# Helping Families Make Smart Educational Borrowing Decisions

# Webinar Topics

- MEFA, Your Trusted Resource
- Federal Loan Changes
- Private Loans Overview
- Loan Terminology
- Wise Borrowing Tips
- Understanding Credit
- MEFA Loan Details

# MEFA, Your Trusted Resource

**Providing tools and resources to help families pay for college for nearly 45 years**

**Straightforward and transparent with our products and services**

**Free resources include calculators, articles, videos, and excellent customer service**

**Strong relationships with colleges across the country**

# Back to the Beginning

**1981**

MEFA created by MA State Legislature at the request of MA colleges and universities

**1982**

MEFA Undergraduate & Graduate Loans available

**1992**

HEA changed PLUS annual limit to COA - Financial Aid; Previously capped at $4k/year, $20k aggregate

**2006**

Federal Grad PLUS introduced

**July 2025**

H.R. 1 announces new PLUS limits & eliminated Grad PLUS

**May 2026**

MEFA will offer 5 new Graduate Loans with no aggregate limits

**July 1, 2026**

PLUS capped at $20k/year, $65k aggregate; Grad PLUS eliminated

# PLUS Loan Changes

**New PLUS Loan borrowers after 7/1/2026**

- Limit $20,000 per year per student ($65,000 lifetime limit per student)

**Legacy Provisions**

- Student must be in same program, same school, either student borrowed a Direct Loan or parent borrowed a PLUS Loan prior to 7/1/2026, can borrow under previous limits (COA-EFA) for the remainder of the program or 3 years, whichever is shorter.

**Parent PLUS Loan borrowers after 7/1/2026**

- If a parent borrows a new PLUS after 7/1/2026, the only repayment option is the new Tiered Standard Plan for all PLUS, even those borrowed before 7/1/2026; lose option for PSLF and income-based repayment on all PLUS, even previous PLUS that have payments made towards PSLF (even legacy borrowers)

# Changes to Federal Graduate Borrowing

- Grad PLUS Loan eliminated for new students
- **Legacy Provisions**
  - The law allows some students to continue borrowing from the Graduate PLUS program without being subject to the new Direct Unsubsidized Loan aggregate and lifetime borrowing limits through their time to completion, for a maximum of three years
  - Students may qualify for the limited exception if:
    - They remain continuously enrolled in the same program of study at the same institution where they were enrolled as of June 30, 2026, AND
    - They had a Direct Loan disbursed (Direct Unsubsidized or Graduate PLUS) for that same program before July 1, 2026

# Changes to Graduate Borrowing

- Graduate student annual Direct Loan limit remains at $20,500
- Professional students can now borrow up to $50,000 per year in Unsubsidized Direct Loans
- **Professional Programs**

  Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) • Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.)
  Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) • Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.)
  Law (LL.B. or J.D.) • Medicine (M.D.) • Optometry (O.D.)
  Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) • Podiatry (D.P.M., D.P., or Pod.D.)
  Theology (M.Div. or M.H.L.) • Clinical Psychology (Psy.D. or Ph.D.)*
- If a student in a professional degree qualifies for the legacy provisions, they can only borrow at the previous annual grad limit of $20,500 (except for certain health professions students that qualify for up to $47,167), but will qualify to borrow Grad PLUS

*A temporary court order has changed the program definitions

# Programs Temporarily Considered Professional Based on Federal Court Ruling

| 6-digit CIP | 6-digit CIP Title (Degree) |
|---|---|
| 01.8001 | Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) |
| 22.0101 | Law (L.L.B.; J.D.) |
| 39.0602 | Divinity/Ministry (M.Div.) |
| 39.0605 | Rabbinical Studies (M.H.L.) |
| 42.2801 | Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.) |
| 42.2803 | Counseling Psychology (Psy.D.) |
| 42.2805 | School Psychology (Psy.D.) |
| 42.2807 | Clinical Child Psychology (Psy.D.) |
| 42.2810 | Health/Medical Psychology (Psy.D.) |
| 42.2811 | Family Psychology (Psy.D.) |
| 42.2812 | Forensic Psychology (Psy.D.) |
| 42.2899 | Clinical, Counseling and Applied Psychology, Other (Psy.D.) |
| 51.0101 | Chiropractic (D.C.; D.C.M.) |
| 51.0202 | Audiology/Audiologist (AuD) |
| 51.0203 | Speech-Language Pathology/Pathologist (SLP) |
| 51.0401 | Dentistry (D.D.S.; D.M.D.) |
| 51.0809 | Anesthesiologist Assistant (CAA) |
| 51.0912 | Physician Associate/Assistant (MSPA; PA) |
| 51.0913 | Athletic Training/Trainer (MSAT; MAT) |
| 51.1201 | Medicine (M.D.) |
| 51.1202 | Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) |
| 51.1203 | Podiatry (D.P.M.; D.P.; Pod.D.) |
| 51.1701 | Optometry (O.D.) |
| 51.2001 | Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) |
| 51.2306 | Occupational Therapy/Therapist (OT; MSOT; OTD) |
| 51.2308 | Physical Therapy/Therapist (PT; DPT) |
| 51.3801 | Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse (MSN) |
| 51.3804 | Nurse Anesthetist (DNAP) |
| 51.3818 | Nursing Practice (DNP) |

# Programs Temporarily Ineligible Professional Based on Federal Court Ruling

| 6-digit CIP | 6-digit CIP Title (Degree) |
|---|---|
| 39.0601 | Theology/Theological Studies |
| 39.0604 | Pre-Theology/Pre-Ministerial Studies |
| 39.0699 | Theological and Ministerial Studies, Other |
| 42.2802 | Community Psychology |
| 42.2804 | Industrial and Organizational Psychology |
| 42.2806 | Educational Psychology |
| 42.2808 | Environmental Psychology |
| 42.2809 | Geropsychology |
| 42.2813 | Applied Psychology |
| 42.2814 | Applied Behavior Analysis |
| 42.2815 | Performance and Sport Psychology |
| 42.2816 | Somatic Psychology |
| 42.2817 | Transpersonal/Spiritual Psychology |
| 51.1299 | Medicine, Other |
| 51.2002 | Pharmacy Administration and Pharmacy Policy and Regulatory Affairs |
| 51.2003 | Pharmaceutics and Drug Design |
| 51.2004 | Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry |
| 51.2005 | Natural Products Chemistry and Pharmacognosy |
| 51.2006 | Clinical and Industrial Drug Development |
| 51.2007 | Pharmacoeconomics/Pharmaceutical Economics |
| 51.2008 | Clinical, Hospital, and Managed Care Pharmacy |
| 51.2009 | Industrial and Physical Pharmacy and Cosmetic Sciences |
| 51.2010 | Pharmaceutical Sciences |
| 51.2011 | Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management |
| 51.2099 | Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Administration, Other |

# Aggregate and Lifetime Limits

- New aggregate limit for Direct Loans for Graduate Students: $100,000 (excludes undergraduate borrowing)
- New aggregate limit for Direct Loans for Professional Students: $200,000 (excludes undergraduate borrowing)
- New lifetime limit for Direct Loans: $257,500 (includes undergraduate borrowing and Grad Plus)
- No change to undergraduate aggregate borrowing limits (dependent student $31,000 (of which $23,000 can be subsidized); independent student $57,500 (of which $23,000 can be subsidized)

# Schedule of Reduction (SOR)

- Annual loan limit reduced for less that full-time enrollment

## FORMULA

$$\left(\frac{\text{number of credit hours enrolled for academic year}}{\text{number of credit hours considered full time for that academic year for the program of study}}\right) X\ 100 \quad = \text{reduced annual loan limit percentage}$$

# Repayment Options for New Direct Loan Borrowers

- Students who borrow a new Federal Direct Loan on or after July 1, 2026 will be eligible for only two repayment plans:
- 1. Tiered Standard Repayment Plan
    - Fixed monthly payments
    - Repayment term lengths range from 10 to 25 years, depending on the amount borrowed
- 2. Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)
    - Monthly payments based on income
    - Loan forgiveness after 30 years of repayment
    - Is a qualifying plan for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

# Changes for New Borrowers After July 1, 2026

| New Tiered Standard Plan | |
|---|---|
| **Total Principal Balance** | **Repayment Term Length** |
| less than $25,000 | 10 years |
| $25,000 to $49,999 | 15 years |
| $50,000 to $99,999 | 20 years |
| $100,000 or more | 25 years |

# Changes for New Borrowers After July 1, 2026

- Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)
  - Payments are a percentage of AGI (not discretionary income like previous plans)
    - Under $10,000: $120 a year, or $10 a month
    - $10,001 to $20,000: 1% of AGI
    - $20,001 to $30,000: 2% of AGI
    - $30,001 to $40,000: 3% of AGI
    - $40,001 to $50,000: 4% of AGI
    - $50,001 to $60,000: 5% of AGI
    - $60,001 to $70,000: 6% of AGI
    - $70,001 to $80,000: 7% of AGI
    - $80,001 to $90,000: 8% of AGI
    - $90,001 to $100,000: 9% of AGI
    - $100,001 or more: 10% of AGI

# Changes for New Borrowers After July 1, 2026

- Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP)
  - Forgiveness after 30 years of payments
  - Eligible for PSLF
  - $10 minimum monthly payment
  - Payment amount adjusted by $50 for each dependent
  - If monthly RAP payment is less than interest accrued, remaining interest is not charged
  - If monthly RAP payment does not reduce principal by at least $50, a subsidy will be applied to reduce the principal by at least $50

# How Private Loans Work

# Steps to Borrowing a Private Loan: An Overview

- Determine the amount to borrow based on your college bill
- Select your lender
  - Explore college lender lists, loan comparison tools, and recommendations from trusted resources
- Decide who will borrow (most students need a co-borrower)
- Submit the application online
- College will certify the loan amount
- College will receive your loan funds based on lender’s disbursement date

# Understand Loan Terminology

# Interest Rate

- The percentage of the amount borrowed that the lender charges for the use of its money

| 2 TYPES: FIXED AND VARIABLE | |
| --- | --- |
| **Fixed interest rate:** monthly payment will remain the same for the life of the loan | **Variable interest rate:** monthly payment will adjust with market fluctuations |

- When comparing variable interest rates, always check if there is a cap
- Most interest rates are tied to the strength of your credit & repayment option

# Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

- Annual cost of the loan, including fees
- Expressed as a percentage
- Quick way to compare loans

# Repayment Term

- Length of time to repay the loan
- Has a direct impact on the total cost
- Provides flexibility as families consider their monthly budget
- Most lenders offer different repayment terms to choose from

# Application and Solicitation Disclosure

- Provides details about the loan
- Includes estimated total loan cost examples
- Required for private lenders such as MEFA
- Can be found on lender websites and loan comparison tools

**Things to look for:**

What are the interest rates? → What are the fees? → What will be the total cost?

# Review Each Loan's Total Cost

## Difference in Total Cost Between These Loans:

**Immediate Repayment: over $12,500**

**Deferred Repayment: over $34,500!**

### MEFA Undergraduate Loan Disclosure

**Loan Cost Examples**

The total amount you will pay for this loan will vary depending on when you start to repay it. This example provides estimates based upon five (5) different repayment options available to you while enrolled in school.

| Repayment Option (while enrolled in school) | Amount Provided (amount provided directly to you or your school) | Interest Rate (highest possible starting rate) | Loan Term (the period during which regularly-scheduled payments of principal and interest are due) | Total Paid over life of loan (includes associated fees) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **IMMEDIATE REPAYMENT** Pay both the principal and interest amounts while enrolled in school. | $10,000 | 8.100 % | 10 years starting after your final disbursement | $14,925.60 |
| **IMMEDIATE REPAYMENT** Pay both the principal and interest amounts while enrolled in school. | $10,000 | 8.200 % | 15 years starting after your final disbursement | $17,775.00 |
| **INTEREST ONLY REPAYMENT** Make Interest payments during the Interest-Only Period and defer payments on the principal amount until the end of the Interest-Only Period. | $10,000 | 8.850 % | 11 years starting after the end of your Interest-Only Period[1] | $19,654.20 |
| **DEFERRED REPAYMENT** Make no payments while in school. Interest will be charged and will be added at the beginning of repayment. | $10,000 | 8.800 % | 11 years starting six months after your expected graduation date[2] | $21,378.72 |
| **STUDENT DEFERRED REPAYMENT** Make no payments while in school. Interest will be charged and will be added at the beginning of repayment. | $10,000 | 8.900 % | 11 years starting six months after your expected graduation date[2] | $21,543.72 |

### Lender B Loan Disclosure

**LOAN COST EXAMPLES**

The total amount you will pay for this loan will vary depending upon when you start to repay it. Interest will begin accruing with the first disbursement. Any interest that is not paid during the "In-School Period" will accrue and will be added to your principal balance when you enter repayment. "In-School Period" means the time that you are enrolled in school plus a 6 month grace period. This example provides estimates based upon four (4) repayment options available to you during the In-School Period.

| REPAYMENT OPTION (while enrolled in school) | AMOUNT PROVIDED (amount provided directly to your school) | INTEREST RATE (highest possible starting rate) | LOAN TERM (how long you have to pay off the loan) | TOTAL PAID OVER 15 YEARS (includes associated fees) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. **DEFER PAYMENTS** Make no payments during the In-School Period. | $10,000 | 18.990 % | 180 MONTHS starting after the In-School Period | $ 56,153.25 |
| 2. **MAKE FLAT PAYMENTS** Make flat payments of $25 per month during the In-School Period. | $10,000 | 18.990 % | 180 MONTHS starting after the In-School Period | $ 53,415.63 |
| 3. **PAY ONLY THE INTEREST** Make monthly payments of interest but defer payments on the principal amount during the In-School Period. | $10,000 | 18.990 % | 180 MONTHS starting after the In-School Period | $ 38,824.14 |
| 4. **MAKE FULL PAYMENTS** Make monthly payments of principal and interest. | $10,000 | 18.990 % | 180 MONTHS starting after the first disbursement | $ 30,278.64 |

ABOUT THIS EXAMPLE The repayment example assumes an In-School Period of 54 months with a 15 year repayment term, and the repayment example is based on the highest interest rate currently charged and associated fees.

# Fixed Rate Example

## Loan Interest Rate & Fees

Your **interest rate** will be between

3.200% and 18.550%

After the rate is set, it will be fixed for the life of the loan

**Your Interest Rate (upon approval)**
The interest rate you pay will be determined after you apply. It will be based upon your credit history and other factors (cosigner credit, repayment option, etc). If approved, wewill notify you of the rate you qualify for within the stated range.

**Your Interest Rate during the life of the loan**
**Your rate is fixed.** This means that your rate will not increase or decrease for the life of the loan. For more information on this rate, see the reference notes.

**Loan Fees**

**Application Fee:** $0.00. **Origination Fee:** The fees that we charge to make this loan range from 0.000% to 0.000% of total loan amount. **Loan Guarantee Fee:** 0.000% to 0.000% of total loan amount. **Repayment Fee:** The fees we charge when you begin repayment range from 0.000% to 0.000% of the total loan amount. **Late Fee:** 5.000% of the amount of the past due payment, up to a maximum of $25. **Returned Check Fee:** up to $20.00.

## Loan Cost Examples

The total amount you will pay for this loan will vary depending upon when you start to repay it. This example provides estimates based upon three (3) different repayment options available to you while enrolled in school.

| **Repayment Option** (while enrolled in school and during the separation period of 6 billing periods thereafter) | **Amount Provided** (amount provided directly to you or your school) | **Interest Rate** (highest possible rate) | **Loan Term** (how long you have to pay off the loan) | **Total Paid over life of loan** (includes associated fees) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. INTEREST REPAYMENT** Make interest payments but defer payments on the principal amount while enrolled in school and during the separation period. | $10,000 | 18.550% | 15 years starting after the separation period | **$37,059.53** |
| **2. FIXED REPAYMENT** Make payments of $25 while enrolled in school and during the separation period. Interest will be charged and added to your loan. | $10,000 | 18.550% | 15 years starting after the separation period | **$49,249.81** |
| **3. DEFERRED REPAYMENT** Make no payments while enrolled in school and during the separation period. Interest will be charged and added to your loan. | $10,000 | 18.550% | 15 years starting after the separation period | **$51,710.66** |

**Examples of other lender disclosure statements**

# Variable Rate Example

Your **starting interest rate** will be between

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3.775% | and | 17.515% |

After the starting rate is set, your rate will then vary with the market.

**Your Starting Interest Rate (upon approval)**
The starting interest rate you pay will be determined after you apply. The interest rate will be based on your credit history and other factors (including your selected repayment option and the credit history of your co-signer, if applicable). If approved, we will notify you of the rate you qualify for within the stated range.

**Your Interest Rate during the life of the loan**
**Your rate is variable.** This means that your interest rate could move lower or higher than the rates on this form. The variable rate is based upon the 30-day average Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") Index as published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. For more information on this rate, see the Reference Notes.

Although the rate will vary after you are approved, it will **never exceed 36.00%** (the maximum interest rate on this loan).

**REFERENCE NOTES**

**Interest Rate**
- This loan has a Variable Interest Rate. This means your interest rate could move lower or higher than the rates on this form.
- The Variable Interest Rate is based on the 30-day average Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR") index, rounded up to the nearest one-eighth of one percent, plus a margin between 0.150% and 13.890% based on your and, if applicable, your cosigner's credit history and the repayment term and options you selected during the application process.
- The Variable Interest Rate will not increase more than once a month unless you choose the "Pay Only the Interest" or the "Pay Flat Payments" repayment option and do not make payments as they are due.
- There is no limit on the amount that the Variable Interest Rate can increase at one time, but in no event will the Variable Interest Rate exceed 36.00%.
- You may take advantage of interest rate reductions, the details of which will be set forth in your Credit Agreement.

**Eligibility Criteria**
- Student borrowers must be enrolled at an eligible school in an eligible program and the school must certify the student borrower's application information, loan amount and other eligibility criteria.
- Student borrowers must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident or apply with a cosigner who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Student borrowers must be of legal borrowing age in their state of residence or at least 17 years of age applying with a qualified cosigner who is the age of majority in their state of residence. All cosigners must be of legal borrowing age in their state of residence.
- Rates are typically higher without a cosigner.

**Bankruptcy Limitations**
- If you file for bankruptcy you may still be required to pay back this loan.

**Prepayments:**
- If you pay the loan off early, in whole or in part, you will not have to pay a penalty. You will not be entitled to a refund of part of the finance charge.

**For Students Attending Institutions of Higher Education in Virginia:**
- Private education loans are one tool that students use to finance their education. Your lender and your Institution's Financial Aid Office provide assistance with eligibility for the loans. For borrowers who have existing private education loans, Virginia has a Student Loan Advocate to assist borrowers who are struggling with repayment. You can contact the Student Loan Advocate at: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, James Monroe Building, 10th Floor, 101 N. 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219; studentloan@schev.edu; 804-786-2832. In addition, resources for prospective and current private education loan borrowers are available online at schev.edu/privateloan.

**More information about loan eligibility, interest rate reductions, and repayment deferral or forbearance options is available in your Credit Agreement.**

## Examples of other lender disclosure statements

# Co-Borrower

- Signs the loan agreement along with the student borrower
- Has equal responsibility on the loan agreement
- Adding one (or two) may increase chances for approval
- Those with good credit may have more favorable interest rate
- Some loans have co-borrower release options

# Tips for Borrowing Wisely

# Minimize Borrowing:
# Use Savings & Present Income

- Each family decides on a payment strategy that works best for them
- MEFA is here to help you make a plan that works for you
- Review MEFA's recorded *Financial Aid Offers & the College Bill* webinar

| Balance Due: | $20,000 |
| --- | --- |
| **Savings** | |
| Student College Savings | -$1,000 |
| Parent College Savings | -$4,000 |
| **Current Income** | |
| Parent Contribution to Payment Plan | -$5,000 |
| **Borrowing College Loans** | |
| College Loan | -$10,000 |
| | $0 |

# Wise Borrowing Guidance for Families

- Minimize borrowing utilizing past and present income
- Borrow Federal Direct Student Loans first
- Consider student’s projected salary
- Annual process, but plan for all four years
- Know your credit
- Apply at least two weeks before the bill is due

# Building Credit

# 4 Types of Credit

Revolving Credit

Charge Cards

Credit

Service Credit

Installment Credit

# Break it Down: Credit History

**Credit history** is a record of how you've managed the repayment of debts, such as credit cards and loans.

It includes…

- How many credit cards you have
- How many loans you have
- If you pay your bills on time
    - Most important

# Break it Down: Credit Report

**Credit reports** are data files generated by the three major credit bureaus—Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion—who collect information from your creditors. In addition to your credit history, your reports also show items like your name, current and old addresses, and your employers' names.

What does it look like?
Sample Credit Report

Where can I access my credit report?
annualcreditreport.com

experian.
EQUIFAX
TransUnion

# Break it Down: Credit Score

**Credit score** is a three-digit number that relates to how likely you are to repay debt. Banks and lenders use it to decide whether they'll approve you for a credit card or loan.

Did you know?

- There are multiple credit score agencies (FICO and VantageScore are most popular) AND each has multiple scores (for example, FICO has, at least, seven different scores)!

FICO®

VantageScore®
a higher level of confidence

Sources: https://www.credit.com/credit-reports/credit-bureau/fico-credit-report/

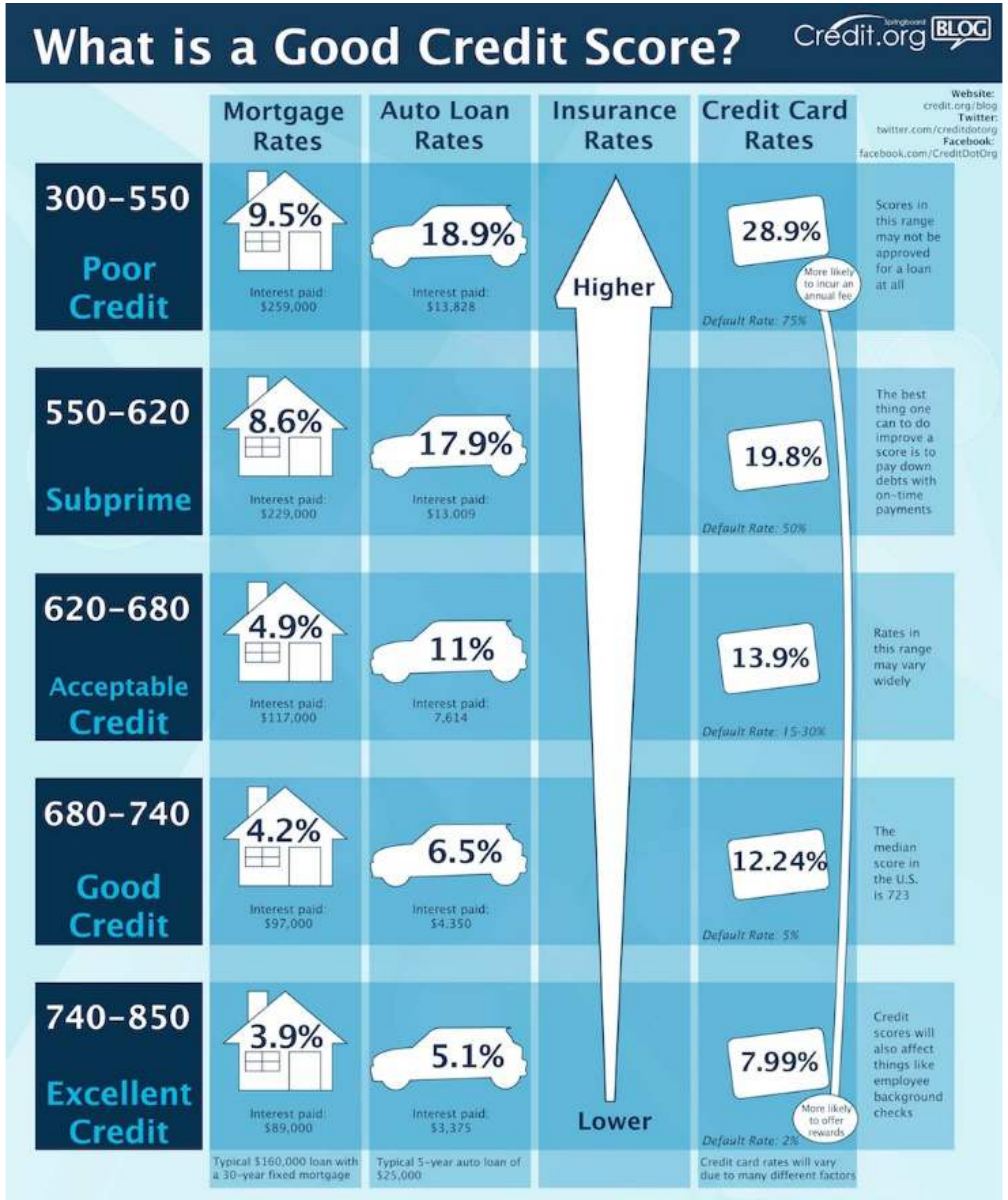
# FICO (Credit) Score

**What's in my FICO® Scores?**

FICO Scores are calculated using many different pieces of credit data in your credit report. This data is grouped into five categories: payment history (35%), amounts owed (30%), length of credit history (15%), new credit (10%) and credit mix (10%)


Sources: afcpe.org

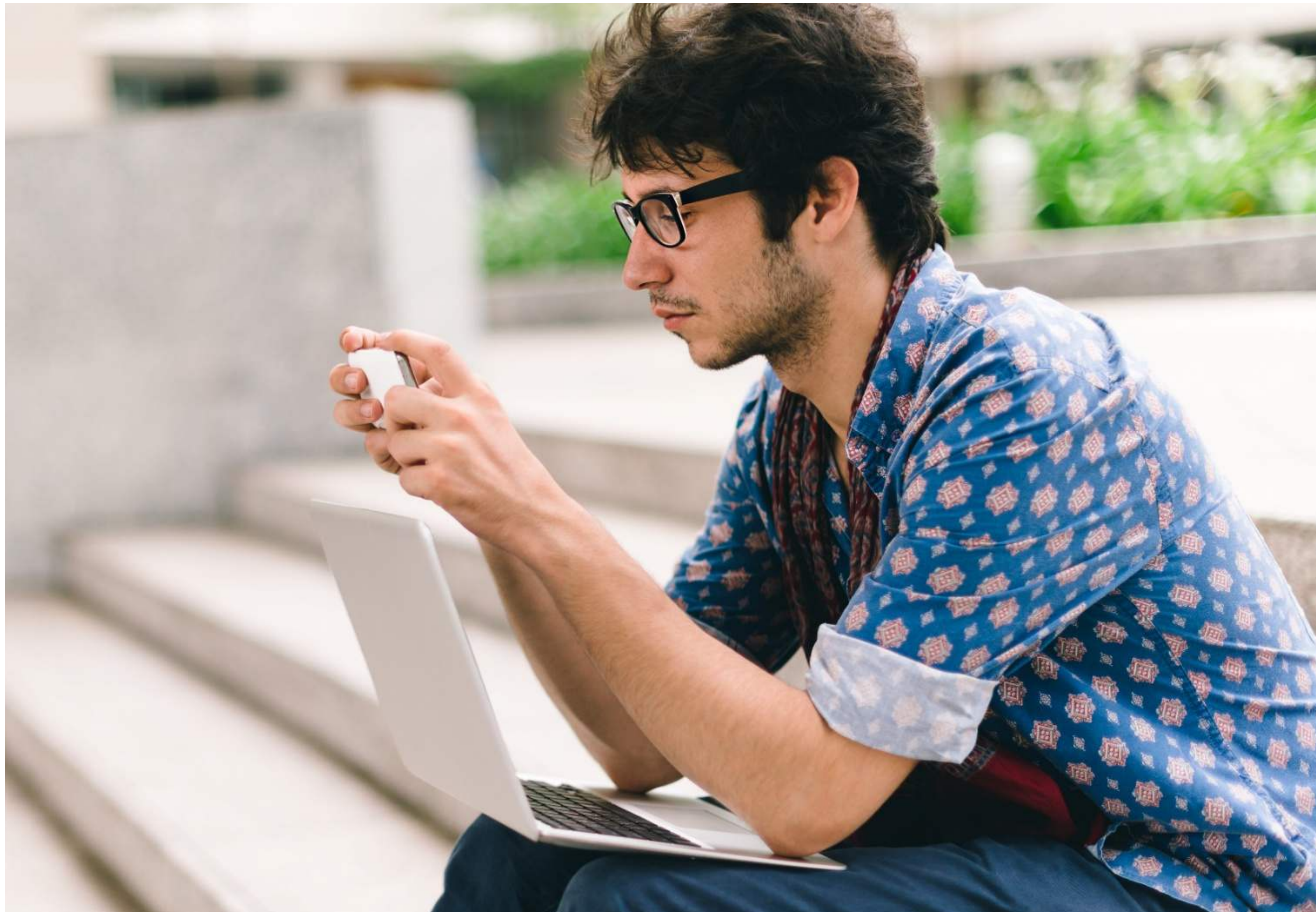
# Why Credit Matters




Sources: credit.org

# Building Credit

- Pay your student loans on time
- Become an authorized user on a parent's card
- Open a student or secured credit card
- Take out a credit builder loan
- Add utility and telecom bills to your credit report

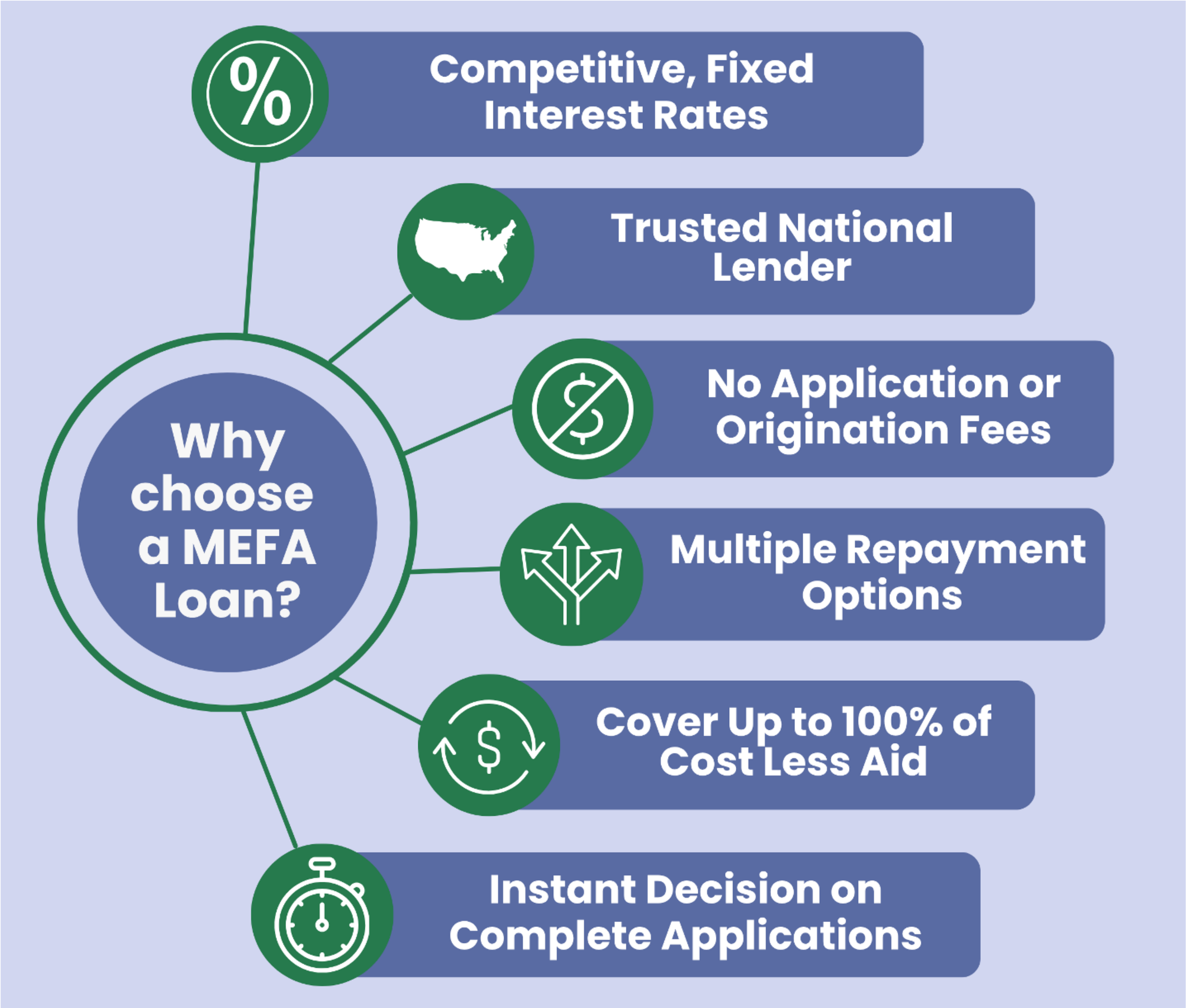


Sources: https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/how-to-establish-credit-as-a-young-person/

# 2026-27 MEFA Undergraduate Loan

**Fixed Interest Rates**
**4.95% - 8.90%**
**(4.95% – 8.90% APR*)**

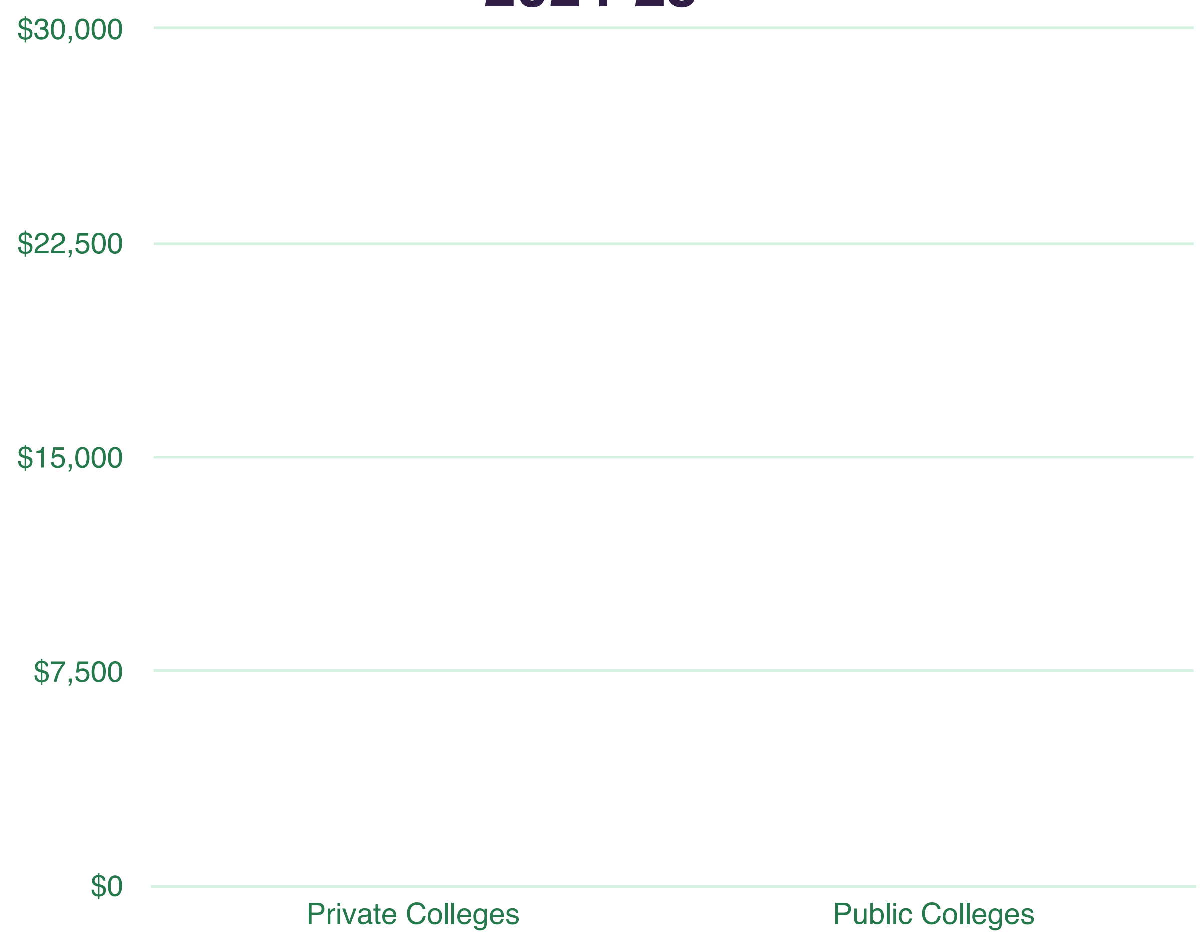
*The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is designed to help consumers understand the relative cost of a loan and reflects MEFA's current underwriting criteria, loan rates, and in-school and post-school period assumptions. MEFA's lowest rates are only available to the most creditworthy applicants. Before borrowing a private loan, MEFA encourages families to exhaust financial aid alternatives including, grants, scholarships, and federal student loans.
NMLS # 1724150 NMLS Consumer Access



# 2026-27 MEFA Undergraduate Loan

## With the new limits on the PLUS Loan, families will be shopping for other options.

**Average MA PLUS Loan Borrowing Amount in 2024-25**




In 2024-25, parents borrowed over $30k on average in PLUS Loans at MA private colleges (over $17k on average at public colleges)
Source: https://studentaid.gov/data-center/student/title-iv#loan-volume

MEFA loans™

The MEFA Loan continues as a stable source of financing

- Available for all credit-qualified applicants in accredited programs without regard to program of study
- Comes with guidance on wise borrowing
- A rate quote experience, providing a preliminary interest rate through a soft credit inquiry prior to submitting a full application

# MEFA Undergraduate Loan vs. PLUS Loan

| | MEFA Undergraduate Loan | Direct PLUS Loan |
|---|---|---|
| **Interest rate** | 4.95%-8.90% fixed for 2026-27 (4.95%-8.90% APR) | 9.07% fixed for 2026-27 (APR not disclosed) |
| **Fee** | No origination fee | 4.228% origination fee |
| **Student on the loan?** | Yes | No |
| **Repayment term** | 10-15 years | 10-25 years |
| **Repayment options** | Immediate, interest-only, deferred | Immediate or deferred |
| **Annual Loan Limits** | Cost of Attendance – Financial Aid | $20,000 per student |
| **Aggregate Loan Limits** | None | $65,000 per student |

| **For a $20,000 Balance** | |
|---|---|
| PLUS Loan Total Cost | $31,839[1] |
| MEFA Loan Total Cost | $27,373[2] |
| Difference of nearly **$4,500** due to PLUS interest rate and fees | |

[1] PLUS Loan interest rate (applies to loans disbursed after July 1, 2026) & fees: studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/interest-rates

[2] Based on 5-year weighted FICO for MEFA Undergraduate Loan 10-year immediate repayment loan; 10-year immediate repayment loan 2026-27 rate range: 4.95%-8.90% APR

# New 2026-27 MEFA Graduate Loan Programs

With the limitation of federal graduate loan amounts and the elimination of Graduate PLUS Loans for new borrowers beginning July 1, 2026, MEFA remains steadfastly committed to providing expanded graduate lending solutions.

The MEFA Graduate Loan will offer enhanced programs and specialized financing for the following areas of study:

**Graduate Programs, including Master’s/PhD/Doctorate**
Includes MBAs, MSWs, and Graduate Degrees in Education, Social Work, Engineering, Psychology, etc.

**Dental**

**Health Professions**
Includes Nursing, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy, etc.

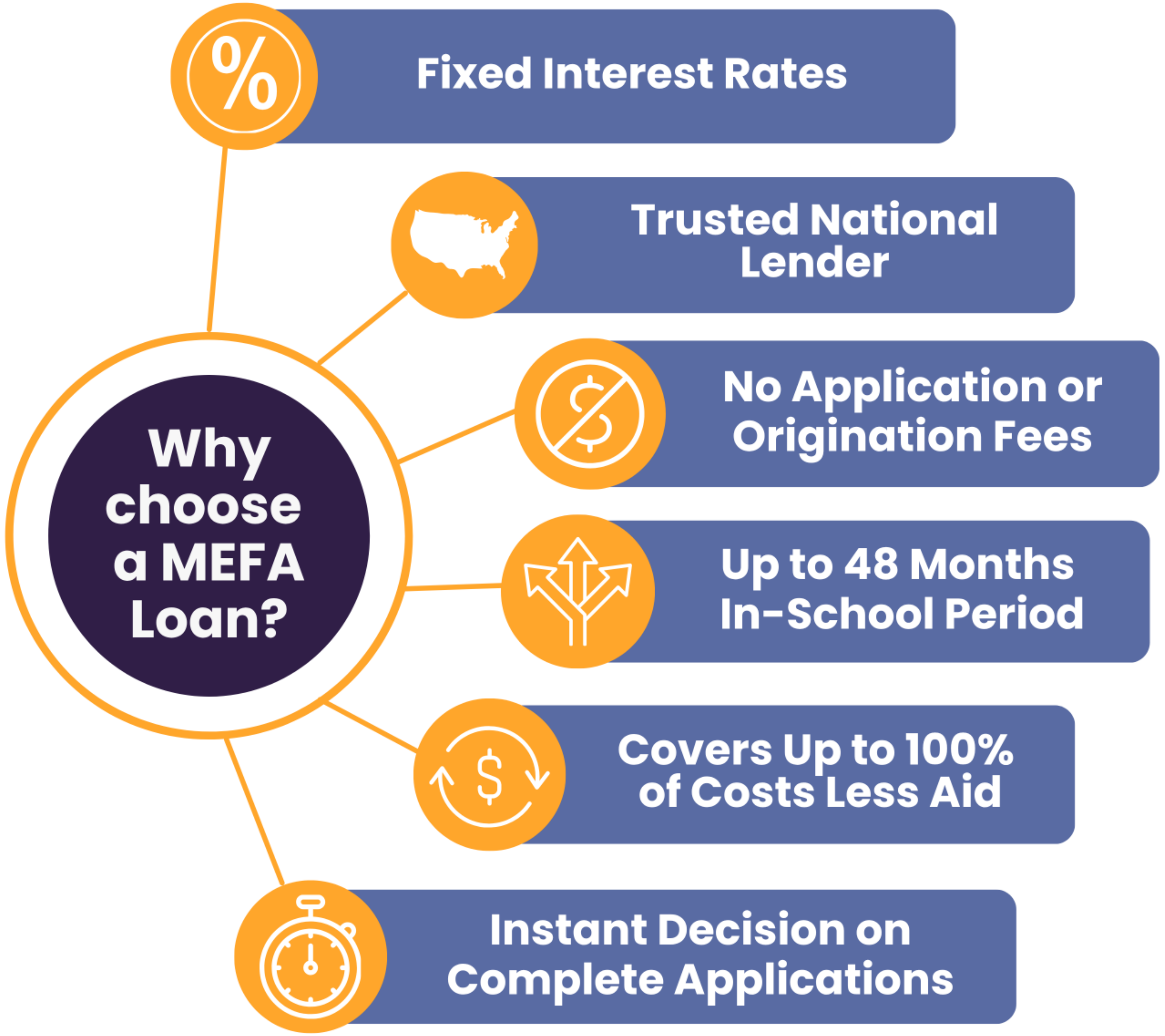
**Law**

**Medical**
Includes Veterinary

# 2026-27 MEFA Graduate Loan

**Fixed Interest Rates**
**7.15% - 9.95%**
**(6.60% - 9.93% APR*)**

*The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is designed to help consumers understand the relative cost of a loan and reflects MEFA's current underwriting criteria, loan rates, and in-school and post-school period assumptions. MEFA's lowest rates are only available to the most creditworthy applicants.
NMLS # 1724150 NMLS Consumer Access



# New MEFA Graduate Loan Programs

**Program highlights will include:**

- No aggregate or annual loan limits, covering up to the full cost of education
- Competitive, fixed-interest rates and no application or origination fees
- Eligibility extended to all credit-qualified students in accredited programs without regard to program of study
- A rate quote experience, allowing applicants to obtain a preliminary interest rate through a soft credit inquiry prior to submitting a full application
- Opportunity to apply for extension of post-school period of interest-only or deferment

**Master's & Doctorate** | **Dental** | **Health Professions** | **Law** | **Medical**

# Flexible Deferments and Repayment

| | Dental | Health Professions | Law | Master's/ Doctorate | Medical |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fixed Interest Rate** | 7.15 - 9.95% | 7.15 - 9.95% | 7.15 - 9.95% | 7.15 - 9.95% | 7.15 - 9.95% |
| **In-School Deferment** | 48 months | 48 months | 48 months | 48 months | 48 months |
| **Repayment Options** | 15 yrs Interest-Only, or 20 yrs Deferred | 15 yrs Interest-Only, or 15 yrs Deferred | 15 yrs Interest-Only, or 15 yrs Deferred | 15 yrs Interest-Only, or 15 yrs Deferred | 15 yrs Interest-Only, or 20 yrs Deferred |
| **Post-School Period of Deferment/ Interest Only** | 12 months for residency | 6 months | 12 months for clerkships | 6 months | 36 months for residency |
| **Post-School Period Extension** | Ability to apply annually for extension of post-school period based on residency/fellowship program | N/A | N/A | N/A | Ability to apply annually for extension of post-school period based on residency/fellowship program |

# Connect with MEFA

- facebook.com/mefaMA
- @mefa_ma
- @MEFAtweets
- linkedin.com/company/mefa
- youtube.com/MEFAcounselor
- mefa.org/mefa-podcast

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