

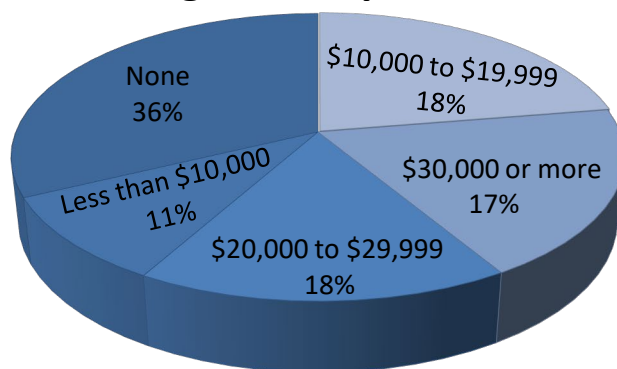
## Educational Loan Debt of Bachelor's Degree Recipients at Central

August 2025

This study was undertaken by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, in consultation with the Office of Financial Aid, to examine educational loan debt of students who earned bachelor's degrees at Central between 2019-20 and 2024-25. This study examines Central's database records of loans processed through the Office of Financial Aid. Total educational loan debt considered in this study includes subsidized and unsubsidized loans made under federal aid programs *as well as alternative loans*; parent loans are not included. It should also be noted that credit card debt and other forms of consumer debt are not included in this study; nor are students included who borrowed money and then did not continue enrollment at Central.

Overall, the proportion of graduates who owe money for education loans has decreased over the past five years from 69% in 2019-20 to 64% in 2024-25. Of students who owed money for educational loans, the average amount borrowed was \$24,508. In 2024-25, 36% of graduating students did not take out an educational loan and have no loan debt.

### 2024-25 Educational Loan Debt of Bachelor's Degree Recipients at Central



Total number of bachelor's degree recipients in 2024-25 = 1,571. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding. Total educational loan debt includes subsidized and unsubsidized loans made under federal aid programs as well as alternative loans; parent loans are not included. Data sources: IR Data Warehouse Gradfile20 – Gradfile25 and Banner tables RPRAWRD.

## Detailed Findings

A total of 1,571 individuals received a bachelor's degree from Central in 2024-25; 1,005 (64%) borrowed through federal or alternative loan programs, while 566 (36%) had not taken any loans out by the time they graduated. During the past five years, the proportion of graduates who owed money for educational loans from federal and alternative combined was similar to previous years ranging from 64% to 69%. Of those who had educational loan debt, the average amount owed was \$24,508 down from \$27,062, in 2019-20 a decrease of 9.4%.

Borrowing through federal loan programs has decreased from 67% of all graduates in 2019-20 to 63% of graduates in 2024-25. The average amount owed upon graduation for loans in these programs decreased from \$23,348 for those graduating in 2019-20 to \$21,011 for those graduating in 2024-25, a decrease of 10.0%.

The most reliable indicator to monitor change in levels of educational loan debt are the Federal loans, they have had the most consistent process over time.

Educational Loan Debt of Central Graduates Receiving Bachelor's Degrees						
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>Bachelor's Degree Recipients(N)</b> (Degree conferred between July1&June 30)	1,872	1,839	1,624	1,778	1,516	1,571
<b>All Loans</b>						
Borrowers (N)	1,286	1,247	1,096	1,187	1,004	1,005
Borrowers as Percent of Graduates	69%	68%	67%	67%	66%	64%
Average Loan Debt of Borrowers	\$27,062	\$26,161	\$26,253	\$26,046	\$25,268	\$24,508
<b>Federal Loans*</b>						
Borrowers (N)	1,253	1,217	1,065	1,157	975	986
Borrowers as Percent of Completers	67%	66%	66%	65%	64%	63%
Average Loan Debt of Borrowers	\$23,348	\$22,582	\$22,449	\$21,675	\$21,391	\$21,011
<b>Alternative Loans</b>						
Borrowers (N)	249	230	216	208	181	174
Borrowers as Percent of Completers	13%	13%	13%	12%	12%	11%
Average Loan Debt of Borrowers	\$22,275	\$22,351	\$22,520	\$28,069	\$24,932	\$22,492

\* Includes Subsidized and Unsubsidized Student Loans; excludes Parent Loans

Data Sources: IR Data Warehouse Gradfile20 – Gradfile25 and Banner tables RPRAWRD & RFRBASE

The proportion of graduates with educational loan debt from alternative loans has decreased over the past five years, 13% in 2019-20 to 11% in 2024-25. The average amount borrowed under alternative loans has decreased slightly from \$22,275 in 2019-20 to \$22,492, a decrease of 1%.