



Unified Student Loan Policy

Policy Changes Approved

Batch 227: Proposals 1339 & 1340

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. The *Common Manual* is available on several guarantor websites, and also available on the *Common Manual's* website at <http://commonmanual.org>. Please carefully note the effective date of each policy change.

False Certification Discharge

The Manual is revised to incorporate regulatory changes made to the false certification rules through the Final Rule published on November 1, 2022. Specifically, these revisions:

- Remove ability to benefit certifications made by a school as qualifying a borrower for false certification discharge.
- Add eligibility for false certification discharge based on a school certifying a student who reported not having a high school diploma or its equivalent and did not satisfy the alternative to graduation from high school requirements outlined in the Higher Education Act (HEA) and federal regulations.
- Add eligibility for false certification discharge based on a school certifying a student who was not a high school graduate based on a high school graduation status falsified by the school or a high school diploma falsified by the school or a third party to which the school referred the borrower.
- Add an additional 30 days for a borrower to amend an incomplete discharge application.
- Remove the requirement for a borrower applying for false certification based on a disqualifying condition to provide information about state legal requirements for employment and supporting documentation proving the borrower had the disqualifying status at the time the loan was certified or originated.
- Remove the requirement that a borrower provide signature samples when applying for discharge based on the school signing his or her name on the loan application or promissory note or signing the EFT or master check authorization without the borrower's permission.
- Remove the requirement that a borrower provide a copy of a local, state, or federal court verdict naming a perpetrator or alternative documentation when applying for false certification discharge based on a crime of identity theft.

The Manual is also revised to more clearly delineate the guarantor and lender actions based on the type of false certification being processed. Finally, the Manual is updated to amend and add regulatory citations where appropriate.

Affected Section(s):	13.8.D False Certification by the School 13.8.E False Certification as a Result of the Crime of Identify Theft
Effective Date:	False certification discharge applications received on or after July 1, 2023
Basis:	Final Rule (87 FR 65904) published November 1, 2022.
Policy Information:	227/1339
Guarantor Comments:	None.

Separating Joint Federal Consolidation Loans

The Manual has been updated to explain the Department's policy for borrowers who want to separate their joint (spousal) Federal Consolidation loans into separate Direct Consolidation loans. The new section provides general information on the eligibility criteria and determining the amounts of the individual Direct Consolidation loans.

Affected Section(s):	15.9 Separating Joint Federal Consolidation Loans
Effective Date:	Borrowers pursuing joint Federal Consolidation Loan separation on or after October 11, 2022
Basis:	Public Law (P.L.) 117-200, Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act, 2022, signed into law on October 11, 2022.
Policy Information:	227/1340
Guarantor Comments:	None.