

Timeline for Financial Aid Officers

The AAMC's Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools (FIRST) program provides a variety of resources and tools to help Financial Aid Officers (FAOs) support and guide medical students with managing their finances throughout the year. While each school has a unique academic calendar, the timeline below is provided to help FAO's in determining the optimal time to share resources and to serve as a framework for establishing a financial education and debt management program.

August

Medical school budgets can be tight and many incoming students may need guidance on how to navigate paying for medical school. The AAMC FIRST team can provide a "Money Management During Medical School" presentation to your first year students during orientation. Consider sharing our resources on borrowing wisely before the start of the semester and be sure to share information on the entire FIRST program to your incoming students.

September

Host the AAMC FIRST team to talk to your students about "Money Management During Medical School." This can be an event where all medical students are invited to learn about continuing to borrow wisely and manage their money.

October

Remind students that if they have any unused loan funds, they can return it to the lender through your office. Let them know this saves them interest that would have accrued on their loans. Promote the use of the [AAMC Financial Wellness](#) to increase engagement on the importance of managing finances during medical school.

November

Schedule your "Repayment Strategies" session for the spring with the AAMC FIRST team by emailing first@aamc.org. Offer individual counseling sessions to ensure students are prepared for the upcoming term and are budgeting accordingly. Share FIRST resources that can help students manage their funds more effectively if they are having a difficult time.

January

Continue to offer individual counseling sessions on money management. Encourage students to meet with the financial aid office to ensure their finances are in order before the term fully begins. Begin outreach to graduating medical students with loans regarding exit counseling requirements, promote sessions that will be offered in the coming months specifically available to your graduating medical students as they transition to residency.

February

Work with your Student Affairs team and other colleagues to make sure you have time to speak during the Transition to Residency Week that is scheduled. This may be the last time you are able to gather graduates before Match Day.

March

Distribute FIRST resources on repaying student loans and remind students to complete exit counseling online at studentaid.gov. Offer individual loan repayment counseling sessions for your graduating medical students. Share the MedLoans® Organizer and Calculator (MLOC) tool and encourage students to utilize this resource.

April

Host an event and continue offering individual counseling sessions for your graduating medical students to ensure they have all of their repayment questions answered before graduation. Have FIRST resources readily available to share with them (all are available on our [website](#)).

****Be sure to send out FIRST Webinar notifications each month as they are available from the AAMC FIRST team.***

Videos and Webinars

- [Upcoming Webinars](#)
- [Recorded Webinars and Videos](#)

Budgeting Resources

- [Budget Worksheet for Students](#)
- [Money Management](#) (fact sheets)
- [Understanding Your Schools Cost of Attendance](#)

Loan Repayment and Borrowing Wisely

- [Federal Direct Loans](#)
- [Understanding Your Borrowing Options](#)
- [All About Loans](#) (fact sheets)
- [Loan Repayment, Forgiveness, Scholarship, and Other Programs Database](#)

Additional Resources

- [Guide to Money Management and Student Loans](#)
- [AAMC Financial Wellness Program](#)
- [MedLoans® Organizer and Calculator](#)