Entrance Counseling

One of the requirements that must be met prior to a student being able to borrow Title IV loans is that they must first complete Entrance Counseling. Federal Direct Student Loan Entrance Counseling requires a certain information be disclosed to a student including that the student must repay the loan, consequences of defaulting on a student loan, options for deferment and forbearance, interest rates and repayment options.

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<th>Who must complete Entrance Counseling?</th>
<th>Why do I need to complete Entrance Counseling?</th>
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<td>Students borrowing federal subsidized/unsubsidized student loans or PLUS loans for the first time</td>
<td>Entrance counseling is required before you can receive your first federal subsidized/unsubsidized student loan, or your first PLUS loan as a graduate/professional student.</td>
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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
- A copy of the award letter from your school's financial aid office (if you have received it)
- A listing of the tuition and fees for your school.

How do I complete Entrance Counseling?

To complete Entrance Counseling:

1. The student must go to studentloans.gov and “Sign In” using their FSAID and password
Entrance Counseling

2. Select “Complete Counseling”

3. Select “Entrance Counseling”

3. Select “Illinois” and “Northern Illinois University” when prompted to identify the school and select “Add School.” Also indicate whether you are receiving loans as an undergraduate or graduate or professional student.

4. Review the information provided and answer the question about outstanding student loans.
Entrance Counseling

5. Review the information provided and answer the questions about aid types and loan interest

Free Money First

- Grants
- Work-study
- Scholarships

Eligible students should apply for all of these programs.

Types of Direct Loans

- Direct Subsidized Loans
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans
- Direct PLUS Loans

Direct Subsidized Loans

- Interest is zero during the time the student is in school and during grace or deferment periods.
- Interest is capitalized at the time of exit or when the student leaves school or is no longer enrolled at least half-time.

Direct Unsubsidized Loans

- Interest is capitalized at the time of exit or when the student leaves school or is no longer enrolled at least half-time.

Direct PLUS Loans

- Interest is capitalized at the time of exit or when the student leaves school or is no longer enrolled at least half-time.

Interest Rate

- 4.295% for undergraduate students
- 6.31% for graduate students
- 7.9% for Parent PLUS loans

Direct Subsidized Loan Limitation

- Maximum of $31,825 for undergraduate students
- Maximum of $37,825 for graduate students
- Maximum of $14,600 for Parent PLUS loans

Direct Unsubsidized Loan Limitation

- Maximum of $31,825 for undergraduate students
- Maximum of $57,500 for graduate students

Direct PLUS Loan Limitation

- Maximum of $40,500 for Parent PLUS loans

Direct Subsidized Loan Time Limitation

- Maximum of 150% of the normal length of time to complete the program
- Maximum of 10 years

Direct Unsubsidized Loan Time Limitation

- Maximum of 200% of the normal length of time to complete the program
- Maximum of 10 years

Direct PLUS Loan Time Limitation

- Maximum of 150% of the normal length of time to complete the program
- Maximum of 10 years
6. Review the information provided and answer the question annual loan amounts.

7. Enter expenses anticipated for the year by selecting "Add Expenses".

   Note: Step 1 will automatically be selected.

8. Select Step 2 and enter anticipated Aid for the year by typing in the indicated field.

   Note: The section can be expanded to "Enter your other funds" if applicable.

9. Enter the estimate expenses and available funding.

   Note: You may not progress to the next portion of Entrance Counseling if you do not enter information into both Step 1 and 2.
10. Review the information provided and answer the questions about aid expenses, loan disbursement, and interest repayment. Then select "Continue"
11. Enter your projected loan balance and select a repayment plan

Note: Step 1 will automatically be selected

Note: If you are unsure what your projected loan amounts may be, select \( \text{Project Loan Balance Calculator} \) to calculate a projected balance.

Note: Interest rates can be adjusted by typing new figures in the indicated fields

12. Select Step 2 and enter Projected Annual Income amount.

Note: You may not progress to the next portion of Entrance Counseling if you do not enter information into both Step 1 and 2.
13. Review the information provided and answer the questions about payment, discretionary income, entering repayment, and loan servicers. Then select “Continue”
14. Review the information provided and answer the questions about deferment and forbearance.
15. Review the information provided and answer the questions about default and delinquency. Then select “Continue.”
15. Review the information provided and answer the questions about future planning, taxes, identity theft, and credit. Then select “Submit”