

# Student Loan Game Plan

## Your Choices. Your Success.

### Student's Guide to Borrowing Levels by Major

When you're reviewing your financial aid award letter and applying for a loan, it's easy to focus only on how much money you need for the upcoming year. It's important, though, to think about the total amount of money you will borrow for all your years in college and especially how that total loan amount will relate to your expected starting salary. Follow these steps to make the right choices for you.

1. **Find your major and the associated average starting salary** earned by graduates with a bachelor's degree in that specific college major<sup>1</sup>. If your major is not listed, the one that is the most similar to your chosen major will give you a good estimate.
2. **Look at the maximum student loan range.** The suggested maximum cumulative student loan amounts are based on future monthly student loan payments<sup>2</sup> of 8% to 12% of monthly gross starting salaries. Borrowing more than these amounts over your college career could make it difficult to repay your student loans after you graduate.

Agriculture and Natural Resources	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range	
		8%	12%
Agricultural Economics	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Agriculture Production and Management	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Animal Sciences	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Food Science	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Forestry	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
General Agriculture	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Miscellaneous Agriculture	\$17,000	\$12,609	\$18,914
Natural Resources Management	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Plant Science and Agronomy	\$21,000	\$15,576	\$23,364
Soil Science	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251

Arts	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range	
		8%	12%
Commercial Art and Graphic Design	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Drama and Theater Arts	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Film, Video and Photographic Arts	\$22,000	\$16,318	\$24,476
Fine Arts	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Music	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Studio Arts	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Visual and Performing Arts	\$19,000	\$14,092	\$21,139

<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2009 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample File. Starting salary data is based on 10th percentile salary information (inflation-adjusted to 2009 dollars) for U.S. civilians with a highest academic degree of a bachelor's degree, age 18 – 64 (inclusive), who work full-time and full-year.

<sup>2</sup> Assumes an average interest rate of 7.00% and an average loan term of 15 years.



<b>Biology and Life Science</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Biochemical Sciences	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Biology	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Botany	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Cognitive Science and Biopsychology	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Ecology	\$22,000	\$16,318	\$24,476
Environmental Science	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Genetics	\$19,000	\$14,092	\$21,139
Microbiology	\$27,000	\$20,026	\$30,039
Miscellaneous Biology	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Molecular Biology	\$22,000	\$16,318	\$24,476
Neuroscience	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Pharmacology	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Physiology	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Zoology	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701

<b>Business</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Accounting	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Actuarial Science	\$36,000	\$26,701	\$40,052
Business Economics	\$32,000	\$23,735	\$35,602
Business Management and Administration	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Finance	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
General Business	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Hospitality Management	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Human Resources and Personnel Management	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
International Business	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Management, Information Systems and Statistics	\$36,000	\$26,701	\$40,052
Marketing and Marketing Research	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Miscellaneous Business and Medical Administration	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Operations Logistics and E-Commerce	\$35,000	\$25,960	\$38,940

<b>Communications and Journalism</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Advertising and Public Relations	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Communications	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Journalism	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Mass Media	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701

## Computers and Mathematics

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range	
		8%	12%
Applied Mathematics	\$32,000	\$23,735	\$35,602
Communication Technologies	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Computer Administration, Management and Security	\$29,000	\$21,509	\$32,264
Computer and Information Systems	\$32,000	\$23,735	\$35,602
Computer Engineering	\$40,000	\$29,668	\$44,502
Computer Networking and Telecommunications	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927
Computer Programming and Data Processing	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927
Computer Science	\$34,000	\$25,218	\$37,827
Information Sciences	\$32,000	\$23,735	\$35,602
Mathematics	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Mathematics and Computer Science	\$59,000	\$43,761	\$65,641

## Education

	Annual Starting Salary	Maximum Student Loan Range	
		8%	12%
Art and Music Education	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Early Childhood Education	\$22,000	\$16,318	\$24,476
Educational Administration and Supervision	\$32,000	\$23,735	\$35,602
Elementary Education	\$22,000	\$16,318	\$24,476
General Education	\$22,000	\$16,318	\$24,476
Language and Drama Education	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Library Science	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Mathematics Teacher Education	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Miscellaneous Education	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Physical and Health Education Teaching	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
School Student Counseling	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Science and Computer Teacher Education	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Secondary Teacher Education	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Social Science or History Teacher Education	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Special Needs Education	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927
Teacher Education: Multiple Levels	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814

<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Aerospace Engineering	\$40,000	\$29,668	\$44,502
Architectural Engineering	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927
Architecture	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Biological Engineering	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Biomedical Engineering	\$33,000	\$24,476	\$36,714
Chemical Engineering	\$35,000	\$25,960	\$38,940
Civil Engineering	\$40,000	\$29,668	\$44,502
Electrical Engineering	\$40,000	\$29,668	\$44,502
Electrical Engineering Technology	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Engineering and Industrial Management	\$32,000	\$23,735	\$35,602
Engineering Mechanics, Physics and Science	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Engineering Technologies	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Environmental Engineering	\$47,000	\$34,860	\$52,290
General Engineering	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Geological and Geophysical Engineering	\$40,000	\$29,668	\$44,502
Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering	\$36,000	\$26,701	\$40,052
Industrial Production Technologies	\$33,000	\$24,476	\$36,714
Materials Engineering and Materials Science	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Mechanical Engineering	\$40,000	\$29,668	\$44,502
Mechanical Engineering Related Technologies	\$34,000	\$25,218	\$37,827
Metallurgical Engineering	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Mining and Mineral Engineering	\$27,000	\$20,026	\$30,039
Miscellaneous Engineering	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Miscellaneous Engineering Technologies	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Nuclear Engineering	\$60,000	\$44,502	\$66,754
Petroleum Engineering	\$54,000	\$40,052	\$60,078

<b>Health</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Community and Public Health	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
General Medical and Health Services	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Health and Medical Administrative Services	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927
Health and Medical Preparatory Programs	\$18,000	\$13,351	\$20,026
Medical Assisting Services	\$22,000	\$16,318	\$24,476
Medical Technologies Technicians	\$32,000	\$23,735	\$35,602
Miscellaneous Health Medical Professions	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Nursing	\$35,000	\$25,960	\$38,940
Nutrition Services	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Pharmacy Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration	\$44,000	\$32,635	\$48,953
Treatment Therapy Professions	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152

<b>Humanities and Liberal Arts</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Anthropology and Archeology	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Area Ethnic and Civilization Studies	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Art History and Criticism	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Composition and Speech	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
English Language and Literature	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
Foreign Language Studies	\$24,000	\$17,801	\$26,701
History	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Humanities	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Intercultural and International Studies	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Liberal Arts	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Linguistics and Comparative Language and Literature	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Other Foreign Languages	\$19,000	\$14,092	\$21,139
Philosophy and Religious Studies	\$21,000	\$15,576	\$23,364
Theology and Religious Vocations	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
United States History	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377

<b>Industrial Arts and Consumer Services</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Construction Services	\$35,000	\$25,960	\$38,940
Cosmetology Services and Culinary Arts	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Electrical and Mechanic Repairs and Technologies	\$28,000	\$20,768	\$31,152
Family and Consumer Sciences	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Military Technologies	\$16,000	\$11,867	\$17,801
Physical Fitness, Parks, Recreation and Leisure	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Precision Production and Industrial Arts	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927
Transportation Sciences and Technologies	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927

<b>Law and Public Policy</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Court Reporting	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Criminal Justice and Fire Protection	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927
Pre-Law and Legal Studies	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Public Administration	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Public Policy	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589

<b>Physical Sciences</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Astronomy and Astrophysics	\$21,000	\$15,576	\$23,364
Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Chemistry	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Geology and Earth Science	\$27,000	\$20,026	\$30,039
Geosciences	\$32,000	\$23,735	\$35,602
Multi-Disciplinary or General Science	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Nuclear, Industrial Technology, and Biological Technologies	\$33,000	\$24,476	\$36,714
Oceanography	\$32,000	\$23,735	\$35,602
Physical Sciences	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Physics	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814

<b>Psychology and Social Work</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Clinical Psychology	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927
Communication Disorders, Sciences and Services	\$22,000	\$16,318	\$24,476
Counseling Psychology	\$18,000	\$13,351	\$20,026
Educational Psychology	\$15,000	\$11,126	\$16,688
Human Services and Community Organization	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Industrial and Organizational Psychology	\$26,000	\$19,284	\$28,927
Miscellaneous Psychology	\$22,000	\$16,318	\$24,476
Psychology	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589
Social Psychology	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377
Social Work	\$23,000	\$17,059	\$25,589

<b>Social Sciences</b>	<b>Annual Starting Salary</b>	<b>Maximum Student Loan Range</b>	
		<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Criminology	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Economics	\$29,000	\$21,509	\$32,264
General Social Sciences	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Geography	\$27,000	\$20,026	\$30,039
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
International Relations	\$20,000	\$14,834	\$22,251
Miscellaneous Social Sciences	\$29,000	\$21,509	\$32,264
Political Science and Government	\$27,000	\$20,026	\$30,039
Sociology	\$25,000	\$18,543	\$27,814
Statistics and Decision Science	\$30,000	\$22,251	\$33,377