

# Student Debt for College Graduates in Illinois



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

In 2019-20, **57 percent** of Illinois college graduates had student loan debt.

The average debt load of an Illinois college graduate in 2019-20 was **\$28,552**.

**Twenty-two percent** of Illinois college graduates' student loan debt was nonfederal debt that is often costlier and carries fewer consumer protection than federal debt. The largest component of this nonfederal debt is private student loans—debt that students borrow from banks and private lenders. In Illinois, **10 percent** of college graduates had private student debt, with an average private debt load of **\$32,338** among these borrowers.

**Fifty-one percent** of Illinois college graduates attended public colleges, while the remaining **49 percent** of graduates attended private nonprofit colleges, where costs and debt among graduates are typically higher than public colleges.

## College Costs and Student Debt Figures for Illinois Four-Year Colleges (2019-20)

College	Average Debt of Graduates	Percent of Graduates With Debt	Average Private Debt of Graduates	Percent of Graduates With Private Debt	Bachelor's Degree Recipients	Total College Cost	Tuition and Fees
Augustana College (NP)	\$35,212	72%	\$40,442	17%	594	\$43,610	\$56,700
Aurora University (NP)	\$26,295	72%	\$21,232	13%	985	\$25,060	\$38,798
Benedictine University (NP)	\$30,182	84%	\$24,812	14%	741	\$34,290	\$50,006
Columbia College Chicago (NP)	\$9,805	1%	\$18,102	1%	1,379	\$27,756	\$48,212
DePaul University (NP)	\$30,330	65%	\$40,868	11%	3,311	\$41,202	\$59,406
Eastern Illinois University (P)	\$29,483	76%	\$26,592	15%	1,170	\$11,989	\$24,653
Elmhurst College (NP)	\$29,432	69%	\$27,634	13%	697	\$37,754	\$52,049
Illinois Institute of Technology (NP)	\$31,205	50%	\$42,972	7%	623	\$49,280	\$68,262
Illinois State University (P)	\$30,588	68%	\$33,146	19%	4,566	\$14,832	\$31,124

College	Average Debt of Graduates	Percent of Graduates With Debt	Average Private Debt of Graduates	Percent of Graduates With Private Debt	Bachelor's Degree Recipients	Total College Cost	Tuition and Fees
Lewis University (NP)	\$35,013	77%	\$36,798	25%	1,146	\$33,430	\$47,980
Loyola University Chicago (NP)	\$33,898	64%	\$48,825	14%	3,253	\$45,543	\$63,123
Moody Bible Institute (NP)	\$21,781	36%	\$19,022	19%	512	\$13,290	\$29,398
North Central College (NP)	\$34,534	72%	\$31,599	17%	691	\$40,040	\$54,326
Northeastern Illinois University (P)	\$11,355	70%	\$5,783	3%	1,397	\$11,462	\$30,689
Northern Illinois University (P)	\$33,837	74%	\$29,617	15%	3,177	\$14,610	\$28,980
Northwestern University (NP)	\$35,219	30%	\$38,388	3%	2,202	\$56,691	\$78,654
Olivet Nazarene University (NP)	\$32,064	77%	\$27,684	18%	741	\$37,070	\$48,770
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (P)	\$30,391	67%	\$27,131	14%	2,588	\$14,904	\$29,567
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (P)	\$23,965	56%	\$23,234	11%	2,558	\$12,219	\$25,921
University of Chicago (NP)	\$26,560	13%	\$61,617	3%	1,527	\$60,552	\$81,531
University of Illinois at Chicago (P)	\$22,440	58%	\$30,233	8%	4,530	\$13,874	\$31,381
University of Illinois at Springfield (P)	\$23,769	61%	\$24,546	6%	619	\$11,813	\$25,473
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (P)	\$24,766	45%	\$35,055	5%	8,444	\$15,122	\$30,302
Western Illinois University (P)	\$28,544	66%	\$25,335	11%	1,644	\$13,256	\$26,548
Wheaton College (NP)	\$30,663	36%	\$19,721	26%	559	\$37,700	\$51,130

"P" indicates a public institution and "NP" indicates a private nonprofit institution.

Table includes the 25 colleges that awarded the greatest number of bachelor's degrees in 2019-20.

Public and nonprofit colleges and universities awarding 12 percent of the IPEDS-reported state's bachelor's degrees in 2019-20 did not voluntarily report student debt data, and are not included in the state average. For more on debt data sources and limitations, see Student Debt and the Class of 2020.