

WHEN IS MY FIRST PAYMENT DUE?



Your first Stafford student loan payment is due six months after you graduate, withdraw from school or drop below half-time enrollment. These six months are called your “grace period.” During this time, the federal government will continue to pay the interest accrued on your Subsidized Stafford loans, except for loans originated between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2014, but you’re responsible for any interest accrued on your Unsubsidized Stafford loans. When your grace period ends, your lender has up to 60 days to set the date your first payment is due. Most lenders will set this date approximately 30 to 45 days after your grace period ends.

Let’s look at some possible scenarios for graduating students.

Spring Graduation – May 15

Your grace period will last until Nov. 15. Your first payment will likely be due between Dec. 15 and Dec. 28, but no later than Jan. 14.

Summer Graduation – Aug. 15

Your grace period will last until Feb. 15. Your first payment will likely be due between March 16 and March 28, but no later than April 14.

Fall Graduation – Dec. 15

Your grace period will last until June 15. Your first payment will likely be due between July 15 and July 28, but no later than Aug. 14.

IMPORTANT TIP! Don’t wait until the end of your grace period to start thinking about repaying your loan. Be sure to add your student loan payment to your monthly budget; it’s just as important as any other fixed expense, like your rent or car payment.