HOW DO I GET MY LOANS FORGIVEN?
Federal and state programs that offer student loan repayment or forgiveness usually require that you work in a high-need area. These programs also require that you commit to working in that field or location for a specific time.

IS FORGIVENESS GUARANTEED?
No. Some loan forgiveness programs are highly competitive—as few as 1 in 10 applicants might be selected. Meeting the basic eligibility requirements does not guarantee that you will receive an award.

DO THE REQUIREMENTS CHANGE?
Yes. Areas defined as high-need change regularly. In education, for instance, shortage areas are determined every year, and some subjects might fall off the list. Do not choose a major based on loan forgiveness that might be available when you graduate. Choose a major and career that suit your skills and interests. Then, when the time comes, ask about forgiveness programs.

ARE THESE PROGRAMS TAXABLE?
Depending on how money is disbursed, some loan forgiveness benefits might be taxable. Get in touch with a tax adviser about your situation.

WORRIED ABOUT PAYING OFF STUDENT LOAN DEBT?
Depending on your job, help might be available. The state of Iowa offers five programs to help health care professionals and teachers pay off some or all of their student loans. Programs also exist at the federal level for health care professionals, teachers, and public servants.

All of these programs are intended to recruit college graduates into high-need professions. Teacher programs, for instance, might be available if you teach a certain subject. Health care programs often require that you work in a specific location, usually rural.

Only federal loans qualify for federal and state forgiveness and repayment programs, although you might be able to refinance after you qualify without losing your eligibility. You will not qualify for forgiveness or repayment unless you are in good standing on your student loans.
FEDERAL PROGRAMS

NURSE CORPS
• Work for two years at a critical shortage facility
• Maximum award: 60 percent of recipient’s qualifying loan balance
• Details at hrsa.gov

FEDERAL TEACHER LOAN FORGIVENESS
• Teach full-time for five consecutive academic years in a low-income school
• Details at studentaid.ed.gov

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT FORGIVENESS PROGRAM
• Full-time employee at a qualifying public service organization
• Remaining balance on Federal Direct Loan after 120 on-time full, monthly payments
• Details at studentaid.ed.gov

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
• Permits federal agencies to repay federal student loans as a recruitment or retention incentive
• Details at opm.gov

ATTORNEY STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
• Three-year commitment to serve Department of Justice
• Matches payments made by attorney up to $6,000 per year
• Lifetime max: $60,000
• Details at justice.gov

IOWA PROGRAMS

RURAL IOWA PRIMARY CARE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
• Student recommended by Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine or University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
• Practice full-time in a specified Iowa community for a minimum of five years
• Maximum award: $200,000, paid over five years
• Details at IowaCollegeAid.gov

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT PROGRAM
• Des Moines University graduate
• Osteopathic doctor, physician assistant, podiatrist, or physical therapist
• Maximum award: $50,000, paid over four years
• Application: Health Professional Recruitment Program Application by March 31
• Details at IowaCollegeAid.gov

HEALTH CARE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
• Registered nurse, nurse educator, physician assistant or advanced registered nurse practitioner
• Maximum award: The lesser of $6,000 or 20 percent of recipient’s total outstanding federal student loan balance
• Up to five years
• Application: Iowa Financial Aid Application by March 31
• Details at IowaCollegeAid.gov

TEACH IOWA SCHOLAR
• Graduated on or after January 1, 2013
• Top 25 percent of graduates*
• Maximum award: $4,000 a year
• Up to five years
• Application: Teach Iowa Scholar Program Application by November 20
• Details at IowaCollegeAid.gov

*Must be in the top 25 percent academically of all teacher preparation program graduates during an academic year.

RURAL IOWA VETERINARIAN LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
• Sign an agreement while in the final year of, or within five years of completion of, a doctor of veterinary medicine degree program
• Work in a veterinary shortage area or rural service commitment area
• Maximum award: $60,000, paid over four years
• Details at IowaCollegeAid.gov

RURAL IOWA PRIMARY CARE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
• Student recommended by Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine or University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine
• Practice full-time in a specified Iowa community for a minimum of five years
• Maximum award: $200,000, paid over five years
• Details at IowaCollegeAid.gov

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT PROGRAM
• Des Moines University graduate
• Osteopathic doctor, physician assistant, podiatrist, or physical therapist
• Maximum award: $50,000, paid over four years
• Application: Health Professional Recruitment Program Application by March 31
• Details at IowaCollegeAid.gov

HEALTH CARE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
• Registered nurse, nurse educator, physician assistant or advanced registered nurse practitioner
• Maximum award: The lesser of $6,000 or 20 percent of recipient’s total outstanding federal student loan balance
• Up to five years
• Application: Iowa Financial Aid Application by March 31
• Details at IowaCollegeAid.gov