

A borrower's rights and responsibilities.

A Master Promissory Note (MPN) is a contract. When you borrow federal money for college, signing an MPN enters you into a formal agreement to repay that money.

Like with any contract, it is important to know what signing your MPN means. For you, it means that you have rights when it comes to managing your student loans—and also certain responsibilities.

Your rights.

As a federal student loan borrower, you are entitled to options that can help you manage the debt you incurred to pursue your education.

- Depending on your financial situation and other criteria, you may be able to decrease your payments by selecting a different repayment option.
- You also may have the option of postponing your payments with a deferment or forbearance.
- And, under certain circumstances, you may be able to cancel or lower your debt with loan discharge or forgiveness.

Your responsibilities.

Simply put, you are responsible for repaying your loan—whether or not you finish your education or are satisfied with your education.

You also must know when you need to start repaying your loan and when payments are expected from you. Prepare for repayment by gathering all your loan information.

Even if you do not receive a bill or repayment notice, you are expected to make payments. So, make sure you update your lender with your current address every time you move.

In addition to changing your address, you must notify your lender and school if you:

- Change your telephone number or email address.
- Change your name (e.g., maiden name to married name).
- Withdraw from school or begin attending less than half of the time.
- Transfer from one school to another.
- Change your employer, or if your employer's address or telephone number changes.
- Have any other change in status that would affect your loan (e.g., if you find a job and become ineligible for an unemployment deferment).

You must also notify your school's financial aid office if you:

- Change your telephone number or email address.
- Change your name (e.g., maiden name to married name).