

### **Consolidating Federal Loans**

Step 1: Find out the amounts of your federal loans

1. Go to [http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds\\_SA/](http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/)
2. Using your social security number, birth date, and FSA ID you can access a list of all federal loans.
3. Print or copy and save the list for reference

Step 2: Research consolidation options

1. Go to Direct Loan's consolidation information page to answer questions such as: Should I consolidate? How do I benefit? What loans can I consolidate? etc.  
<https://loanconsolidation.ed.gov/AppEntry/apply-online/appindex.jsp>
2. You may also refer to Great Lakes' consolidation information page  
<https://www.mygreatlakes.org/educate/knowledge-center/considering-consolidation.html>
3. Other consolidation choices include some banks and other lending institutions

Step 3: How to choose a consolidation option

1. When checking consolidation options be sure to compare interest rates, length of loan time, total repayment amount, repayment options, loan forgiveness clauses, and deferment/hardship options
2. Once you have picked a lender, complete all the necessary steps to consolidate your loans. Be sure to note the lender's customer service phone number for further questions.