

Completing Loan Entrance Counseling

Who must complete Entrance Counseling?

Students borrowing Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized loans or PLUS Loans for the first time.

Why do I need to complete Entrance Counseling?

Entrance Counseling is required before you can receive Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized loans or your first PLUS loans as a graduate/professional student.

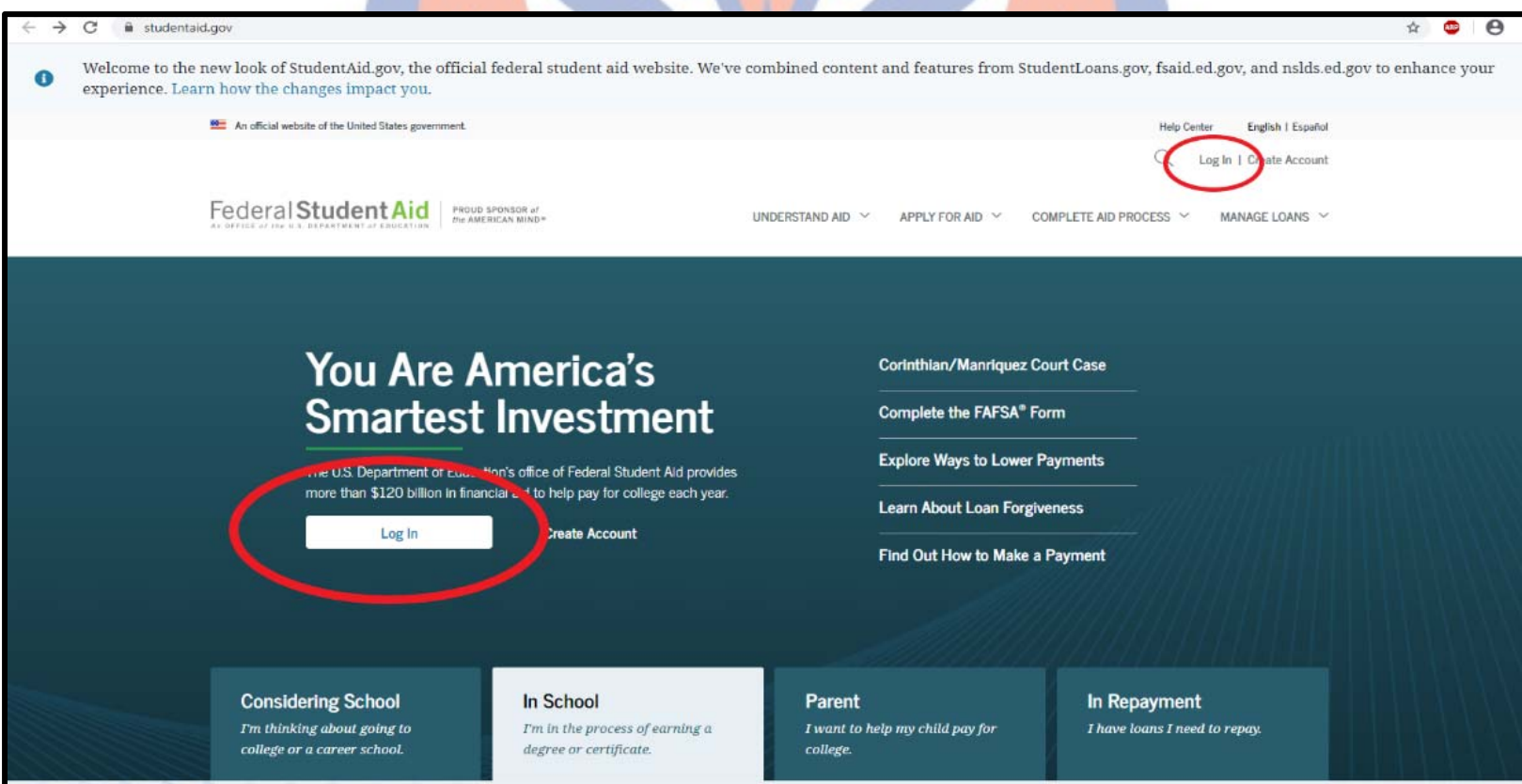
What information may help me complete Entrance Counseling?

Any details on your income, financial aid, and living expenses. Some of this information can be found in:

- Your student account information
- Your award letter from your school's financial aid office (if you have already received it)
- A listing of tuition and fees from your school

How do I complete Entrance Counseling?

1. The student must go to studentaid.gov and "Log In" using their FSA ID and Password.



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2. Move your mouse to the top of the page and hover over the “COMPLETE AID PROCESS” dropdown. Click on the “Complete Entrance Counseling” link when it appears.

The screenshot shows the StudentAid.gov website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: UNDERSTAND AID, APPLY FOR AID, COMPLETE AID PROCESS (highlighted with a red circle), and MANAGE LOANS. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled 'Entrance Counseling' with a sub-section 'What is Entrance Counseling?'. Under this sub-section, there is a list of links: Section Overview, How Aid is Calculated, Comparing School Aid Offers, Accepting Financial Aid, and Receiving Financial Aid. The 'Complete Entrance Counseling' link is highlighted with a red circle.

3. Click the “Start” button under Complete Entrance Counseling.

The screenshot shows the 'COMPLETE COUNSELING' page on StudentAid.gov. The page has a header with the following links: UNDERSTAND AID, APPLY FOR AID, COMPLETE AID PROCESS, and MANAGE LOANS. Below the header, there is a section titled 'Entrance Counseling' with a sub-section 'What is Entrance Counseling?'. Under this sub-section, there is a list of links: Section Overview, How Aid is Calculated, Comparing School Aid Offers, Accepting Financial Aid, and Receiving Financial Aid. The 'Complete Entrance Counseling' link is highlighted with a red circle. Below the list of links, there is a 'START' button (highlighted with a red arrow) and a 'Who should complete this?' section. The 'Who should complete this?' section contains the following text: 'Students who have not previously received a subsidized/unsubsidized loan or PLUS loan (graduate/professional students only) under the Direct Loan Program or Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program.' Below this text, there is a 'How long will it take?' section with a clock icon and the text: 'The entire counseling process must be completed in a single session. Most people complete counseling in 20-30 minutes.' Below this text, there is a 'What do I need?' section with a list of items: School Name and Details on your income, financial aid, and living expenses (with a link icon).

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- Search for the school by selecting “Louisiana” as the state and “Louisiana College” as the school name. Then you need to click “Notify School”. When the school has been selected, your screen should look like the one on the bottom left.

Add School to Notify

Select up to 3 schools you wish to notify of your counseling completion.

Choose from Associated Schools

- Select -

OR

Select School to Notify

☒ U.S. Schools/US Territory Schools

☐ Non U.S. Schools

Choose a state:

- Select -

Search school by name:

Select or type

Notify These Schools

You have not selected any schools to notify.

These schools will only receive a notification indicating that you successfully completed Entrance Counseling, and the date it was completed.

Select Student Type

☐ I am completing entrance counseling to receive Direct Loans as an undergraduate student.

☐ I am completing entrance counseling to receive Direct Loans as a graduate or professional student.

Continue

[Help Center](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Feedback and Ombudsman](#)

UNDERSTAND AID

[How Financial Aid Works](#)

[Types of Aid](#)

APPLY FOR AID

[Complete the FAFSA® Form](#)

[How to Apply for Financial Aid](#)

COMPLETE AID PROCESS

[How Aid is Calculated](#)

[Complete School Exit Questionnaire](#)

MANAGE LOANS

[About Loan Repayment](#)

[Complete Exit Questionnaire](#)

MORE INFO

[Announcements & Events](#)

[Data Center](#)

Figure out

[what's next](#)

Add School to Notify

Select up to 3 schools you wish to notify of your counseling completion.

✓ This school is participating in Entrance Counseling through StudentAid.gov.

School Name:
Louisiana College

School Code/Branch:
G02007

School Address:
1140 COLLEGE DRIVE
PINEVILLE, LA 713605122

Notify this School

< [Go back to Search](#)

- Next, indicate if you will be receiving loans as an “undergraduate” or “graduate or professional student”. Then, click “Continue”.

Completing Loan Entrance Counseling

6. **Section One: Understanding Your Loans.** Read the information about different types of financial aid, interest rates, and loan limits. Answer all quizzes in the boxes under each section titled “Check Your Knowledge.” You will not be able to advance until you get these answers correct. Click “Continue” when you get to the bottom to move on to the next section.

ENTRANCE COUNSELING

1 Understand Your Loans

2 Manage Your Spending

3 Plan To Repay

4 Avoid Default

5 Finances: A Priority

Your Student Loans

Loan Basics

Free Money First

Types of Federal Student Loans

Loan Limits

Your Student Loans

Current Loan Balance \$ 0

The listing above does not include your private student loans and may not reflect all of your federal student loans. You may add any student loans not listed.

Add loans below

Your estimated student loan balance should reflect what you think you'll owe when you graduate. Use the "Add Loan" feature to add the loan amount(s) you think you'll owe by the time you graduate.

If you're not sure what you'll owe, you can use the following figures:

\$6,707
Average debt for a single year of college

\$26,830+
Average debt of a 4-year college student

6.8%
Interest rate

*College expense data is publicly available on-line at [College Navigator](#).

Enter your student loan information below

Remember, if you log in, we will display your current federal student loan information available in NSLDS.

Additional/Future Loans \$0

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Your Student Loans

Loan Basics

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Loan Limits

Federal Direct Loans

Federal student loans may be a way to address a shortfall between the funds that you have and the funds that you will need. There is always a cost to borrowing money but federal student loans may offer benefits, such as flexible repayment plans, that aren't available with other loans.

Direct Subsidized Loans

If you're eligible, take advantage of Direct Subsidized Loans. The government pays the interest on a Direct Subsidized Loan that has retained the interest subsidy while you are in school and during certain other periods in most cases.

Check Your Knowledge

Which sources of federal student aid do you have to repay?

☐ Grants

☐ Federal Work-Study jobs

☐ Federal student loans

☐ All of the above

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Completing Loan Entrance Counseling

7. **Section Two: Manage Your Spending.** You can enter information about your financial aid from your financial aid award letter. You can also enter estimated information if you do not know your award amounts. The expenses should have amounts listed for the school you selected earlier. Answer all quizzes in the boxes under each section titled “Check Your Knowledge” and then click “Continue” at the bottom.

The screenshot shows the 'ENTRANCE COUNSELING' page on StudentLoans.gov. The progress bar at the top indicates five steps: 1. Understand Your Loans (checked), 2. Manage Your Spending (active), 3. Plan To Repay, 4. Avoid Default, and 5. Finances: A Priority. The left sidebar lists navigation options: Your School Expense Budget, Manage Your Expenses, Responsible Borrowing, and Federal Loans First. The main content area is titled 'Your School Expense Budget' and includes instructions to enter the amount expected to receive to help pay for school. Below this, there are two columns of input fields for 'Student Aid (Yearly)' and 'Other Funds (Yearly)'. The 'Student Aid' column includes Scholarships, Grants, Federal Work-Study Jobs, Federal Student Loans, and Private Loans. The 'Other Funds' column includes Employment, Parental Contributions, Prepaid Tuition, Personal Savings, and Other Contributions. Each field has a numeric input box with a spinner and a dollar sign icon. At the bottom, there is a summary field 'Your Funds This Year'.

Student Aid (Yearly)		Other Funds (Yearly)	
Scholarships	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Employment	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Grants	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Parental Contributions	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Federal Work-Study Jobs	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Prepaid Tuition	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Federal Student Loans	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Personal Savings	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Private Loans	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Other Contributions	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Your Funds This Year		\$ 0	

8. **Section Three: Plan To Repay.** Enter information about your projected income, if you are not sure how much to estimate, select the link “[CareerOneStop](#)” to search for income estimates by profession and state. Enter your Family Size, Projected Loan Balance, Interest Rate and State of Residence. The chart below will then show sample repayment amounts and indicate the repayment plans you may qualify for. Answer all quizzes in the boxes under each section titled “Check Your Knowledge” then click “Continue” at the bottom.

Completing Loan Entrance Counseling

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UNDERSTAND AID ▾APPLY FOR AID ▾COMPLETE AID PROCESS ▾MANAGE LOANS ▾

ENTRANCE COUNSELING

1 Understand Your Loans ✓

2 Manage Your Spending ✓

3 Plan To Repay

4 Avoid Default

5 Finances: A Priority

Estimate What You Will Owe, Spend, and Earn

Entering Repayment

Navigating Repayment

Estimate What You Will Owe and Earn

In the sections below, enter what you expect to earn annually once you graduate. Check the Bureau of Labor Statistics available at [CareerOneStop](#) to estimate your future salary.

Your total student loan balance is displayed from the Understand Your Loans page. Select a repayment plan to see your estimated future payments.

Your Income

Projected Annual Income

• This assumes that you are single (unmarried) and that you have **no tax withholding allowances** ⓘ. To estimate your actual withholding, visit the [IRS Withholding Calculator](#).

Estimated Federal Withholding + ⓘ

\$0

Other Withholding (%) ⓘ

Net Annual Income ⓘ

\$0

Your Monthly Income ⓘ

\$0

Your Estimated Future Monthly Loan Payment

9. **Section Four: Avoid Default.** Read the information to learn about Loan Deferment, Forbearance, Forgiveness, Default, and Consolidation. Answer all quizzes in the boxes under each section titled “Check Your Knowledge” then click “Continue” at the bottom.

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Avoiding Default

Trouble Making Payments

Forgive, Cancel or Discharge Your Debts

Delinquency and Default

Records and Disputes

Loan Consolidation

Avoiding Default

Finish Your Program and Graduate

Pay on Time

Stay In Touch With Your Federal Loan Servicer

Trouble Making Payments

Even if you're having trouble, keep making your federal student loan payments whenever possible to reduce your debt and the amount of interest you pay over the life of the loan. See [Plan to Repay](#) for more details regarding repayment options.

If you need to lower your payments, consider one of the income-driven repayment plans in [Plan to Repay](#).

However, if you cannot afford to make any payments, or your difficulty is temporary, you can temporarily postpone or lower your payments with a deferment or forbearance.

Remember!

You **MUST** continue making payments on your federal student loan until you have been notified that your deferment or forbearance has been granted. If you don't, and it is not approved, you will become delinquent and may **default** ⓘ on your federal student loans.

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10. **Section Five: Finances: A Priority.** Read the information about saving, spending, tax deductions, credit score, and credit cards. Answer all quizzes in the boxes under each section titled “Check Your Knowledge.”

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UNDERSTAND AID ▾ APPLY FOR AID ▾ COMPLETE AID PROCESS ▾ MANAGE LOANS ▾

ENTRANCE COUNSELING

1 Understand Your Loans ✓ 2 Manage Your Spending ✓ 3 Plan To Repay ✓ 4 Avoid Default ✓ 5 **Finances: A Priority**

Plan for the Future

Plan for the Future

PLAN
Set specific and realistic goals
Use the tools in [Manage Your Spending](#) and [Plan to Repay](#) to set goals:

- Keep expenses low.
- Pay interest on your federal student loans while in school.
- Pay off credit card debt and limit use of credit cards.
- Save for large purchases, such as a car, so you don't have to borrow.

SAVE
Open a savings account

- Set up automatic deposits from your paycheck.
- Deposit gifts and bonuses.

Keep an emergency fund

- To cover unexpected expenses and avoid unnecessary borrowing.
- Save enough to cover 3 to 6 months of your normal expenses.

Did you know?
Most banks charge a fee if you spend more money than you have available in your account (overdraw).

11. Click “Submit Counseling” to finish. LCU will receive electronic confirmation in a few days.

Plan for the Future

Your Income & Taxes

Your Credit & Identity

Credit Cards & Other Borrowing

Credit Cards & Other Borrowing

Credit Cards

- Spend only what you can pay back immediately.
- Pay your balance in full each month to avoid interest and fees.
- Look for the lowest annual interest rate (APR) and fees.
- Read the fine print!
- Limit your number of credit cards.

Visit [Money Matters](#) and [MyMoney.gov](#) for more information on how to choose a credit card.

Other Borrowing

To reduce the amount borrowed for large purchases (e.g. a car):

- Plan ahead, and try to save for large purchases.
- Borrow only what you can afford to repay. (Use the calculator in the previous topics)
- Look for low interest rate and fees.

Did you know?
Making only the minimum payment on a balance of \$1,000 at an interest rate of 18.9% will take 5 years to pay off, for a total \$1,563!
[Do Your Own Calculation](#)

Remember!
Credit cards aren't the only way to build credit - making your federal student loan payments on time will help you build up a credit history.

[Exit](#) [Submit Counseling](#)