

Average Loan Debt Information Cohorts Graduating 2015-2016

Average loan debt is measured in four separate and distinct cohorts:

- All students graduating in a given year who began at USF as a freshman
- All students graduating in a given year who began as a Transfer student
- All students graduating in a given year who received a Master's degree
- All students graduating in a given year who was in a Adult Degree Completion program

Freshman Cohort n=99/124 (80% of total graduating cohort borrowed)**

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt
Federal Student Loans	99 /80%	\$26,958
Federal Parent Loans	37 /30%	\$27,104

13 out of 124 (10%) students in this cohort borrowed from Alternative loan programs

- 60% of the students in the Freshman cohort received \$1,817,000 (average \$24,230) in federal and state grants over the course of their studies at USF
- 100% of the students in the Freshman cohort received USF controlled assistance totaling \$8,860,000 (average \$71,458) over the course of their studies at USF

Transfer Cohort n=175/197 (89% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	175/89%	\$25,180
Federal Parent Loans	60/30%	\$27,186

*Transfer cohort debt only includes loans borrowed while at USF

Graduate Cohort n=260/492 (53% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	260/53%	\$29,757

*Graduate cohort debt only includes loans borrowed as a Graduate student while at USF

Degree Completion Cohort n=46/100 (46% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	46/46%	\$23,959

*Degree Completion cohort debt only includes loans borrowed while at USF

Trend Information

Cohort	2009-2010	2011-2012	2013-2014	2015-2016
Freshman Federal Student	\$22,074	\$26,644	\$27,014	\$26,958
Freshman Federal PLUS	\$23,126	\$23,050	\$26,104	\$27,104
Transfer Federal Student	\$22,690	\$26,311	\$25,206	\$25,180
Transfer Federal PLUS	\$17,708	\$17,052	\$28,112	\$27,186
Graduate Federal Loan	\$23,751	\$28,828	\$32,601	\$29,757
Degree Completion Federal Loan	N/A	\$27,338	\$24,535	\$23,959

**The Ensured Continuing Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 (ECASLA) increased the annual loan limits for undergraduate students by \$2,000 on all loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2008.

Should I borrow or not borrow? Obviously, if you don't have to, don't borrow—that wouldn't make much sense. If you have to borrow though, there are some facts to be taken into consideration:

Unemployment rates for individuals 25 and over: +

- Without a high school diploma: 11.4%
- With a high school diploma: 7.2%
- With an Associate Degree: 5.0%
- With a Bachelor's Degree or higher: 3.6%

What's the best investment of \$102,000 (over the last 60 years)?: ++

Investment	Amount	Rate of Return
Bachelor's Degree	\$102,000	15.2% per year
Stock Market	\$102,000	6.8%
Corporate Bonds	\$102,000	2.9%
Gold	\$102,000	2.3%
Long-Term Government Bonds	\$102,000	2.2%
Housing	\$102,000	0.4%

(\$102,000 is a nation-wide average—your education at USF won't cost \$102,000.)

Lifetime Earnings +++ (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics—2012)

Group	Median Weekly Earnings	Median Yearly Earnings	Lifetime Earnings (Age 25 to 65)
Without a High School Diploma	\$451	\$23,452	\$938,080
High School Diploma	\$638	\$33,176	\$1,327,040
Some College—So Degree	\$719	\$37,388	\$1,495,520
Associate Degree	\$768	\$39,936	\$1,597,440
Bachelor's Degree	\$1,053	\$54,756	\$2,190,240

The figures listed above do not reflect normal percentage increases in wages/salaries from one year to another. One can see though, a person with a Bachelor's degree will earn approximately \$863,200 more than a person with just a high school diploma.

+ The Hamilton Project, June 2013

<http://www.hamiltonproject.org>

++ The Hamilton Project, June 2011

<http://www.hamiltonproject.org>

+++ The Official Blog of the U.S. Department of Education—Homeroom

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2012/12/the-economic-case-for-higher-education/>