**A Look at the Shocking Student Loan Debt Statistics for 2018**

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It’s 2018 and Americans are more burdened by student loan debt than ever. In fact, the average student loan debt for Class of 2016 graduates was $37,172, up six percent from the previous year.

You’ve probably heard the other scary statistic: Americans owe over $1.48 trillion in student loan debt, spread out among about 44 million borrowers. That’s about $620 billion more than the [total U.S. credit card debt](https://studentloanhero.com/average-credit-card-household-debt-statistics/).

But how does this break down at a more granular level? Are [student loans](https://studentloanhero.com/marketplace/private-student-loans/) being used to attend public or private universities? Is it mostly from four-year or graduate degrees? What percentage of overall graduates carry debt? Are more grads utilizing private [student loan consolidation and refinancing](https://studentloanhero.com/featured/5-banks-to-refinance-your-student-loans/)?

Let’s take a look.

**General student loan debt facts**

First, let’s start with a general picture of the student loan debt ratios.

* $1.48 trillion in total U.S. student loan debt
* 44.2 million Americans with student loan debt
* Student loan delinquency rate of 11.2% (90+ days delinquent or in default)
* Average monthly student loan payment (for borrower aged 20 to 30 years): $351

**More shocking student loan debt statistics**

If those numbers weren’t stunning enough, here’s a closer look at how students accumulate debt based on the type of school they attend.

* In 2012, 71% of students graduating from four-year colleges had student loan debt:
* Represents 1.3 million students graduating with debt
* 66 percent of graduates from public colleges had loans (average debt of $25,550)
* 75 percent of graduates from private non-profit colleges had loans (average debt of $32,300)
* 88 percent of graduates from for-profit colleges had loans (average debt of $39,950)

**Graduate student loan debt**

About 40 percent of the $1 trillion student loan debt was used to finance graduate and professional degrees.

Combined undergraduate and graduate debt by degree:

* MBA = $42,000 (11% of graduate degrees)
* Master of Education = $50,879 (16%)
* Master of Science = $50,400 (18%)
* Master of Arts = $58,539 (8%)
* Law = $140,616 (4%)
* Medicine and health sciences = $161,772 (5%)

Clearly, as these student loan debt statistics show, the cost of attending college is becoming a growing burden for a huge portion of Americans.

What are you doing to pay off your debt and ensure you aren’t another statistic?