

Student Debt for College Graduates in California

To enroll and complete a degree, students must be able to afford college without risky levels or types of debt.

In 2018-19, **48 percent** of California college graduates had student loan debt.

The average debt load of a California college graduate in 2018-19 was **\$21,485**, placing the state **fourth lowest** nationally on this measure.

14 percent of California college graduates' student loan debt was private, nonfederal debt that is often costlier and carries fewer consumer protections than federal debt.



College Costs and Student Debt Figures for California Four-Year Colleges (2018-19)

College	Total College Cost	Tuition and Fees	Bachelor's Degree Recipients	Percent of Graduates with Debt	Average Debt of Graduates	Share of Debt that is Nonfederal
California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo	\$28,302	\$9,816	5,151	41%	\$22,411	9%
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona	\$28,891	\$7,353	4,796	52%	\$21,730	9%
California State University-Bakersfield	\$26,009	\$7,309	2,129	45%	\$18,941	4%
California State University-Chico	\$24,624	\$7,608	4,184	40%	\$5,894	9%
California State University-Dominguez Hills	\$23,722	\$6,942	3,165	38%	\$14,585	2%
California State University-Fresno	\$21,418	\$6,587	4,849	40%	\$15,181	3%
California State University-Long Beach	\$24,738	\$6,798	8,572	47%	\$18,686	6%
California State University-Los Angeles	\$26,139	\$6,749	5,739	78%	\$13,458	5%
California State University-Sacramento	\$26,454	\$7,310	7,310	53%	\$23,460	5%
California State University-San Bernardino	\$23,878	\$6,922	4,252	56%	\$18,294	3%
California State University-San Marcos	\$25,325	\$7,713	3,585	53%	\$23,725	8%
California State University-Stanislaus	\$21,886	\$7,072	2,299	49%	\$17,952	6%
San Diego State University	\$29,318	\$7,488	7,932	44%	\$21,172	14%
San Francisco State University	\$27,480	\$7,260	6,356	28%	\$5,928	0%
San Jose State University	\$29,193	\$7,796	6,794	44%	\$18,225	1%
Sonoma State University	\$26,626	\$7,798	2,346	53%	\$21,594	11%
University of California-Berkeley	\$38,066	\$14,184	8,727	32%	\$19,773	22%
University of California-Davis	\$35,177	\$14,402	7,993	46%	\$18,985	11%
University of California-Irvine	\$34,261	\$13,700	8,063	50%	\$19,597	11%
University of California-Los Angeles	\$34,620	\$13,226	8,561	40%	\$21,441	13%
University of California-Riverside	\$35,242	\$13,827	4,520	62%	\$20,779	8%
University of California-San Diego	\$32,838	\$14,167	7,609	41%	\$20,536	14%
University of California-Santa Barbara	\$36,659	\$14,391	5,882	51%	\$18,995	8%
University of California-Santa Cruz	\$36,217	\$13,960	4,395	56%	\$21,375	8%
University of Southern California	\$74,825	\$56,225	5,166	31%	\$28,434	29%

Public and nonprofit colleges and universities awarding 18 percent of the IPEDS-reported state's bachelor's degrees in 2018-19 did not voluntarily report student debt data, and are not included in the state average. Table includes the 25 colleges that awarded the greatest number of bachelor's degrees in 2018-19. For more on debt data sources and limitations, see [Student Debt and the Class of 2019](#).