

# PERKINS PROGRAM INFORMATION

## PERKINS LOANS

The Federal Perkins Loan Program provided low interest loans to help needy students finance the costs of postsecondary education. The Department of Education ended the Federal Perkins Loan Program on September 30, 2017. Therefore, GCU no longer awards Perkins monies to students. However, for those students who do have Perkins loans, here is the information on repayment.

### Perkins Repayment Information

A Perkins borrower is entitled to an initial 9-month grace period after he/she graduates or drops below half-time enrollment. During this grace period, the borrower is not required to make payments. If the borrower returns to school during his 9-month grace period he/she will receive another 9-month grace period. After the borrower's grace period ends, the borrower is responsible for making payments to his Perkins servicer. A Perkins borrower can contact his/her Perkins servicer to find out what he/she is required to pay.

If a borrower can't afford to make payments, the borrower may ask his Perkins servicer for a postponement of payments. There are two types of postponement: forbearance and deferment. Both temporarily stop payment obligations, but can be used at different times. A forbearance can be used at any time there is a financial hardship whereas a deferment must be used at specific times such as when one is unemployed, in school at least half-time, or in the military. All postponement requests must be approved by the servicer and have time limits.

A borrower is responsible for making payments immediately after an approved forbearance is completed. However, once an approved deferment is completed, the Perkins borrower will receive a 6-month post-deferment grace period prior to being responsible for making payments again.

A Perkins borrowers may also be eligible for Perkins loan cancellation if the borrower works in a qualified public service job. To find out more, the borrower should contact his/her Perkins servicer.

### Perkins Servicer- ECSI

As of 9/1/17, GCU's Perkins servicer is Heartland, ECSI. Your servicer handles all payment processing, postponement requests and cancelation requests.

Heartland, ECSI's contact information is:

**Website:** <https://heartland.ecsi.net>

**Phone:** 1-888-549-3274

**Fax:** 1-844-365-8099

**Payments:** PO Box 718, Wexford, PA 15090

**Entitlement Paperwork:** PO Box 1278, Wexford, PA 15090

**FedEx Address:** 100 Global View Dr, Warrendale, PA 15086

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## Perkins Account

Heartland, ECSI gives each Perkins borrower a Perkin's account. To access the Perkins account, borrowers can login to <https://heartland.ecsi.net>. Within the account, borrowers can make payments, check the status of their loan and see the details of their account. To log in to an account, borrowers will need a Heartland Key code. This will link the ECSI account to the login created by the borrower. If a Heartland Key is needed, contact Heartland, ECSI.

## Making Payments

Perkins payments are due the 10th of every month. ECSI accepts payments by:

Method	Heartland ECSI Fee
Mailing a paper check or money order	\$0
Recurring direct debit (checking or savings account) payments (ACH) <i>Authorized online, by phone, or by mobile app</i>	\$0
Bill pay service offered by your bank or another third party	\$0 <i>Other bill payment service fees may apply.</i>
Payments in other than U.S. dollars (international payments)	\$0 <i>Currency conversion or processing fees may vary.</i>
One-time credit or debit card payment <i>Authorized by mobile app</i>	3.95% of the payment amount + \$1 for each one-time payment you authorize
One-time credit or debit card payment <i>Authorized by phone</i>	3.95% of the payment amount + \$10 for each one-time payment you authorize
One-time direct debit (checking or savings account) payments (ACH) <i>Authorized online or by mobile app</i>	\$1.95