



Unified Student Loan Policy

Policy Changes Approved

Batch 220: Proposals 1331

The nation's guarantors provide the following summaries to inform schools, lenders, and servicers of the latest *Common Manual* policy changes. These changes will appear in the manual's next annual update. These changes will also be incorporated into the *Integrated Common Manual*. The *Integrated Common Manual* is available on several guarantor websites, and it is also available on the *Common Manual's* website at <http://commonmanual.org>. Please carefully note the effective date of each policy change.

Automatic VA TPD Determinations by the Department

The *Common Manual* has been updated to incorporate the regulatory change to the total and permanent disability eligibility criteria for veteran borrowers, published in the November 26, 2019 *Federal Register*. The regulation in §682.402(c)(9)(xiii) now states that the Department will consider a borrower for whom data is obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs showing that the borrower is totally and permanently disabled, as defined in paragraph (2) of the definition of that term in §682.200(b)(2), to be eligible for discharge and will not require additional documentation to discharge the borrower's loans. The change is effective July 1, 2020, but the Department is using its authority to designate the change for early implementation, meaning it is effective on the date of publication in the *Federal Register*. The Manual was also revised to list the automatic discharge process as the primary way for veteran's with student loan debt to receive a total and permanent discharge, but maintains the application submission process for borrowers not identified through the automatic process.

Affected Section(s):	13.8.G Total and Permanent Disability
Effective Date:	Automatic VA TPD discharge determinations made by the Department on or after November 26, 2019.
Basis:	Interim/Final Rule (84 FR 65000) published on November 26, 2019.
Policy Information:	1331/Batch 220
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Batch 221: Proposals 1332

Cancer Treatment Deferment

The *Common Manual* has been updated to include information about the cancer treatment deferment that became part of the Higher Education Act (HEA) in 2018, through Public Law 115-245, and implemented by the Department in 2019.

Affected Section(s):	11.1.D Payment of Interest during Deferment Figure 11-1 Deferment Eligibility Chart 11.4 Cancer Treatment Deferment Figure 11-2 Forbearance Eligibility Chart 11.22.A Loans Ineligible for Cancer Treatment Deferment
-----------------------------	---

Effective Date: Direct loans made on or after September 28, 2018, or FFELP or Direct loans in repayment on or before September 28, 2018. FFELP or Direct loans in-school or in grace on September 28, 2018 are not eligible for the deferment.

Basis: Public Law 115-245, signed into law on September 28, 2018; HEA Sections 427(a)(2)(C), 428(b)(1)(M), and 428H(e)(2); Electronic Announcement issued by the Department on August 22, 2019; private letter guidance from Ian Foss (FSA) dated December 20, 2019, and from Jon Utz (FSA) dated March 3, 2020; industry-developed CTD Fact Sheet distributed by NCHER.

Policy Information: 1332/Batch 221

Guarantor Comments: None.