

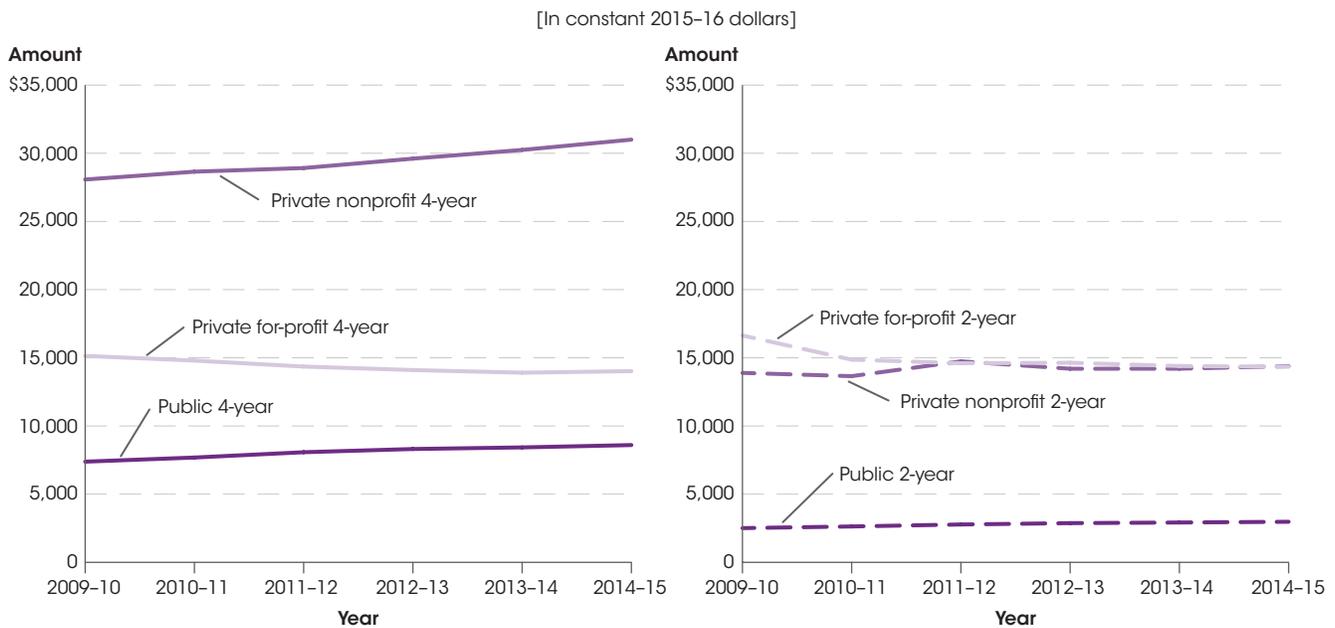
## Loans for Undergraduate Students

*In 2014–15, the average annual undergraduate student loan amount of \$7,000 was 10 percent lower than the 2009–10 average of \$7,700 (in constant 2015–16 dollars). For undergraduate students ages 18 to 24 in their 4th year of college or above, the average cumulative amount borrowed was \$26,600 in 2011–12 (in constant 2015–16 dollars).*

To help offset the cost of attending a postsecondary institution, Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 authorized several student financial assistance programs—namely, federal grants, loans, and work study. The largest federal loan program is the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, established in 2010, for which the federal government is the lender. Interest on the loans provided

under the Direct Loan Program may be subsidized, based on need, while the recipient is in school. Other types of student loans include institutional loans and private loans. Most loans are payable over 10 years, beginning 6 months after the student does one of the following: graduates, drops below half-time enrollment, or withdraws from the academic program.

**Figure 1. Average undergraduate tuition and fees for full-time students at degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by control and level of institution: 2009–10 through 2014–15**

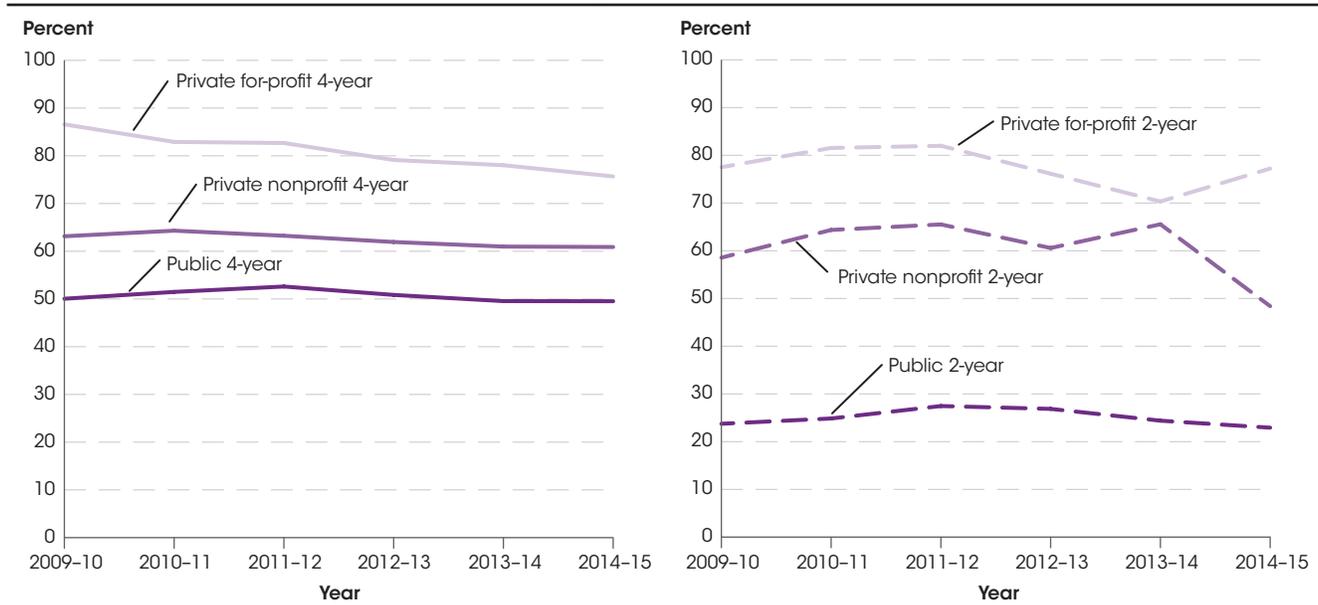


NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. For public institutions, in-state tuition and required fees are used. Data for private 2-year institutions must be interpreted with caution because of their low response rate. Tuition and fees were weighted by the number of full-time-equivalent undergraduates. Constant dollars are based on the Consumer Price Index, prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, adjusted to a school-year basis.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Fall 2006 through Fall 2014, Institutional Characteristics component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 330.10.

Between academic years 2009–10 and 2014–15, average undergraduate tuition and fees for full-time students across all degree-granting postsecondary institutions increased by 15 percent, from \$10,000 to \$11,600.<sup>1</sup> Among 4-year institutions, the largest percentage increase in tuition and fees between 2009–10 and 2014–15 was at public institutions (16 percent, from \$7,400 to \$8,600); however, the largest dollar amount increase was at private nonprofit institutions (a \$2,900 increase, from \$28,100 to \$31,000). By contrast, tuition and fees at private for-profit 4-year institutions decreased by 7 percent between 2009–10 and 2014–15 (from \$15,100 to \$14,000).

As at 4-year institutions, the largest percentage increase in tuition and fees among 2-year institutions during this period was at public institutions (19 percent, from \$2,500 to \$3,000). Tuition and fees at private nonprofit 2-year institutions were 4 percent higher in 2014–15 than in 2009–10 (\$14,400 versus \$13,900). By contrast, tuition and fees at private for-profit 2-year institutions were 14 percent lower in 2014–15 than in 2009–10 (\$16,600 versus \$14,300).

**Figure 2. Percentage of first-time, full-time students awarded loan aid at degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by control and level of institution: 2009–10 through 2014–15**



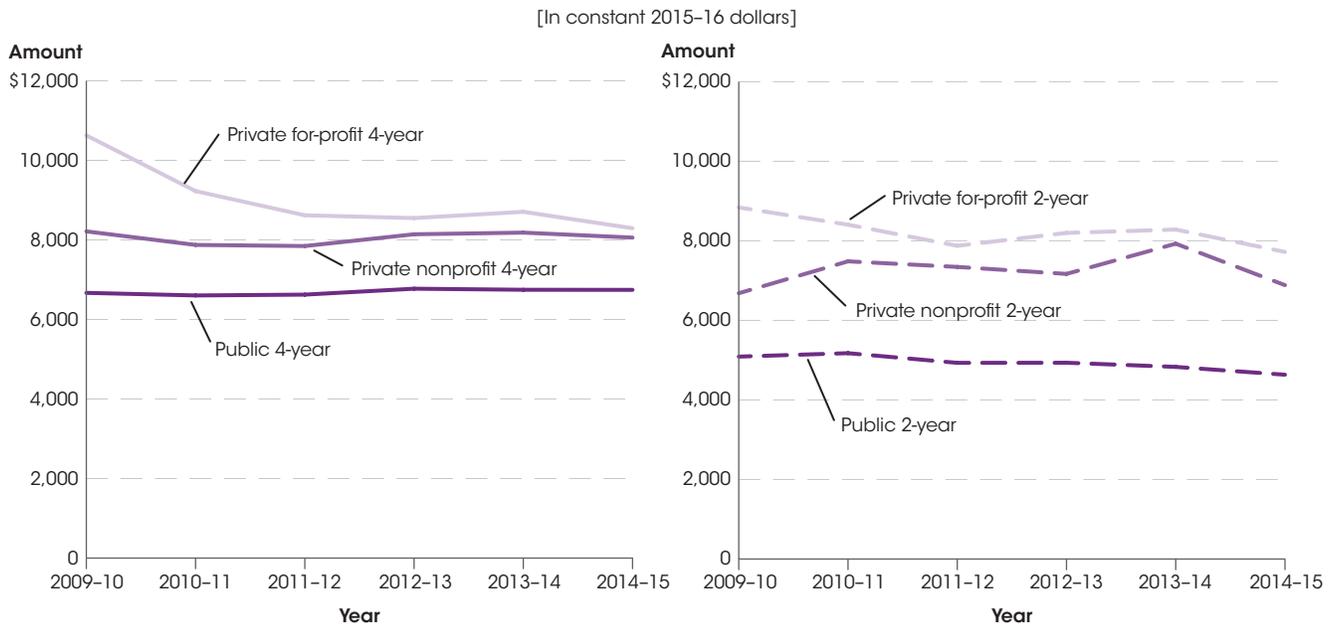
NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Data in 2009–10 are for students receiving aid, while later data are for students awarded aid. Students receiving aid are those who were not only awarded aid, but also accepted it. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. Includes only loans made directly to students; does not include Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) and other loans made directly to parents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2008 through Spring 2011 and Winter 2011–12 through Winter 2015–16, Student Financial Aid component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2014* and *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 331.20.

Nearly half (47 percent) of first-time, full-time undergraduate students were awarded loan aid in 2014–15, about 4 percentage points less than in 2009–10.<sup>2</sup> The percentage of students awarded loan aid was lower in 2014–15 than in 2009–10 at all institution types. Among 4-year institutions, the largest decrease in the percentage of students awarded loan aid was at private for-profit institutions (11 percentage points), from 87 percent in 2009–10 to 76 percent in 2014–15. At public 4-year institutions, the percentage of undergraduates awarded loans was about 1 percentage point lower in 2014–15 than in 2009–10. Likewise, at private nonprofit 4-year institutions, the percentage of undergraduates awarded

loans decreased by 2 percentage points from 2009–10 (63 percent) to 2014–15 (61 percent). Among 2-year institutions, the percentage of students awarded loans was about 1 percentage point lower in 2014–15 than in 2009–10 at public institutions (23 percent compared to 24 percent). Likewise, at private for-profit 2-year institutions, the percentage of undergraduates awarded loans was less than half of a percentage point lower in 2014–15 (77 percent) than in 2009–10 (78 percent). The percentage of undergraduates awarded loans at private nonprofit 2-year institutions was about 10 percentage points lower in 2014–15 (48 percent) than in 2009–10 (59 percent).

**Figure 3. Average annual loan amounts for first-time, full-time students awarded loan aid at degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by control and level of institution: 2009–10 through 2014–15**



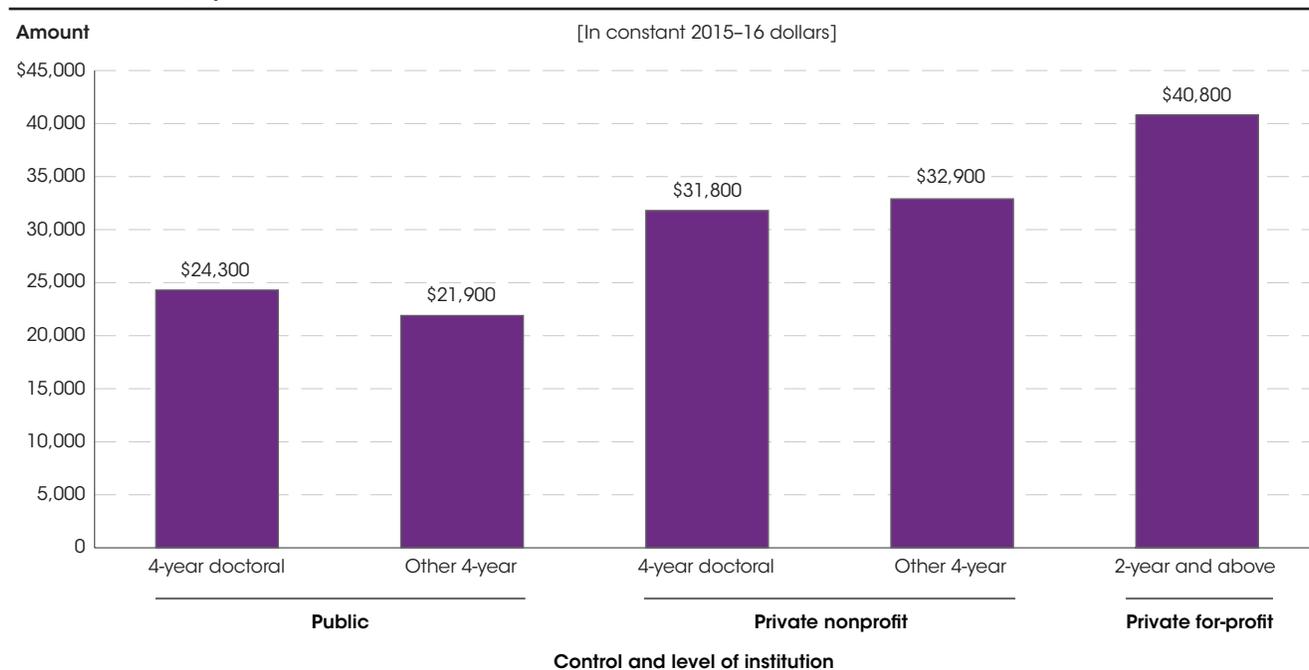
NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Data in 2009–10 are for students receiving aid, while later data are for students awarded aid. Students receiving aid are those who were not only awarded aid, but also accepted it. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. Includes only loans made directly to students; does not include Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) and other loans made directly to parents. Constant dollars are based on the Consumer Price Index, prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, adjusted to a school-year basis.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Spring 2010 through Spring 2011 and Winter 2011–12 through Winter 2015–16, Student Financial Aid component. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 331.20.

Overall, the average loan amount that undergraduate students were awarded in 2014–15 was 10 percent lower than in 2009–10. Average annual student loan amounts for first-time, full-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students awarded loan aid were \$7,700 in 2009–10 and \$7,000 in 2014–15.<sup>1</sup> At public 4-year institutions, average loan amounts were 1 percent higher in 2014–15 than in 2009–10 (the amounts for both years round to \$6,700). At private nonprofit 2-year institutions, average loan amounts were 3 percent higher in 2014–15 than in 2009–10 (\$6,900 compared to \$6,700). The largest percentage decrease in loan amount between

2009–10 and 2014–15 was at private for-profit 4-year institutions (22 percent, from \$10,600 to \$8,300). The average annual loan amount was 13 percent lower at private for-profit 2-year institutions in 2014–15 (\$7,700) than it was in 2009–10 (\$8,800), 9 percent lower at public 2-year institutions (\$4,600 compared with \$5,100), and 2 percent lower at private nonprofit 4-year institutions (\$8,100 compared with \$8,200). Among all types of institutions, students at private for-profit 4-year institutions had the largest average annual student loan amount in 2014–15 (\$8,300).

**Figure 4. Average cumulative amount borrowed for undergraduate students ages 18 to 24 in their 4th (senior) year or above, by control and level of institution: 2011–12**



NOTE: Total amount borrowed excludes Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) and loans from family and friends. Average loan amounts were calculated only for students who took out a loan. Data exclude Puerto Rico. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. Constant dollars are based on the Consumer Price Index, prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, adjusted to a school-year basis. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12). See *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, table 331.95.

For undergraduate students ages 18 to 24 in their 4th year of college or above, the average cumulative amount borrowed in 2011–12 was \$26,600.<sup>1,3</sup> This amount varied by control and level of institution. Students at private for-profit 2-year and above institutions borrowed the most, with an average cumulative loan amount of \$40,800. Students at public 4-year nondoctoral institutions

borrowed the least, with an average cumulative loan amount of \$21,900. Students at public 4-year doctoral institutions borrowed an average cumulative loan amount of \$24,300, students at private nonprofit 4-year doctoral institutions borrowed \$31,800, and students at private nonprofit 4-year nondoctoral institutions borrowed \$32,900.

#### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Dollar amounts are expressed in constant 2015–16 dollars.

<sup>2</sup> Data in 2009–10 are for students receiving aid, while later data are for students awarded aid. Students receiving aid are those who were not only awarded aid, but also accepted it.

<sup>3</sup> Cumulative amount borrowed excludes loans from family and friends. Average cumulative loan amounts were calculated only for students who took out a loan and do not include Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS).

**Reference tables:** *Digest of Education Statistics 2014*, table 331.20; *Digest of Education Statistics 2016*, tables 330.10, 331.20, and 331.95

**Related indicators and resources:** Price of Attending an Undergraduate Institution, Sources of Financial Aid, Financing Postsecondary Education in the United States [*The Condition of Education 2013 Spotlight*]

**Glossary:** Certificate, College, Constant dollars, Control of institutions, Doctor's degree, Full-time enrollment, Postsecondary institutions (basic classification by level), Private institution, Public school or institution, Title IV eligible institution, Tuition and fees, Undergraduate students