

# Student Debt for College Graduates in North Carolina

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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, **55 percent** of North Carolina college graduates had student loan debt.

The average debt load of a North Carolina college graduate in 2019-20 was **\$29,681**.

**Twenty-six percent** of North Carolina 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 North Carolina, **9 percent** of college graduates had private student debt, with an average private debt load of **\$34,015** among these borrowers.

**Seventy-four percent** of North Carolina college graduates attended public colleges, while the remaining **26 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 North Carolina 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
Appalachian State University (P)	\$23,105	57%	\$20,247	7%	4,163	\$7,409	\$19,715
Belmont Abbey College (NP)	\$28,039	74%	\$25,251	8%	290	\$18,500	\$32,986
Campbell University (NP)	\$30,690	66%	\$40,508	13%	932	\$34,630	\$52,420
Catawba College (NP)	\$27,588	70%	\$23,199	7%	272	\$30,520	\$45,954
Davidson College (NP)	\$22,617	30%	\$27,221	5%	482	\$53,166	\$70,744
Duke University (NP)	\$24,219	30%	\$54,036	5%	1,921	\$58,031	\$77,029
East Carolina University (P)	\$35,110	68%	\$31,346	14%	5,173	\$7,238	\$22,388
Elon University (NP)	\$34,323	33%	\$49,178	11%	1,433	\$36,571	\$52,756
Gardner-Webb University (NP)	\$28,819	64%	\$33,965	14%	435	\$32,240	\$46,850

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
Guilford College (NP)	\$35,392	65%	\$40,398	13%	298	\$38,530	\$53,100
High Point University (NP)	\$52,350	51%	\$81,487	20%	982	\$36,268	\$54,720
Meredith College (NP)	\$33,989	69%	\$33,821	18%	384	\$38,620	\$52,670
Methodist University (NP)	\$33,813	55%	\$32,212	11%	358	\$34,522	\$56,908
North Carolina Central University (P)	\$44,312	91%	N/A	0%	1,098	\$6,534	\$24,466
North Carolina State University at Raleigh (P)	\$25,317	48%	\$26,717	8%	5,991	\$9,101	\$24,259
Queens University of Charlotte (NP)	\$30,654	59%	\$44,525	8%	427	\$35,720	\$50,590
University of North Carolina at Asheville (P)	\$22,908	58%	\$24,371	6%	785	\$7,231	\$20,555
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (P)	\$20,563	36%	\$27,888	5%	4,828	\$8,980	\$24,228
University of North Carolina at Charlotte (P)	\$27,932	64%	\$27,806	12%	5,781	\$6,905	\$25,019
University of North Carolina at Greensboro (P)	\$23,317	71%	\$21,610	9%	3,528	\$7,403	\$19,937
University of North Carolina at Pembroke (P)	\$25,921	85%	\$0	0%	1,071	\$3,490	\$17,160
University of North Carolina Wilmington (P)	\$35,653	56%	\$27,538	11%	3,826	\$7,181	\$25,350
Wake Forest University (NP)	\$36,016	30%	\$67,858	6%	1,226	\$55,440	\$74,358
Western Carolina University (P)	\$35,280	67%	\$19,155	6%	2,217	\$4,277	\$18,740
Wingate University (NP)	\$28,655	62%	\$30,289	11%	439	\$35,290	\$50,370

"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.