



We're here to help!

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT CHECKLIST FOR INTERNSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

Choosing the right student loan repayment strategy for your situation can save you a ton of time and money, not to mention stress -- a concept VIN Foundation calls **Repay Wiser**. This checklist helps you perform a thorough "physical exam" of your student loans and develop a "treatment plan" to ensure you **Repay Wiser**:

- ☐ **File a tax return** during your final year of veterinary school, even if it's not required
- ☐ Apply for a **federal Direct Consolidation loan** as soon as your loans allow after and **BEFORE** you start your internship or residency.
- ☐ Include all Direct and non-Direct federal loans in the federal Direct Consolidation Loan
- ☐ Choose to end your remaining grace period in the consolidation application
- ☐ Choose your loan servicer during consolidation (select FedLoan Servicing)
- ☐ Select the most beneficial IDR plan for you (likely PAYE or REPAYE)
- ☐ Use your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from your recently filed tax return or indicate that you currently have zero taxable income if you are consolidating prior to starting your internship/residency. This should result in a minimum payment amount of \$0/month for the next 12 months (depending on your family circumstances and tax filing status).
- ☐ Make sure your contact information is up to date to receive all consolidation and repayment correspondence
- ☐ Set weekly reminders to follow along in the process until you see the expected result
- ☐ After your consolidation is complete, enroll in auto-pay with your loan servicer even if your payment amount is \$0/month to receive a 0.25% interest rate discount.
- ☐ Set annual reminders to renew your IDR plan. Target 60 days before your IDR anniversary. You **MUST** renew on-time each year to prevent capitalization and increases to your payments.
- ☐ Simulate your repayment scenarios using the VIN Foundation **Student Loan Repayment Simulator** each year

Internship and/or Residency Repayment Plan Algorithm:

Your income will be greater than your student debt balance after or very shortly after your advanced training

- ⇒ Follow the checklist above and choose REPAYE as your repayment plan
- ⇒ The Department of Education will cover 50% of your unpaid interest
- ⇒ Having less interest will reduce your total costs when you pay your balance to zero

Your income will be less than your student debt balance after your advanced training

- ⇒ Follow the checklist above and chose PAYE as your repayment plan
- ⇒ There is no unpaid interest subsidy with PAYE, however, your maximum repayment period is shorter and you have the option of separating your income from your spouse.
- ⇒ If you reach student loan forgiveness, you'll pay less using PAYE than REPAYE

Your internship and/or residency take place at an academic institution

- ⇒ Choose either PAYE or REPAYE per the previous algorithms
- ⇒ Submit a PSLF employment certification form during your internship and/or residency each year

DO NOT DEFER YOUR STUDENT LOANS DURING YOUR INTERNSHIP/RESIDENCY

Questions? Confused? We're here to help! StudentDebt@VINFoundation.org.

Visit VINFoundation.org/RepayWiser for more details.