

Student Debt for College Graduates in Massachusetts

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

In 2019-20, **56 percent** of Massachusetts college graduates had student loan debt.

The average debt load of a Massachusetts college graduate in 2019-20 was **\$33,457** placing the state **eighth highest** nationally on this measure.

Thirty-one percent of Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts, **14 percent** of college graduates had private student debt, with an average private debt load of **\$42,748** these borrowers.

Thirty-five percent of Massachusetts college graduates attended public colleges, while the remaining **65 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 Massachusetts 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
Bentley University (NP)	\$34,211	54%	\$46,752	12%	1,063	\$71,320	\$51,830
Berklee College of Music (NP)	\$42,702	28%	\$78,225	7%	1,288	\$66,944	\$45,660
Boston College (NP)	\$23,136	45%	\$25,334	13%	2,322	\$75,886	\$57,910
Boston University (NP)	\$43,486	44%	\$65,619	12%	4,551	\$75,002	\$55,892
Brandeis University (NP)	\$32,158	46%	\$52,236	8%	870	\$76,141	\$57,561
Bridgewater State University (P)	\$32,725	83%	\$23,326	23%	1,897	\$27,476	\$10,732
Emerson College (NP)	\$22,522	57%	\$0	0%	917	\$72,222	\$49,432
Endicott College (NP)	\$51,142	76%	\$59,257	34%	746	\$53,099	\$34,200
Fitchburg State University (P)	\$27,156	82%	\$18,480	6%	881	\$25,160	\$10,610

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Framingham State University (P)	\$32,806	80%	\$29,872	17%	825	\$27,284	\$11,100
Harvard University (NP)	\$18,197	20%	\$55,796	2%	1,802	\$73,800	\$51,925
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (NP)	\$22,735	21%	\$41,747	4%	1,102	\$73,160	\$53,790
MCPHS University (NP)	\$58,012	81%	\$63,894	37%	1,028	\$56,902	\$34,650
Northeastern University (NP)	\$33,570	48%	\$48,341	9%	4,115	\$73,236	\$53,506
Salem State University (P)	\$26,204	82%	\$0	0%	1,546	\$28,164	\$11,128
Smith College (NP)	\$22,162	62%	\$38,031	5%	673	\$75,169	\$54,224
Suffolk University (NP)	\$30,947	72%	\$28,661	24%	1,129	\$61,216	\$40,104
Tufts University (NP)	\$25,065	27%	\$43,710	5%	1,381	\$76,200	\$58,578
University of Massachusetts-Amherst (P)	\$32,928	64%	\$38,332	17%	6,259	\$31,793	\$16,389
University of Massachusetts-Boston (P)	\$26,700	54%	\$27,000	7%	2,489	\$35,287	\$14,613
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth (P)	\$36,115	85%	\$5,000	25%	1,379	\$31,777	\$14,358
University of Massachusetts-Lowell (P)	\$33,500	73%	\$35,349	21%	2,934	\$31,332	\$15,648
Wentworth Institute of Technology (NP)	\$46,022	82%	\$57,832	30%	903	\$54,746	\$34,970
Westfield State University (P)	\$24,339	79%	\$0	0%	1,249	\$26,044	\$10,849
Worcester State University (P)	\$29,051	77%	\$23,269	22%	1,050	\$25,589	\$10,161

"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 13 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.