



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FROM THE UTRGV FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

Beware of Student Debt Relief Scams:

On any given day, it's not unusual to hear promo pieces on local radio stations promising student loan debt relief. The serious monotone voice of the announcer instantly attracts your attention; much like an early warning system alert. The commercial makes promises that student loan borrowers can lower their payments and qualify for a loan forgiveness by calling a phone number. However, the one thing the advertisement does not mention is they will charge you a fee (and sometimes a hefty one) for their service; whether you actually qualify for these programs or not. Why pay these high fees when your current loan servicer can provide these same services *FREE OF CHARGE*?

Yes, it is true, the federal government has developed several programs that can help student loan borrowers lower their payments (ex. Income driven repayment plan, loan consolidation) and there are some loan forgiveness programs that can help reduce your overall loan debt (ex. Teacher Loan Forgiveness, Public Service Loan Forgiveness). To find out your options, *FREE OF CHARGE*, simply contact your loan servicer. If you are uncertain who your loan servicer is, please log on to www.nslds.ed.gov. You can also visit www.studentaid.gov for information regarding any of those options mentioned above.

Remember, your loan servicer(s) is not a debt collector. They were hired by the Department of Education to service your loan and help you manage your student loan debt. Visit their website or give them a call; they are there to help and most importantly they will provide their services *FREE OF CHARGE*. Remember, NEVER pay for a service that is free.

Default Management Office

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Ph# 956-665-2411

Email: manageyourloans@utrgv.edu

Website: www.utrgv.edu/manageyourloans