



Student Loan Payback Program

is administered by the
Arkansas Department of Career Education's
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division
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<http://ace.arkansas.gov>
www.arsinfo.org

Student Loan Payback Program

**For students
graduating with a degree
in **Rehabilitation Counseling**
or for **Vocational Rehabilitation
Counselors** employed by the
**Arkansas Department of Career Education's
Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division****



**Benefits and
Incentives**

Student Loan Payback Program

The Arkansas Department of Career Education's Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Division's **Student Loan Payback Program** was established during the 2007 session of the Arkansas General Assembly. Its purpose is to provide an incentive to qualified vocational rehabilitation counselors who are considering employment with the State of Arkansas.

In accordance with guidelines issued by the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration, **ARS vocational counselors are required to have an approved master's degree in counseling or a related field, qualification as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, or be eligible to sit for the CRC exam.** In order to assist individuals in achieving these requirements, the student loan program offers assistance with repayment of loans incurred in pursuit of a master's in rehabilitation counseling, sociology, psychology, or a related field.

The Student Loan Payback Program is available to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' vocational counselors who have been determined eligible under the following rules.

- 1.** A counselor must complete the ARS six-month new-employee probationary period in order to be eligible to participate in the Program.
- 2.** An eligible counselor who wishes to apply to participate in the Program shall submit to Human Resources:
 - a.** A completed Student Loan Program Request form
 - b.** An original statement and/or correspondence from the student loan creditor, dated within 30 days of the request. The proof of loan document must indicate the original loan disbursement dates.

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- c.** A completed Student Loan Program Contract signed by the requesting counselor and his immediate supervisor. In the contract, the counselor will agree to:
 - i.** *Remain in the employ of ARS for a term that equals two (2) years for each year that the Program makes a payment on the counselor's student loan; and*
 - ii.** *Reimburse the Program the full amount of any loan payment(s) made under the Program in the event that the counselor resigns his position with ARS or is terminated by ARS for cause before the term of the contract expires.*
- 3.** A loan eligible for the Program must have been incurred in the pursuit of a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, psychology, sociology, or social work required for employment with ARS.
- 4.** The amount of payment(s) made directly to the counselor's student loan creditor may not exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per year.
- 5.** Cumulative loan payments made for any counselor may not exceed the lesser of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or the amount of the balance due on the loan.

Program rules, applications, contracts, and other information are available by contacting the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services' Alternative Financing Program/Student Loan Payback Program at 501-296-1600 for questions or further information, or by logging on to www.arsinfo.org.