

# Student Loan Game Plan

## Your Choices. Your Success.



## Student's Guide to Borrowing Levels by Major

When you're reviewing your financial aid award letter and applying for a loan, think about the total amount of money you will borrow for all your years in college and especially how that total loan amount will relate to your expected starting salary. Follow these steps to make the right choices for you.

1. **Find your major and the associated average starting salary** earned by graduates with a bachelor's degree in that specific college major<sup>1</sup>. If your major is not listed, the one that is the most similar to your chosen major will give you a good estimate.
2. **Look at the maximum student loan range.** The suggested maximum cumulative student loan amounts include federal student loans with future monthly payments<sup>2</sup> of 8% to 12% of monthly gross starting salaries and some borrowing through private student loans. Borrowing more than these amounts over your college career could make it difficult to repay your student loans after you graduate.

Agriculture and Natural Resources	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Agricultural Economics	\$32,064	\$23,782	\$35,673
Agriculture Production and Management	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Animal Sciences	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Food Science	\$32,064	\$23,782	\$35,673
Forestry	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
General Agriculture	\$26,052	\$19,323	\$28,984
Miscellaneous Agriculture	\$20,040	\$14,864	\$22,296
Natural Resources Management	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Plant Science and Agronomy	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Soil Science	\$31,062	\$23,039	\$34,558

Arts	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Commercial Art and Graphic Design	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Drama and Theater Arts	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755
Film, Video and Photographic Arts	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Fine Arts	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Miscellaneous Fine Arts	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Music	\$23,046	\$17,093	\$25,640
Studio Arts	\$20,040	\$14,864	\$22,296
Visual and Performing Arts	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755

<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample File. Starting salary data is based on 15th percentile salary information (inflation-adjusted to 2013 dollars) for U.S. civilians with a highest academic degree of a bachelor's degree, age 18 – 64 (inclusive), who work full-time and full-year.

<sup>2</sup> Assumes an average interest rate of 7.00% and an average loan term of 15 years.

## Biology and Life Science

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Biochemical Sciences	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Biology	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Botany	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Cognitive Science and Biopsychology	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Ecology	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Environmental Science	\$26,052	\$19,323	\$28,984
Genetics	\$23,046	\$17,093	\$25,640
Microbiology	\$34,068	\$25,268	\$37,903
Miscellaneous Biology	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Molecular Biology	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Neuroscience	\$23,046	\$17,093	\$25,640
Pharmacology	\$32,064	\$23,782	\$35,673
Physiology	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Zoology	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444

## Business

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Accounting	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Actuarial Science	\$40,080	\$29,728	\$44,591
Business Economics	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Business Management and Administration	\$32,064	\$23,782	\$35,673
Finance	\$36,072	\$26,755	\$40,132
General Business	\$32,064	\$23,782	\$35,673
Hospitality Management	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Human Resources and Personnel Management	\$31,062	\$23,039	\$34,558
International Business	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Management Information Systems and Statistics	\$42,084	\$31,214	\$46,821
Marketing and Marketing Research	\$32,064	\$23,782	\$35,673
Miscellaneous Business and Medical Administration	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Operations Logistics and E-Commerce	\$36,072	\$26,755	\$40,132

## Communications and Journalism

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Advertising and Public Relations	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Communications	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Journalism	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Mass Media	\$26,052	\$19,323	\$28,984

## Computers and Mathematics

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Applied Mathematics	\$45,090	\$33,444	\$50,165
Communication Technologies	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755
Computer Administration, Management and Security	\$33,066	\$24,525	\$36,788
Computer and Information Systems	\$37,074	\$27,498	\$41,247
Computer Engineering	\$50,100	\$37,159	\$55,739
Computer Networking and Telecommunications	\$34,068	\$25,268	\$37,903
Computer Programming and Data Processing	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Computer Science	\$40,080	\$29,728	\$44,591
Information Sciences	\$40,080	\$29,728	\$44,591
Mathematics	\$32,064	\$23,782	\$35,673
Mathematics and Computer Science	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214

## Education

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Art and Music Education	\$26,052	\$19,323	\$28,984
Early Childhood Education	\$22,044	\$16,350	\$24,525
Educational Administration and Supervision	\$29,058	\$21,553	\$32,329
Elementary Education	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
General Education	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Language and Drama Education	\$26,052	\$19,323	\$28,984
Library Science	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Mathematics Teacher Education	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Miscellaneous Education	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Physical and Health Education Teaching	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
School Student Counseling	\$20,040	\$14,864	\$22,296
Science and Computer Teacher Education	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Secondary Teacher Education	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Social Science or History Teacher Education	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Special Needs Education	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Teacher Education: Multiple Levels	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099

<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Aerospace Engineering	\$50,100	\$37,159	\$55,739
Architectural Engineering	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Architecture	\$34,068	\$25,268	\$37,903
Biological Engineering	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Biomedical Engineering	\$36,072	\$26,755	\$40,132
Chemical Engineering	\$45,090	\$33,444	\$50,165
Civil Engineering	\$46,092	\$34,187	\$51,280
Electrical Engineering	\$50,100	\$37,159	\$55,739
Electrical Engineering Technology	\$40,080	\$29,728	\$44,591
Engineering and Industrial Management	\$40,080	\$29,728	\$44,591
Engineering Mechanics, Physics and Science	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Engineering Technologies	\$31,062	\$23,039	\$34,558
Environmental Engineering	\$43,086	\$31,957	\$47,936
General Engineering	\$36,072	\$26,755	\$40,132
Geological and Geophysical Engineering	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering	\$41,082	\$30,471	\$45,706
Industrial Production Technologies	\$43,086	\$31,957	\$47,936
Materials Engineering and Materials Science	\$42,084	\$31,214	\$46,821
Mechanical Engineering	\$49,098	\$36,416	\$54,624
Mechanical Engineering Related Technologies	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Metallurgical Engineering	\$60,120	\$44,591	\$66,887
Mining and Mineral Engineering	\$73,146	\$54,253	\$81,379
Miscellaneous Engineering	\$37,074	\$27,498	\$41,247
Miscellaneous Engineering Technologies	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering	\$50,100	\$37,159	\$55,739
Nuclear Engineering	\$57,114	\$42,362	\$63,543
Petroleum Engineering	\$69,138	\$51,280	\$76,920

<b>Health</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Communication Disorders Sciences and Services	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755
Community and Public Health	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
General Medical and Health Services	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Health and Medical Administrative Services	\$31,062	\$23,039	\$34,558
Health and Medical Preparatory Programs	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Medical Assisting Services	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Medical Technologies Technicians	\$37,074	\$27,498	\$41,247
Miscellaneous Health Medical Professions	\$29,058	\$21,553	\$32,329
Nursing	\$40,080	\$29,728	\$44,591
Nutrition Sciences	\$26,052	\$19,323	\$28,984
Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration	\$48,096	\$35,673	\$53,510
Treatment Therapy Professions	\$31,062	\$23,039	\$34,558

## Humanities and Liberal Arts

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Anthropology and Archeology	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755
Area Ethnic and Civilization Studies	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Art History and Criticism	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Composition and Speech	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
English Language and Literature	\$26,052	\$19,323	\$28,984
Foreign Language Studies	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
History	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Humanities	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755
Intercultural and International Studies	\$23,046	\$17,093	\$25,640
Liberal Arts	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Linguistics and Comparative Language and Literature	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Multi- and Interdisciplinary Studies	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Other Foreign Languages	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755
Philosophy and Religious Studies	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Physical Fitness, Parks, Recreation and Leisure	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Theology and Religious Vocations	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755
United States History	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444

## Industrial Arts and Consumer Services

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Construction Services	\$40,080	\$29,728	\$44,591
Cosmetology Services and Culinary Arts	\$20,040	\$14,864	\$22,296
Electrical and Mechanic Repairs and Technologies	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Family and Consumer Sciences	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Military Technologies	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Transportation Sciences and Technologies	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017

## Law and Public Policy

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Court Reporting	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Criminal Justice and Fire Protection	\$29,058	\$21,553	\$32,329
Pre-Law and Legal Studies	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Public Administration	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
Public Policy	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444

## Physical Sciences

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Astronomy and Astrophysics	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology	\$34,068	\$25,268	\$37,903
Chemistry	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Geology and Earth Science	\$32,064	\$23,782	\$35,673
Geosciences	\$33,066	\$24,525	\$36,788
Materials Science	\$40,080	\$29,728	\$44,591
Multi-Disciplinary or General Science	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Nuclear, Industrial Radiology and Biological Technologies	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Oceanography	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755
Physical Sciences	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Physics	\$31,062	\$23,039	\$34,558

## Psychology and Social Work

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Clinical Psychology	\$27,054	\$20,066	\$30,099
Counseling Psychology	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Educational Psychology	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Human Services and Community Organization	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Industrial and Organizational Psychology	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Miscellaneous Psychology	\$24,048	\$17,837	\$26,755
Psychology	\$25,050	\$18,580	\$27,870
Social Psychology	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Social Work	\$26,052	\$19,323	\$28,984

## Social Sciences

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range for All Undergraduate Years	
		8%	12%
Criminology	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Economics	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017
General Social Sciences	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Geography	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences	\$29,058	\$21,553	\$32,329
International Relations	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Miscellaneous Social Sciences	\$36,072	\$26,755	\$40,132
Political Science and Government	\$30,060	\$22,296	\$33,444
Sociology	\$28,056	\$20,809	\$31,214
Statistics and Decision Science	\$35,070	\$26,012	\$39,017