

Average Loan Debt Information Cohorts Graduating 2020-2021

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=130/176 (74% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt
Federal Student Loans	130/74%	\$29,452
Federal Parent Loans	48/27%	\$43,470
Alternative Loans	24/14%	\$30,643

Transfer Cohort n=193/248 (78% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	193/78%	\$23,895
Federal Parent Loans	60/24%	\$28,083
Alternative Loans	50/20%	\$27,313

**Transfer cohort debt only includes loans borrowed while at USF*

Graduate Cohort n=206/320 (64% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	206/64%	\$25,678
Alternative Loans	6/2%	\$9,287

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

Degree Completion Cohort n=41/83 (49% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	41/49%	\$18,915

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

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>