

University of Massachusetts Medical School

Learning Contract

Fact Sheet

All medical students can opt to defer 2/3 of their tuition in the form of a “Learning Contract” with the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Students can do this with or without applying for other financial aid. Here are some facts about the terms of the contract. More information can be found at our website, www.umassmed.edu/financialaid (click on UMMS Learning Contract on the left sidebar).

- No interest accrues (0% interest rate) until 6 months after leaving UMMS or the end of the first year of residency.
- After that, the Learning Contract functions like an 8%-interest loan that can be paid with **either** money or certain legislated service.
- May forbear payment throughout residency/medical fellowship.
- To qualify for Service payback, graduates must be practicing medicine in **one** of the following areas: **Primary Care, Underserved, Public Service, or Community Service**. For details, see the UMMS website.
- Currently, Hospitalists are not considered Primary Care.
- Graduates working less than full-time must work at least half-time, i.e., 20 hours/week.
- Graduates beginning, but not completing service payback must pay **all** deferred tuition and accrued interest with money.
- A borrower can switch from monetary payback to service payback when changing from non-qualified to qualified employment.
- Any funds collected during monetary payback will not be refunded if the borrower switches to service payback.
- Service must be fully completed (4 years full-time or part-time equivalent) for the Learning Contract to be forgiven **regardless** of how many years you accepted the annual obligation.
- When a leave of absence, not exceeding 3 months, is taken for maternity/paternity or sick leave, a comparable length of time will be added to the initial ending date of service payback.
- If not providing Service, payment is due six months after leaving UMMS or six months following completion of medical residency or fellowship, whichever is later.
- The Learning Contract is not a Federal Loan, and therefore is not eligible for a Federal Consolidation and cannot be used in determining eligibility for an Economic Hardship Deferment.
- If a student waives the Learning Contract annual obligation, he/she may replace that amount with Unsubsidized Stafford or Alternative education loan funds only.
- The Learning Contract is not a Federal Loan, and therefore is not eligible for forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program through the U.S. Department of Education.