COVID-19 - UChicago Law School Loan Repayment Assistance Program
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Interest is being temporarily set at 0% on federal student loans. Which loans does the 0% rate apply to?

   From March 13, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2020, the interest rate is 0% on the following types of federal student loans owned by ED:
   - Defaulted and nondefaulted Direct Loans
   - Defaulted and nondefaulted FFEL Program loans
   - Federal Perkins Loans

   Please note that some FFEL Program loans are owned by commercial lenders, and some Perkins Loans are owned by the institution you attended. These loans are not eligible for this benefit at this time.

2. Who can tell me if my loans will have their interest rate temporarily reduced to 0%?

   Contact your loan servicer online or by phone to determine if your loans are eligible. Your servicer is the entity to which you make your monthly payment. If you do not know who your servicer is or how to contact them, visit StudentAid.gov/login or call us at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243; TTY for the deaf or hearing-impaired 1-800-730-8913) for assistance.

3. If I make loan payments during the 0% interest period, how will they be applied?

   During the period of 0% interest (March 13, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2020), the full amount of your payments will be applied to principal once all the interest that accrued prior to March 13 is paid.

4. I am participating in LRAP for 2020. I understand that my loans will be placed in administrative forbearance, temporarily suspending my monthly payments. How long will the administrative forbearance last?

   The administrative forbearance will last from March 13, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2020.

5. I have received LRAP funding for 2020. Should I continue to make my loan payments?

   LRAP Participants should continue making the on-time payment using the 2020 funding received. Please contact Financial Aid via email at financialaid@law.uchicago.edu with any questions.

   Contact your loan servicer or visit your servicer’s website to make a payment or to find out how you can continue or start auto-debit payments. Continuing to make payments during the administrative forbearance could help you pay down your loan balance more quickly because
the full amount of a payment will be applied to principal once all interest accrued prior to March 13, 2020, is paid.

If you continue making regular payments but then experience a change in income, please contact your loan servicer as soon as possible to discuss options. **We ask that you contact Financial Aid via email at financialaid@law.uchicago.edu as well discuss how this may affect participation in LRAP.**

6. I have received LRAP funding for 2020. What will happen to my regular auto-debit payments if I do nothing?

LRAP Participants should continue making the on-time payment using the 2020 funding received. Please contact Financial Aid via email at financialaid@law.uchicago.edu with any questions.

If you don’t want an administrative forbearance and want to continue making payments, contact your loan servicer to opt out of the administrative forbearance, and your auto-debit payments will resume.

You also have the option to remain in the administrative forbearance and make manual (i.e., not auto-debit) payments during the administrative forbearance period. Visit your loan servicer’s website to make a payment, or contact your loan servicer for more information.

Auto-debit payments are suspended during the administrative forbearance. Any auto-debit payments processed between March 13, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2020, can be refunded to you. Contact your loan servicer to request that your payment be refunded. Prior to requesting a refund of payment amounts made during the administrative forbearance period, please contact Financial Aid to discuss implications to LRAP eligibility.

**LRAP Participants should continue making the on-time payment using the 2020 funding received. Please contact Financial Aid via email at financialaid@law.uchicago.edu with any questions.**

7. Can I make a partial payment while my loan is in forbearance?

LRAP Participants should continue making the on-time scheduled payment using the 2020 funding received. If your financial situation has changed, please contact via email at financialaid@law.uchicago.edu to discuss options.

As long as you are in forbearance, you will not be penalized for making a payment that is less than your usual monthly payment. However, as a LRAP participant, full-payment amount is required. If there is a change in your financial situation, we ask you contact Financial Aid immediately to discuss options. Meanwhile, you still have the option to make a payment on your loan to make progress toward reducing your balance. Contact your loan servicer or visit your servicer’s website to make a payment or to find out how you can continue or start auto-debit payments.
8. Will suspended payments count toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)?

If you have a Direct Loan, were on a qualifying repayment plan prior to the suspension, and work full-time for a qualifying employer during the suspension, then you will receive credit toward PSLF for the period of suspension as though you made on-time monthly payments. LRAP Participants should continue making the on-time scheduled payment using the 2020 funding received. If your financial situation has changed, please contact via email at financialaid@law.uchicago.edu to discuss options.

9. If I’m currently in an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan, will my suspended payments count toward IDR forgiveness?

Yes. LRAP Participants should continue making the on-time scheduled payment using the 2020 funding received. If your financial situation has changed, please contact via email at financialaid@law.uchicago.edu to discuss options.

10. I am participating in LRAP for 2020 and I’m unemployed, or my work schedule has been reduced to a part-time status because of the coronavirus outbreak and don’t know when my income will return to the same level. What can I do?

Please contact the financial aid office immediately if you have become unemployed or have moved to a part-time status because of the coronavirus outbreak and you have received funding for 2020.

Your (previous) employer must complete the job/salary change form and submit directly to financialaid@law.uchicago.edu.

If your income has changed significantly, you can update your information and get a new payment amount based on your current income. To do so, visit your loan servicer’s website or visit StudentAid.gov/idr, click on “Apply Now,” and then start the application by clicking on the button next to “Recalculate my monthly payment.” After the administrative forbearance ends on Sept. 30, 2020, your monthly payments will resume at the new amount. Please send all documentation from your loan servicer regarding the new payment amount to financialaid@law.uchicago.edu for the Committee to review. (Please note if the payments are lowered, the Committee will request the difference in funding to be returned).

You are automatically being placed in an administrative forbearance that allows you to stop making your payments from March 13, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2020. However, if you have received funding for 2020, we ask that you contact Financial Aid via email at financialaid@law.uchicago.edu to discuss how this may affect LRAP eligibility.
Federal Government Websites for Additional Information

Here are some sites that you or your school may find useful:

- [Coronavirus.gov](https://coronavirus.gov) — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers this site, which features everything from prevention tips, common symptoms, and current updates on how many cases there are in the United States, to advice about travel and a list of frequently asked questions.
- [USA.gov coronavirus page](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus) — USAGov shares how agencies across the federal government are responding to the outbreak.
- [Federal student loan servicers](https://studentaid.gov) — Our website lists servicer contact information for borrowers who want to ask questions, request a deferment or forbearance, etc.