

Average Loan Debt Information Cohorts Graduating 2017-2018

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=141/148 (95% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt
Federal Student Loans	141/95%	\$26,448
Federal Parent Loans	58/39%	\$30,473
Alternative Loans	27/18%	\$24,465

**During their studies at USF 139/148 (94%) Freshmen received an average of \$71,382 in USF gift awards.*

**During their studies at USF 60/148 (41%) Freshmen received an average of \$16,506 in federal gift awards.*

**During their studies at USF 78/148 (53%) Freshmen received an average of \$14,982 in state gift awards.*

Transfer Cohort n=170/177 (96% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	170/96%	\$23,572
Federal Parent Loans	53/30%	\$26,684
Alternative Loans	30/17%	\$26,291

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

Graduate Cohort n=290/543 (53% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	290/53%	\$31,587

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

Degree Completion Cohort n=51/92 (55% of total graduating cohort borrowed)

Loan Type	# Borrowers / %Cohort	Average Debt*
Federal Student Loans	51/55%	\$25,174

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

Trend Information

Cohort	2013-2014	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Freshman Federal Student	\$27,014	\$26,958	\$27,208	\$26,448
Freshman Federal PLUS	\$26,104	\$27,104	\$28,715	\$30,473
Transfer Federal Student	\$25,206	\$25,180	\$25,260	\$23,572
Transfer Federal PLUS	\$28,112	\$27,186	\$28,854	\$26,684
Graduate Federal Loan	\$32,601	\$29,757	\$31,143	\$31,587
Degree Completion Federal Loan	\$24,535	\$23,959	\$22,702	\$25,174

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>