



# Financial News for Students

WWW.NAVIGATINGYOURFUTURE.ORG

MAY 2011

**Navigating  
Your  
Financial  
Future**  
*your dream  
your plan  
your future*

Sponsored by  
Office of Student  
Financial Assistance,  
Florida Department  
of Education,  
Tallahassee, FL

For more information  
about NyFF's products  
and services, please  
contact:

Jan Smith  
Manager of  
Outreach Services  
850-245-1822  
Jan.Smith@fldoe.org



## Congratulations Graduates!

On behalf of Navigating Your Financial Future and the Office of Student Financial Assistance, ***congratulations!***

This is an amazing milestone whether you are graduating from high school or college. You have accomplished a great goal and we wish each of you the very best as you transition into the next phase of your journey.



## Grace Period Counseling

For student loan borrowers who are graduating, withdrawing from school, or falling below half-time status, your federal student loans will enter a **grace period**. This means you will have six months (Direct Loans) or nine months (Perkins Loans) to establish your budgetary needs in preparation for the repayment period of your loans.

To help you get organized, *Navigating Your Financial Future (NyFF)* has developed an online **Grace Period Counseling** session. This particular module covers all of the important "to do" items for the next six to nine months of your grace period, such as:

- Setting up your budget
- Checking your credit report
- Cleaning up bad credit items
- Seeking employment
- Interview techniques
- Networking

To access this free online training, please visit [www.navigatingyourfuture.org](http://www.navigatingyourfuture.org) and select "OSFA University" as the school. Then select "Grace Period Counseling."

*"Do not follow  
where the  
path may lead.  
Go, instead,  
where there is  
no path and  
leave a trail."  
Emerson*



## Repayment Plans 101: IBR

As you carefully consider a repayment plan to fit your budget, take a look at the newest repayment plan available. The **Income Based Repayment Plan**, also referred to as **IBR**, is exactly what it sounds like: based on your annual income.

Using a complex formula which factors in family size, annual income of borrower, U.S. Poverty Guidelines, and a percentage of disposable income, the Income Based Repayment Plan is very suitable for borrowers who have

high student loan debt and low employment income.

Tax return information is submitted on an annual basis which allows the U.S. Department of Education to adjust your monthly payment accordingly.

For more information to find out if you qualify for this repayment plan, please visit:

[www.ibrinfo.org](http://www.ibrinfo.org)

[www.Studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.Studentaid.ed.gov)

## Public Service Loan Forgiveness

I'm sure most of you have heard the tongue-in-cheek phrase that many public servants say: *"You have to LOVE this work because we sure don't do it for the money!"*

All things considered, the U.S. Government has developed a program to ease the burden of student loan debt for public servants. Many non-profit professions qualify for **Public Service Loan Forgiveness**: healthcare workers, teachers, legal employment, government workers (with the exception of Congress), emergency management staff (fire/police/EMT) and more.

How does this work? With the right kind of loans (Direct Lending) and the right kind of employment (501c3 non-profit) and the right kind of payments (Income Based Repayment Plan) for 10 years—after the 10th year, any remaining student loan debt will be forgiven.

It's a win-win for borrowers who choose to serve in the non-profit arena. For more detailed information about Public Service Loan Forgiveness, please visit the following websites:

[www.ibrinfo.org](http://www.ibrinfo.org)

[www.StudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.StudentAid.ed.gov)