New Financial Aid Policy for the 21-22 Academic Year
Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement Requirement

Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, all student loan borrowers will be required to review how much they owe in federal student loans and to acknowledge the amount borrowed on a yearly basis. This acknowledgment, known as the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement Requirement Process, is mandated for all first-time federal student loan borrowers and those with existing federal student loans. It will be required for all Direct Loan borrowers who have accepted one of the following loans for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Direct Subsidized Loan
- Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Direct PLUS Loan

The Office of Financial Aid will not be able to post anticipated aid, or disburse loan funds, to student billing accounts if the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement is not completed.

Note: The Annual Loan Acknowledgment Requirement does not fulfill entrance loan counseling or PLUS credit counseling (required for certain PLUS Loan borrowers). For a Direct PLUS loan made to a parent borrower, only the parent (not student) is required to complete the annual loan acknowledgment.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?

The Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement is an online session that will allow students and parents to see how much they have borrowed, preview what their monthly payments might be, and explain concepts such as capitalization and the difference between federal and private loans.

When does the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment become mandatory?

Starting with the 2021-2022 school year, borrowers of Federal Subsidized, Unsubsidized and PLUS loans will be required to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement once each academic year before receiving disbursement of their loan.

Can I complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement now?

Yes. The U.S. Department of Education has made the Annual Student loan acknowledgement available now, but it is not required until the 2021-2022 award year.

How will I complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?

When a student is packaged with a Federal Direct Loan, the Office of Financial Aid will notify the student (or parent) of his or her requirement to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement. The notification will include a link where the borrower will use their FSA ID and password to complete the acknowledgement.
How many times will I be required to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement during the same award year?

Borrowers are only required to complete the acknowledgement once during the award year.

How long does it take to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?

For most borrowers the average time to complete the acknowledgement is ten minutes or less.

Do I have to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment even though I have existing federal student loans?

Yes. Students with existing federal student loans must acknowledge that they understand their repayment obligation, including amount owed, loan limits, and servicer information.

What is a first-time borrower?

A first-time borrower is a person who has no current Direct Loan balance (subsidized or unsubsidized) with the U.S. Department of Education.

I’m a first-time borrower. Do I have to complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?

Yes. First time-borrowers are required to acknowledge that they understand their responsibility to repay loan debt.

I’m a first-time borrower. Do I have to complete Entrance Loan Counseling too?

Yes. The U.S. Department of Education requires first-time borrowers to complete Entrance Loan Counseling and the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment. There are no exceptions.

What happens if I do not complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?

Borrowers who do not complete the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement will not be able to receive their federal Direct Loans (subsidized or unsubsidized), or Direct PLUS Loans.

1. For some students this may result in an owing balance to the College.
2. Students may not be eligible for book vouchers because they will not have enough financial aid funds credited to their student billing accounts to warrant the processing of a voucher.

I am transferring to Charter Oak and already completed the 2021-2022 Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment at my former school, do I need to complete it again for Charter Oak?

No. Transfer students who have previously completed a 2021-2022 Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment will not need to complete a new acknowledgment. The Office of Financial Aid will validate that an acknowledgment is on file with the U.S. Department of Education.

I am a parent who has borrowed a Direct PLUS Loan for my eligible student. Who completes the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement?

For a Direct PLUS loan made to a parent borrower, only the parent (not student) is required to complete the annual loan acknowledgment.