



## Important Federal Student Loan Update for Allied Health Students

Dear NJSHA members,

A significant temporary victory for students in the allied health professions!

A federal court has temporarily blocked the U.S. Department of Education's new, narrower definition of a "professional degree," which was scheduled to take effect on July 1. As a result, programs including **speech-language pathology, audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training** will continue to qualify as professional degree programs while the litigation proceeds.

This means eligible graduate students in these professions may continue to access the higher federal student loan limits available for professional degree programs—up to **\$200,000 in lifetime eligibility** (up to **\$50,000 per academic year**)—rather than the substantially lower graduate loan limits.

While this expansion is temporary and depends on the outcome of the ongoing court case, it is an important development that helps ensure students pursuing careers in essential health professions maintain access to critical financial support.

NJSHA will continue to monitor this issue and share updates as they become available.

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