The military has programs that help repay or forgive student loans. Check with your branch for qualifications and requirements (see “For more information” on the next page for branch contact information). In addition, you may qualify for one of the programs listed to the right.

### Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>What is the benefit?</th>
<th>What are the requirements?</th>
<th>What are the next steps?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)**   | Fees and interest rate for most debt obligations (including federal and private student loans, mortgages and credit cards) incurred prior to military service/activation are capped at 6 percent and any interest above 6 percent is forgiven. Monthly loan payments must be reduced by the amount exceeding 6 percent. | Applies to all active-duty service members, reservists and National Guard members beginning on the date of entering active duty and terminating within 30-90 days after discharge. Applies to loans disbursed on or after 8/14/08. | You must provide your lender/loan servicer(s):  
- A written request for the SCRA benefit and  
- A copy of military orders calling you to duty or  
- If recalled within 180 days after termination or release from service, military orders extending your service. |
| **Post-Active Duty Student Deferment**       | Payment on federal student loans may be deferred for those called to active duty service from the Armed Forces Reserve, Armed Forces retired status or National Guard (under qualifying conditions) for up to 13 months following completion of active duty service. | You must meet all the requirements of a Military Deferment (see section below).  
- You must have been enrolled in a college at the time of, or within six months prior to, your activation.  
- The deferment period expires the earlier of your re-enrollment in school or the end of the 13-month period. | • Download the Military Service/Post-Active Duty Student Deferment Request form at www.ecmc.org/forms.  
- Complete and submit the form to your loan servicer.  
Note: the form requires a written statement from your commanding or personnel officer, or a copy of military orders. |
| **Military Deferment**                       | Payment on federal student loans may be deferred while serving on active duty or National Guard duty during a war, military operation or national emergency. For borrowers serving on or after 10/1/07—180 days following demobilization. | You must be serving on active duty or National Guard duty during a war, military operation or national emergency. Your Direct, FFEL or Perkins loan(s) is not in default. | • Download the Military Service/Post-Active Duty Student Deferment Request form at www.ecmc.org/forms.  
You must submit one of these forms of documentation to your loan servicer(s):  
- Military Deferment Form completed, signed and dated by you and, for Section 4, by an authorized official.  
- A copy of your military orders.  
- A signed letter from your commanding or personnel officer indicating the start date of your active duty status. |

**TERMS TO KNOW**

- **Direct loan**—a loan made under the Federal Direct Loan Program.
- **FFEL loan**—a loan made under the Federal Family Education Loan Program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>What is the benefit?</th>
<th>What are the requirements?</th>
<th>What are the next steps?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| No-Interest Accrual                        | No interest will accrue on Direct loans for a maximum of 60 months (if you have FFEL loans, you may consolidate into a Direct loan to secure this benefit) | • You must be serving on active duty or National Guard duty during a war, military operation or national emergency, or performing service qualifying for special pay under Sec. 310 of Title 37 of U.S. Code as an area of hostilities*  
• For loans first disbursed on or after 10/1/08                                                                 | Direct loans: Contact the Direct Loan Servicing Center at 1-800-848-0983  
FFEL loans: Contact the Direct Loan Servicing Center at 1-800-848-0983 to discuss consolidating your loan(s) into the Direct Loan Program so you can take advantage of this benefit                                                                 |
| Federal Perkins Loan Cancellation          | Up to 100 percent of your federal student loan can be cancelled, depending upon your years of service (Check with individual military branches for details) | • Service must qualify for special pay under Sec. 310 of Title 37 of U.S. Code as an area of hostilities*  
• Available to borrowers who complete a full year of qualifying military service beginning on or after 8/14/08  
Note: If you completed qualifying service before 8/14/08, you are eligible for up to 50 percent loan cancellation | Direct loans: Contact the Direct Loan Servicing Center at 1-800-848-0983 to find out what documentation to submit  
FFEL loans: Contact your loan servicer(s) to find out what documentation to submit                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Public Service Loan Forgiveness            | Discharge of any remaining balance on Direct loans (if you have FFEL loans, you may consolidate into a Direct loan to secure this benefit) | • You must serve 10 years of full-time employment in certain public service positions (including military service) and make 120 payments on your Direct loan, after which your loan will be discharged  
• Payments made prior to 10/1/07, or any payments on a non-Direct loan, do not count toward the 120-payment requirement | Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov  
• Click “Repay Your Loans” on the left  
• Click “Public Service Loan Forgiveness” on the left                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Total and Permanent Disability Discharge   | Total discharge of your federal student loan                                           | • Must provide the loan servicer(s) with documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certifying you are unemployable due to a service-connected condition  
• Applies to all federal student loans under the Direct, FFEL and Perkins programs as well as service obligations as a result of receiving a TEACH Grant                                                                                                                                                                                                 | For more details and for a Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Application:  
• Visit www.disabilitydischarge.com  
• Click “For Veterans”                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

*For an updated listing of hostile fire/imminent danger pay areas, visit www.dod.mil/comptroller/fmr/07a/index.html. Click on the “Special Pay – Duty Subject to Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger” link then scroll through the document until you find a listing of countries included.

For more information

Many branches of the military offer education benefits, loan repayment and forgiveness programs. For details, visit www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/education_and_training or contact:

- Army—www.goarmy.com (1-800-USA-ARMY)
- Army National Guard—www.1800ogoguard.com or www.ang.army.mil (1-800-GO-GUARD)
- Air Force—www.airforce.com (1-800-423-USAF)
- Air Force Reserve—www.afreserve.com
- Air National Guard—www.ang.af.mil (1-800-TO-GO-ANG)
- Coast Guard—www.gocostguard.com (1-877-NOW-USCG)
- Coast Guard Reserve—www.uscg.mil/reserve
- Marines—www.marines.com (1-800-MARINES)
- U.S. Merchant Marine—www.usmma.edu (1-866-546-4778)
- Marine Forces Reserve—www.marines.mil/unit/marforres
- Navy—www.navy.com (1-800-USA-NAVY)
- Naval Reserve Force—www.navyreserve.com

ABOUT ECMC

Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) is a nonprofit company providing services in support of higher education finance. We work to support college access and success, and we provide students with tools and resources for planning and paying for college. The ECMC Personal Finance Management Series is designed to help you make informed decisions about your financial future.

www.ecmc.org  0112-01