

## Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement

Student loan borrowers have the option to review how much they owe in federal student loan debt and to acknowledge the amount borrowed on a yearly basis. This acknowledgment, known as the **Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement**, can be completed by all first-time federal student loan borrowers and those with existing federal student loans. Direct Loans Include:

- Direct Subsidized Loan
- Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Direct PLUS Loan

Note: The optional Annual Loan Acknowledgment Requirement does not fulfill entrance loan counseling or PLUS credit counseling (required for certain PLUS Loan borrowers). For a Direct PLUS loan made to a parent borrower, it is the parent (not student) who is responsible for completing the optional annual loan acknowledgment.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### **What is the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?**

The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement is an online session that will allow students and parents to see how much they have borrowed, preview what their monthly payments might be, and explain concepts such as capitalization and the difference between federal and private loans.

#### **Is the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment mandatory?**

The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement is not mandatory. However, borrowers of Federal Subsidized, Unsubsidized and PLUS loans are encouraged to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement once each academic year before receiving disbursement of loan funds.

#### **Can I complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement now?**

Yes. The U.S. Department of Education has made the Annual Student loan acknowledgement available now for those borrowers who wish to review their Direct Loan debt.

#### **How will I complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?**

Student and parent borrowers can use this [link](#) to complete the acknowledgement.

#### **How many times will I be required to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement during the same award year?**

Currently, there is no requirement to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement on a yearly basis. It is a useful tool for Direct Loan borrowers to use to view their cumulative loan debt.

#### **How long does it take to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?**

For most borrowers the average time to complete the acknowledgement is ten minutes or less.

**Do I have to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment even though I have existing federal student loans?**

No. The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement is not mandatory at this time. However, it is a useful tool for borrowers with existing federal student loans to acknowledge that they understand their repayment obligation, including amount owed, loan limits, and servicer information.

**What is a first-time borrower?**

A first-time borrower is a person who has no current Direct Loan balance (subsidized or unsubsidized) with the U.S. Department of Education.

**I'm a first-time borrower. Do I have to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?**

At this time the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement is not a mandatory requirement. However, the Office of Financial Aid encourages first-time-borrowers to acknowledge that they understand their responsibility to repay loan debt.

**I'm a first-time borrower. Do I have to complete Entrance Loan Counseling too?**

Yes. The U.S. Department of Education requires first-time borrowers to complete Entrance Loan Counseling. However, the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment is not mandatory at this time.

**What happens if I do not complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?**

Borrowers who elect do not complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement will be able to receive their federal Direct Loans (as long as outstanding loan requirements have been satisfied such as Entrance Loan Counseling or the completion of a Master Promissory Note).

**I am transferring to Charter Oak and already completed the 2023-2024 Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment at my former school, do I need to complete it again for Charter Oak?**

No. The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement for Charter Oak students is not mandatory. Transfer students who have previously completed a 2023-2024 Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment will not be required to complete a new acknowledgment.

**I am a parent who has borrowed a Direct PLUS Loan for my eligible student. Who completes the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?**

For a Direct PLUS loan made to a parent borrower, only the parent (not student) is responsible for completing the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment if they choose to do so.