as needed
• Work closely with loan servicers
Simple steps to an effective repayment strategy

1. Know what you borrowed, who services your loans, and when they come due
2. Determine repayment objectives and constantly reevaluate them
3. Select repayment plan to meet your repayment and career objectives
4. Use all available resources, including AAMC/ADEA Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator (AAMC/ADEA DLOC)
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Student loan portfolio

- Federal Direct Stafford*
  - Subsidized and unsubsidized
- Federal Direct PLUS*
- Campus-based (awarded by school)
  - Federal Perkins*, Institutional
- Federal Consolidation Loans*
- Private loans

*Referenced on NSLDS at [www.NSLDS.ed.gov](http://www.NSLDS.ed.gov)
Federal Direct Stafford*

• Subsidized and unsubsidized
  – Direct and FFEL**
• Fixed interest rate
• Six-month grace period
• Deferment and forbearance options
• Multiple repayment and forgiveness options
• Eligible for consolidation

*Referenced on NSLDS at www.NSLDS.ed.gov  **Federal loans from private lenders
Federal Direct PLUS*

- Unsubsidized
  - Direct and FFEL
- Fixed interest rate
- Six-month post-enrollment deferment**
- Deferment and forbearance options
- Multiple repayment and forgiveness options
- Eligible for consolidation

*Referenced on NSLDS at www.NSLDS.ed.gov  **Similar to six-month grace
Federal Perkins*

- Subsidized
- 5% fixed interest rate
- Nine-month grace period and six-month “post deferment grace period”
- Deferment and forbearance options
- Standard 10-year repayment
  - Not eligible for income-driven repayment plans or Public Service Loan Forgiveness
- Eligible for consolidation

*Referenced on NSLDS at [www.NSLDS.ed.gov](http://www.NSLDS.ed.gov)
Institutional loans*

- Subsidized or unsubsidized
- Terms and conditions vary by school
  - Check grace, deferment, and forbearance options, plus repayment options, with school
  - Not eligible for income-driven repayment or Public Service Loan Forgiveness
- Not eligible for federal consolidation
- Separate loan exit interview may be required (see financial aid office)

*Institutional loans are not referenced on NSLDS
Federal Consolidation*

- Subsidized and unsubsidized
- Weighted interest rate, rounded up one eighth of a percent and fixed for life of loan
- No grace period
- Deferment and forbearance options
- Multiple repayment and forgiveness options
- See Consolidation Primer from ADEA

*Referenced on NSLDS at www.NSLDS.ed.gov
Private loans*

- Unsubsidized
- Variable or fixed interest rate
- Terms and conditions vary by lender
  - Check grace, deferment and forbearance options, plus repayment options, with lender
  - Not eligible for income-driven repayment or forgiveness
- Not eligible for federal consolidation
- See Private Loan Questions from ADEA

*Private loans are not referenced on NSLDS
National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)

- www.NSLDS.ed.gov
- Federal database of all Stafford, Direct PLUS, Consolidation, Perkins
- Direct loans will be indicated
- FFEL loans are federal loans from private lenders (no longer allowed)*
- Information on loan servicer
  - Click number to left of each loan after logging in on Financial Aid Summary

*No more new FFEL loans as of 2010-11 year, so all your loans may be Direct
Interest rates

- Interest rates vary by loan program and may vary by what year the student borrowed, and also by whether the borrower is in an undergraduate or graduate dental hygiene program.
- Interest rates are fixed throughout the life of the loan, unless disbursed prior to July 1, 2006.
Capitalization of interest

• Process whereby accrued and unpaid interest is added back to principal of loan
• Less frequent the better
• Usually occurs:
  – When loans enter repayment
  – When borrower has status change*
  – When borrower in IBR or PAYE no longer demonstrates PFH** or opts out of plan

*For example, deferment to forbearance   **Partial Financial Hardship
Loan servicers

• Organizations lenders contract with to work with you in repayment
• See www.NSLDS.ed.gov for your servicer*
• Loan servicers required to notify you when they take over servicing of your loans
• Your federally owned loans should all be serviced by one loan servicer
• See www.StudentLoans.gov for details**

*Click on the number to the left of each loan on the Financial Aid Summary page
**See Managing Repayment for additional information on loan servicers
Working with loan servicers

- Document everything, and always note who you are speaking to when you call
- Take notes and ask if customer service representative is doing same*
- Speak with supervisor if needed
- Semantics are important
- Confirm all actions they say they will take
- Confirm receipt of all submitted documents
- Keep contact information current

*This is extremely important if you have to call back about the same matter.
When loans come due

- Most Stafford and Direct PLUS come due six months after graduation
- Perkins loans nine months after graduation
- Check terms on institutional and private loans
- Only get grace period once, so if used on loans prior to dental school, these should come due shortly after graduation
Simple steps to an effective repayment strategy

1. Know what you borrowed, who services your loans, and when they come due
2. Determine repayment objectives and constantly reevaluate them
3. Select repayment plan to meet your repayment and career objectives
4. Use all available resources, including AAMC/ADEA Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator (AAMC/ADEA DLOC)
Repayment objectives

• Protect income, maximize cash flow
• Limit impact of interest accrual and capitalization
• Help through loan repayment and/or forgiveness programs
• Convenience and simplicity of repayment
Simple steps to an effective repayment strategy

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4. Use all available resources, including AAMC/ADEA Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator (AAMC/ADEA DLOC)
Repayment options

• Loan servicers usually notify borrowers 30 to 90 days prior to loans coming due
  – Be sure all contact information is up to date

• Options at repayment
  1. Select repayment plan and start actively repaying your student loans
  2. Postpone payments
Options at repayment

- Loan servicers usually notify borrowers 30 to 90 days prior to loans coming due
  - Be sure all contact information is up to date
- Options at repayment
  1. Select repayment plan and start actively repaying your student loans
  2. Postpone payments
Repayment reminders

- You should have ample notice loans are coming due
- No penalty for aggressive repayment
- Payments applied to interest before principal, but work with loan servicer
- Voluntary and additional payments may be targeted on most expensive loans
- Don’t assume you need an income-driven repayment plan like IBR or PAYE
Current repayment plans

• Standard 10 year (120 level payments)*
• Graduated 10 year (120 payments with scheduled increases at scheduled intervals)
• Extended 25 year (300 level payments)
• Income-driven repayment
  – Income Based Repayment (IBR)
  – Pay As You Earn (PAYE)
• Details at www.StudentLoans.gov

*Up to 30 years on Federal Consolidation Loans, depending on balance
Standard 10 year

- 120 months, same payment
- 10 years for unconsolidated loans, up to 30 years for consolidation loans
- You get Standard if you do not choose
- Possibly part of strategy for dental hygiene graduate with steady income moving right into practice who can afford relatively high payments or someone with additional resources

*Use AAMC/ADEA DLOC at [www.AAMC.org/GoDental](http://www.AAMC.org/GoDental) and calculators at [www.StudentLoans.gov](http://www.StudentLoans.gov) to estimate payment amounts*
Graduated 10 year

- 120 payments that start lower and increase in designated amounts at designated intervals, usually every 24 months
- Total repayment higher if held to term and payments not accelerated
- Possibly part of strategy for dental hygiene graduate with steady income moving right into practice who could otherwise afford Standard but has other short term financial obligations

*Use AAMC/ADEA DLOC at [www.AAMC.org/GoDental](http://www.AAMC.org/GoDental) and calculators at [www.StudentLoans.gov](http://www.StudentLoans.gov) to estimate payment amounts*
Extended 25 year

• 300 months, same payment each month for 25 years
• Total repayment much higher if held to term and payments not accelerated
• Possibly part of strategy for dental hygiene graduate with high debt who needs a lower payment or perhaps needs to show a lower DTI (debt-to-income) ratio when applying for a mortgage or other financing

*Use AAMC/ADEA DLOC at www.AAMC.org/GoDental and calculators at www.StudentLoans.gov to estimate payment amounts
Income-driven plans*

- Designed for highly indebted borrowers with low to moderate incomes who cannot afford repayment under other plans, especially Standard 10 year
- Possibly part of repayment strategy for dental hygiene graduate who wants to make payments, for borrower trying to qualify for PSLF,** or borrower entering work force with extremely high debt

*Use AAMC/ADEA DLOC at www.AAMC.org/GoDental and calculators at www.StudentLoans.gov to estimate payment amounts  ** Public Service Loan Forgiveness
Income-driven plans*

- Income Based Repayment (IBR)
  - 15% of discretionary income

- Pay As You Earn (PAYE)
  - 10% of discretionary income
  - Lowest payments are under PAYE

- Income Contingent Repayment (ICR)
  - Older plan, almost always resulting in higher payments when compared with IBR and PAYE

*Use AAMC/ADEA DLOC at www.AAMC.org/GoDental and calculators at www.StudentLoans.gov to estimate payment amounts
IBR and PAYE

- Designed for highly indebted borrowers with low to moderate incomes who cannot afford repayment under other plans, especially Standard 10 year
- Must apply annually and demonstrate eligibility (called Partial Financial Hardship)*
- Expect payment to change each year

*Use calculators at www.StudentLoans.gov to estimate eligibility and payment amount
IBR and PAYE pros and cons

- **Advantages**
  - More manageable payments
  - May help you qualify for forgiveness
  - May help build credit*

- **Disadvantages**
  - Initial payments may not cover interest if debt really high
  - Must renew annually
  - Married borrowers may feel a pinch

*Approximately 35% of credit score comes from timely payments, including those on student loans
Married borrowers and IDR*s

- Spousal income used in determination of both eligibility and subsequent payment amounts under both IBR and PAYE when joint tax return filed
- Spousal income not counted if married and filing separately, unless living in a “community property” state**
- Use Repayment Estimator at www.StudentLoans.gov to see impact

*Income-driven repayment plans (IBR and PAYE) ** One half spousal income counted
Options post “PFH”*

- Borrower stays in IBR or PAYE, but payments automatically revert to Standard 10-year amount*
- Options at that point include
  - Pay Standard until balance paid
  - Pay Standard until balance forgiven
  - Opt out of IBR or PAYE and into another repayment plan like extended**

*What you would have paid had you entered Standard 10 year when you first applied for IBR or PAYE
**Public Service Loan Forgiveness “off the table” at this point, as extended payments do not qualify
IBR versus PAYE

**IBR**
- July 2009
- Direct and FFEL
- 15% of discretionary income
- 25-year forgiveness
- No limit to capitalization
- Renew annually

**PAYE**
- December 2012
- Direct loans only
- 10% of discretionary income
- 20-year forgiveness
- Capitalization limit
- Renew annually
- Trigger date of October 1, 2007

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Options at repayment

• Loan servicers usually notify borrowers 30 to 90 days prior to loans coming due
  – Be sure all contact information is up to date

• Options at repayment
  – Select repayment plan and start actively repaying your student loans
  – Postpone payments
Postponement options

- **Deferment***
  - Must meet statutory requirements
  - Subsidized loans are interest free to borrower

- **Forbearance***
  - Multiple options, contact loan servicer
  - Interest accrues on all loans

- Details at [www.StudentLoans.gov](http://www.StudentLoans.gov) under Managing Repayment

*Credit protected, as borrower considered in “good standing”*
REPAYMENT ESTIMATES

PLEASE SEE NOTES ON SLIDE
Forgiveness programs

- Income Based Repayment (IBR) after 25 years*
- Pay As You Earn (PAYE) after 20 years*
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)*
  - Borrower must make 120 eligible payments on direct loans while working for eligible employer

Details at [www.StudentLoans.gov](http://www.StudentLoans.gov)

Estimate forgiveness amounts with AAMC/ADEA Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator

*Forgiveness amount taxable under current law for IBR and PAYE, not for PSLF
Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

- Forgiveness program designed to encourage borrowers to enter and remain in public service for at least 10 years
- While not discipline specific, more than a few dental hygiene graduates may enter a private practice, thus negating eligibility
- Provides forgiveness of eligible student loan balance for borrowers who meet certain eligibility requirements
Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

• You do not apply now
• You take steps to start qualifying by
  – Making 120 timely, scheduled, eligible payments (like IBR or PAYE) …
  – On eligible loans (only direct loans qualify) …
  – While working FT (at least 30 hours) for eligible public service employer
• See www.StudentLoans.gov under Managing Repayment for details
Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

- You can maximize potential PSLF by making minimum payments under IBR or PAYE and not overpaying.
- However, important to reevaluate your repayment strategy each year, especially when there are changes in income and family size.
- Should career track not be consistent with public service, consider changing strategy.
Long-term viability of PSLF

- No guarantees on availability
- Current proposal to cap forgiveness amount at $57,500
- Changes to loan programs tend to be prospective for “new” borrowers, but there is no guarantee changes would not impact current borrowers
Tracking PSLF eligibility

- FedLoan Servicing only designated loan servicer to help borrowers verify employer qualifies and to track payments
- Employment Certification Form (ECF) may be submitted to FedLoan Servicing
- FedLoan Servicing will
  - Notify borrowers of employment eligibility
  - Take over servicing of loans and track payments, assuming employment qualifies
Loan repayment programs

- Help repaying loans in exchange for service commitment
- National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Indian Health Service (IHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), armed forces, some states
- See Chapter 4 of *ADEA Official Guide to Dental Schools* for listing
- Consider tax implications
Consolidation

- Paying off multiple loans with one new loan
- Loans you consolidate are gone
- Advantages and disadvantages
- Direct Consolidation Loan program only option to consolidate federal loans
- May not be needed for many Class of 2015 dental hygiene graduates
Advantages and disadvantages

• Advantages
  – Convenience of one loan servicer
  – Converts non-direct loans into direct loans*
  – May extend repayment term to 30 years

• Disadvantages
  – Partially negates aggressive repayment
  – Slightly higher rate
  – Loss of grace period if consolidate too early
  – Loss of subsidy on Perkins

*Only direct loans are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (helps borrowers maximize PSLF)
Should you consolidate?

• You may be a candidate if:
  – You have multiple loan servicers
  – You have some non-direct loans and you want to maximize forgiveness with PSLF

• You may not be a candidate if:
  – You already have one loan servicer
  – You are not interested in PSLF or you are, but all your loans are direct loans
Resources

• Your school’s financial aid office
• www.ADEA.org
  – Primers on repayment, loan servicing, and consolidation
• www.AAMC.org/GoDental
  – AAMC/ADEA Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator (AAMC/ADEA DLOC)
• www.StudentLoans.gov
• www.NSLDS.ed.gov
• www.irs.gov/publications/p970
AAMC/ADEA Dental Loan Organizer and Calculator

• Joint effort with Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

• [www.AAMC.org/GoDental](http://www.AAMC.org/GoDental)

• Easy to use debt management tool
  – Download NSLDS record into AAMC/ADEA DLOC
  – Estimate repayment under different plans
  – Estimate forgiveness amounts under 25-year IBR, 20-year PAYE, Public Service Loan Forgiveness
  – Customize based on your salary and career as a dental hygienist
Ombudsman Office

- United States Department of Education
- Federal Student Aid
- [www.ombudsman.ed.gov](http://www.ombudsman.ed.gov)
- 877.557.2575
Borrower rights

• Written explanation of loan obligations
• Explanation of default and consequences
• Copy of MPN and return when loan paid in full
• Disclosure prior to repayment
• Be notified when your loan is sold
• Federal subsidy, if eligible
• Forgiveness and discharge, if eligible
• May request forbearance, if needed
• Prepay without penalty
Borrower responsibilities

• Attend senior loan exit interview before you graduate
• Repay loan according to schedule
• Notify loan servicer regarding:
  – Anything impacting your ability to repay
  – Change in status, including graduation date
  – Change in name and contact information
  – Change in enrollment
Your action items

- Do inventory of student loan portfolio
- Determine repayment objectives
- Run repayment estimates under different repayment plans, including Standard 10 year
- Open and read mail in timely manner
- Keep contact information current with loan servicers
CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FROM ADEA!

Questions?