

Average Loan Debt Information Cohorts Graduating 2016-2017

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=119/149 (80% of total graduating cohort borrowed)**

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt
Federal Student Loans	119 /80%	\$27,208
Federal Parent Loans	46 /31%	\$28,715

21 out of 149 (14%) students in this cohort borrowed from Alternative loan programs

- 71% of the students in the Freshman cohort received \$2,025,000 (average \$23,824) 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 \$10,453,000 (average \$70,154) over the course of their studies at USF

Transfer Cohort n=152/182 (84% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	152/84%	\$25,260
Federal Parent Loans	41/23%	\$28,854

*Transfer cohort debt only includes loans borrowed while at USF

Graduate Cohort n=298/548 (54% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	295/54%	\$31,143

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

Degree Completion Cohort n=35/65 (54% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	35/54%	\$22,702

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

Trend Information

Cohort	2009-2010	2011-2012	2013-2014	2015-2016	2016-2017
Freshman Federal Student	\$22,074	\$26,644	\$27,014	\$26,958	\$27,208
Freshman Federal PLUS	\$23,126	\$23,050	\$26,104	\$27,104	\$28,715
Transfer Federal Student	\$22,690	\$26,311	\$25,206	\$25,180	\$25,260
Transfer Federal PLUS	\$17,708	\$17,052	\$28,112	\$27,186	\$28,854
Graduate Federal Loan	\$23,751	\$28,828	\$32,601	\$29,757	\$31,143
Degree Completion Federal Loan	N/A	\$27,338	\$24,535	\$23,959	\$22,702

**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: 8.0%
- With a high school diploma: 5.4%
- With an Associate Degree: 3.8%
- With a Bachelor's Degree or higher: 2.8%

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—2015)

Group	Median Weekly Earnings	Median Yearly Earnings	Lifetime Earnings (Age 25 to 65)
Without a High School Diploma	\$493	\$25,636	\$1,025,440
High School Diploma	\$678	\$35,256	\$1,410,240
Some College—No Degree	\$728	\$38,376	\$1,535,040
Associate Degree	\$798	\$41,496	\$1,659,840
Bachelor's Degree	\$1,137	\$59,124	\$2,364,960

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 \$954,720 more than a person with just a high school diploma.

+ Bureau of Labor Statistics (2015 data)

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2016/data-on-display/education-matters.htm>

++ The Hamilton Project, June 2011

<http://www.hamiltonproject.org>