
Alberta Student Aid

Statistical Profiles 2020-2021



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Alberta Student Aid at a Glance

Global trends are reshaping post-secondary education and the skills our students need for success, around the world and right here in Alberta. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated many of these changes, bringing even greater importance to ensuring our citizens are prepared for a changing world of work.

The Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs strategy is an important part of Alberta's ambitious plan to create jobs that get people back to work and to diversify Alberta's economy. As an essential part of building a prosperous Alberta, we need a post-secondary system that will equip graduates with the skills, knowledge and competencies they need to succeed now and in the future.

Alberta needs a post-secondary system that is strong, agile, and able to adapt to protect the lives and livelihoods of our learners and their communities. It will be essential for post-secondary institutions to achieve long-term sustainability while providing students with access to the skills and knowledge they need to achieve their lifelong pursuits – affordably. The goals, objectives, and flagship initiatives within the Alberta 2030 strategy will help guide future changes to financial supports available to Alberta post-secondary students.

Role of Alberta Student Aid

- Alberta Student Aid supports access to affordable post-secondary education by providing financial supports to learners. Alberta Student Aid also undertakes debt manageability programs to ensure that student loan borrowers are able to repay their loans.
- The Department of Advanced Education strives to ensure Alberta Student Aid programs are relevant to Albertans, student focused, and delivered efficiently and effectively. Alberta Student Aid, on behalf of the federal government, administers the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP), which is renamed the Canada Student Financial Assistance (CSFA) Program.
- Alberta student loans are responsive to changes in demand resulting from population increases, student enrolment and demographic changes and changes in the economy. This ensures eligible Alberta post-secondary students can access the funding they need, when they need it. Over the last six years, the average annual percent change of the number of Alberta student loan borrowers was 7.7%.

For more information about Alberta Student Aid, eligibility requirements, or to apply for loans and grants go to studentaid.alberta.ca.

Types of Student Aid Available

- There are four types of funding available to Alberta post-secondary students through Alberta Student Aid:
 - Repayable **student loans** are available to reduce financial barriers and help post-secondary learners cover basic learning and living costs.
 - Non-repayable **grants** are available to lower income student loan borrowers. (See pages 27 and 28 for a description of the various grants.)
 - Non-repayable **scholarships** are provided to learners who demonstrate academic excellence.
 - Non-repayable **awards** are provided to encourage access and participation in post-secondary education, and reward non-academic achievement.
- In order to be eligible for loans and grants, a learner must either be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or a protected person, as defined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. Eligible students must be in an approved program and institution, and meet additional eligibility criteria for grants. Eligibility criteria varies for scholarships and awards.

For more information on Alberta scholarships and awards go to studentaid.alberta.ca/scholarships.

Student Loan Repayment

- Alberta student loan borrowers benefit from flexible loan repayment options.
 - Student loans are interest-free during a student's studies as well as six months after the borrower leaves studies.
 - Six months after leaving studies, interest is charged and student loan borrowers begin to make payments on their loans.
 - Borrowers who are repaying their loans can apply for the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP), which sets affordable payments in-line with income and family size for six months.

For more information on repaying Alberta student loans go to <https://studentaid.alberta.ca/repayment/>.

Statistics at a Glance

Alberta Funded Learners

Between May 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 Alberta Student Aid funded 41% of eligible students in full-time studies at Alberta's publicly-funded post-secondary institutions.

Between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021...

- More than 109,800 Alberta residents enrolled in full-time post-secondary studies received a mix of federal and provincial loans and grants totaling more than \$1.9 billion and averaging \$17,600 per learner.
- Of the \$1.9 billion issued in loans and grants to Alberta residents:
 - \$649 million was provided by Alberta Student Aid; and
 - \$1.284 billion was provided through the Canada Student Financial Assistance (CSFA) Program.
- More than 50,900 Alberta post-secondary learners received scholarships and awards totaling \$97.6 million. Of this number:
 - \$41.3 million was provided to more than 20,000 learners through the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship.
 - \$19.8 million was provided to more than 19,800 learners through the Jason Lang scholarship.
 - \$14.8 million was provided to more than 1,200 graduate students.
 - \$5.6 million was provided to more than 2,800 learners through the Indigenous Careers Award.

Between August 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021...

- Of all student loan borrowers:
 - 85% attended post-secondary institutions in Alberta, 12% attended post-secondary institutions in another province/territory and 3% attended an out-of-country post-secondary institution.
 - 72% were single with no dependents, with 28% either married or caring for dependents.
 - 52% were between the ages of 18 and 24 years with 47% over the age of 24.
 - 62% were female.
 - 21% self-identified as Indigenous.
 - 6% had a permanent disability.

Alberta Student Loan Repayment

As of March 31, 2021...

- The outstanding balance of all Alberta student loans issued to learners was \$3.9 billion of which 55% is in repayment and the remainder owed by Albertans who are currently attending post-secondary.
- Approximately 32% of Alberta student loan dollars in repayment were being repaid by learners who accessed Alberta's Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP).
- On average, Alberta student loan borrowers repay their loans within 10 years.
- The proportion of student loan borrowers defaulting on their Alberta Student Loan within the first three years of repayment has decreased from 18% to 14% since 2010-11.

According to a 2020 survey of all Alberta student loan borrowers...

- 85% of student loan borrowers agree they would not have been able to attend post-secondary and 86% agree that they would not be able to continue their studies without government student loans.
- 72% of student loan borrowers currently attending post-secondary agree they feel confident about their ability to repay their loan after study.
- Alberta student loan borrowers spend a median of 4.2% of their monthly income on Alberta student loan payments. When combined with Canada student loan payment, the median is 7.7%.

The statistics presented in this document reflect a number of factors that have influenced demand and uptake for Alberta Student Aid loans and grants. By reducing some eligibility restrictions for Alberta student loans, post-secondary students face fewer financial barriers to pursuing their educational goals. Grants provided to student loan borrowers became better targeted to low-income Albertans and ensure Alberta and Canada student grants are aligned and coordinated. Changes made to the Canada Student Financial Assistance Program and other financial aid programs also impacted the numbers of post-secondary students who received Alberta student loans and grants over the last decade.

Alberta's changing economic conditions, including employment rates, have also influenced demand for loans and grants over the last decade. As well, investments made to the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund and the implementation of the Indigenous Awards and Alex Decoteau Award of Honour increased the number of students supported by scholarships and award programs.

For details on program changes from 2011-12 to 2020-21, see page 28.

TABLE 1
NUMBER OF FULL-TIME LEARNERS' FUNDED: LOANS AND GRANTS BY FISCAL YEAR²

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20 to 2020-21 % change
Loans	70,064	81,004	87,584	91,606	96,565	104,475	8.2%
Canada Student Loan	55,404	62,840	78,491	82,815	87,807	97,882	11.5%
Alberta Student Loan	68,613	78,994	81,800	84,681	88,817	93,158	4.9%
Canada Grants³	38,822	43,694	56,343	64,308	69,900	82,038	17.4%
Canada Student Grant for Students from Low-Income Families	24,703	27,581	4,072	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canada Student Grant for Students from Middle-Income Families	10,649	12,350	1,583	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students	N/A	N/A	49,991	57,697	62,187	72,279	16.2%
Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependants	5,702	6,242	6,827	11,881	13,189	17,850	35.3%
Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities	2,498	2,915	3,982	4,551	5,052	5,740	13.6%
Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities	1,203	1,106	1,256	1,384	1,479	1,610	8.9%
Alberta Grants	10,196	11,763	12,356	12,570	13,231	25,693	94.2%
Alberta Grant for Students with Disabilities ⁴	311	386	159	150	145	73	-49.7%
Maintenance Grant	5,262	5,917	6,391	6,655	7,353	1,984	-73.0%
Alberta Low Income Grant	6,780	7,764	8,185	8,211	8,324	1,786	-78.5%
Alberta Student Grant for Full-Time Students ⁵	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,798	N/A
Total Unique Learners Approved	70,461	81,607	88,465	92,901	98,278	109,820	11.7%

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

N/A: Not Applicable. Data doesn't exist in the specified years.

¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the fiscal year. Therefore, summing up corresponding rows would not add up to the total number of learners approved because they are unique learner counts.

² Fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.

³ In 2017/18, the new Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students replaced the former Grant for Students from Low-Income Families and Grant for Students from Middle-Income Families.

⁴ See page 27 for a description of the Alberta Grant for Students with Disabilities. When a student meets the eligibility criteria for both the Canada Grant for Service and Equipment and for the Alberta Grant for Students with Disabilities, the Canada Grant for Service and Equipment funds are always allocated first.

⁵ On August 1, 2020 The Alberta Student Grant for Full-Time Students replaced the Maintenance Grant and the Alberta Low Income Grant.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur in each loan year. The program changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

TABLE 2**FULL-TIME LEARNERS: DOLLAR AMOUNT OF LOANS AND GRANTS FUNDED BY FISCAL YEAR¹**

(millions of dollars)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Loans	\$846.8	\$994.5	\$1,091.8	\$1,140.1	\$1,194.3	\$1,314.1
Canada Loans	\$310.0	\$340.0	\$474.1	\$502.6	\$541.9	\$741.2
Alberta Loans	\$536.8	\$654.5	\$617.7	\$637.5	\$652.4	\$572.9
Grants	\$123.4	\$168.1	\$215.5	\$267.6	\$300.3	\$619.2
Canada Grants	\$80.7	\$118.7	\$163.1	\$213.1	\$240.0	\$542.8
Alberta Grants ²	\$42.7	\$49.4	\$52.4	\$54.5	\$60.3	\$76.4
Total Learner Funding (\$)	\$970.2	\$1,162.6	\$1,307.3	\$1,407.7	\$1,494.6	\$1,933.3

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.² The Alberta Part-Time Grant is excluded as all other figures in the table reflect full-time status.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur in each loan year. The program changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

TABLE 3**NUMBER OF LEARNERS FUNDED: SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS BY FISCAL YEAR¹**

(millions of dollars)

	2015-16 ²	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 ³	2019-20	2020-21
Scholarships and Awards ^{4,5}	23,745	25,197	24,479	26,930	27,393	27,579
Heritage Scholarships ⁶	28,227	29,306	26,836	23,719	22,777	22,883
Total Scholarships	51,972	54,503	51,315	50,649	50,170	50,462

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.² The scholarship count in the 2015-16 fiscal year does not include numbers from Athabasca University and Concordia University of Edmonton.³ The Apprentice Training Award is included in 2018-19 onward. Prior to 2018-19 it was funded by the Ministry of Labour and Immigration.⁴ Scholarships recognize students who demonstrate academic excellence. Awards encourage access and participation in adult learning opportunities. There are a number of scholarship and awards available in Alberta. However, the number of scholarships and awards with funding differs each fiscal year.⁵ The numbers reported for scholarships and awards in 2016-17 onward include numbers from the Northern Alberta Development Council Bursary and the Serving Communities Internship program. The numbers from the two programs were previously reported as grants in the Department of Advanced Education's financial statements.⁶ The *Alberta Heritage Scholarship Act* is the guiding authority that establishes the provision of Heritage scholarships. There are two basic types of Heritage scholarships: a) scholarships stipulated in the Act and b) scholarships that stem from external donations. The number of Heritage scholarships with funding differs each fiscal year. Numbers reported in the Heritage scholarships include Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) scholarships.For more information on Alberta scholarships go to studentaid.alberta.ca/scholarships

TABLE 4
DOLLAR AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS FUNDED BY FISCAL YEAR¹

(millions of dollars)

	2015-16 ²	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 ³	2019-20	2020-21
Scholarship and Awards ^{4,5}	\$40.4	\$44.8	\$44.8	\$47.1	\$46.9	\$48.1
Heritage Scholarships ⁶	\$49.0	\$50.8	\$50.2	\$49.0	\$50.0	\$50.8
Total Scholarships	\$89.5	\$95.7	\$95.0	\$96.1	\$96.9	\$98.9

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.

² The Scholarship count in the 2015-16 fiscal year does not include numbers from Athabasca University and Concordia University of Edmonton.

³ The Apprentice Training Award is included in 2018-19 onward. Prior to 2018-19 it was funded by the Ministry of Labour and Immigration.

⁴ Scholarships recognize students who demonstrate academic excellence. Awards encourage access and participation in adult learning opportunities. There are a number of scholarship and awards available in Alberta. However the number of scholarship and awards with funding differs each fiscal year. At the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year, there were 17 scholarships and awards with funding.

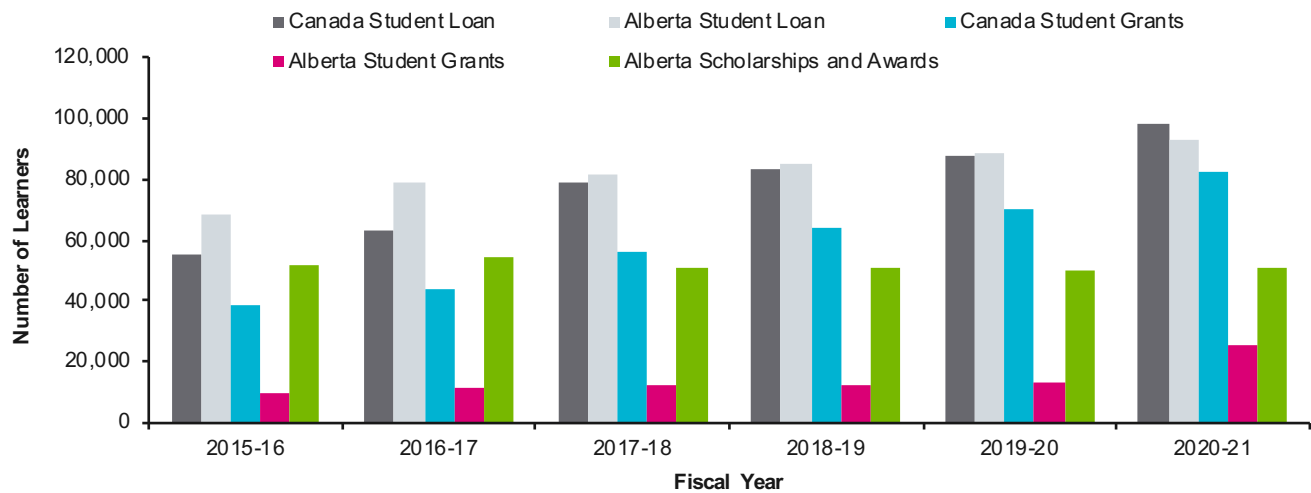
⁵ The numbers reported for scholarships and awards in 2016-17 onward include numbers from the Northern Alberta Development Council Bursary and the Serving Communities Internship program. The numbers from the two programs were previously reported as grants in the Department of Advanced Education's financial statements.

⁶ The *Alberta Heritage Scholarship Act* is the guiding authority that establishes the provision of Heritage scholarships. There are two basic types of Heritage scholarships: a) scholarships stipulated in the Act and b) scholarships that stem from external donations. The number of Heritage scholarships with funding differs each fiscal year. At the end of the 2019-20 fiscal year there were 39 Heritage scholarships with funding. Numbers reported in the Heritage scholarships include Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) scholarships.

For more information on Alberta scholarships go to studentaid.alberta.ca/scholarships

CHART 1

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME LEARNERS' FUNDED: LOANS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS BY FISCAL YEAR²



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

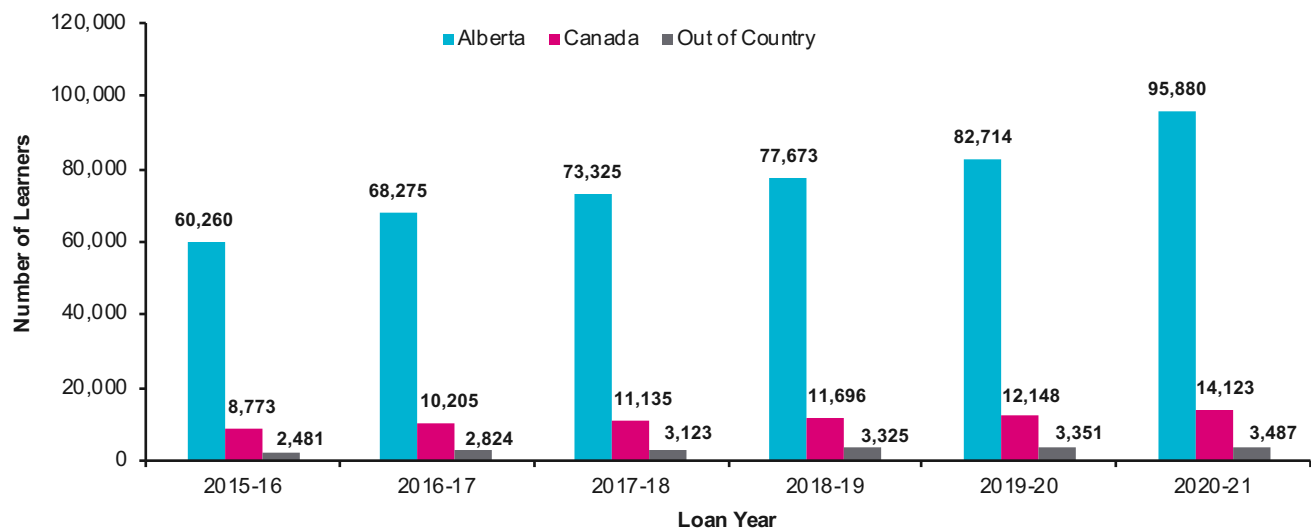
¹ These statistics cover only full-time learners. Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).

² Fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur in each loan year. The program changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

CHART 2

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME LEARNERS' FUNDED: LOANS AND GRANTS BY LOAN YEAR² AND STUDY LOCATION



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the loan year.

² Loan year is from August 1 to July 31.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur each loan year. These changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

TABLE 5
NUMBER OF FULL-TIME LEARNERS' FUNDED: LOANS AND GRANTS BY LOAN YEAR² AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20 to 2020-21 % change
Marital Status							
Single	56,290	63,492	68,406	71,872	74,880	81,317	8.6%
Married	10,018	12,270	13,436	14,631	16,766	23,430	39.7%
Single Parent	5,241	5,568	5,799	6,224	6,684	8,846	32.3%
Gender³							
Female	43,550	49,043	53,132	56,613	59,885	70,036	17.0%
Male	27,836	32,069	34,275	35,876	37,954	42,898	13.0%
X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	241	367	52.3%
Age Range							
Under 18	1,491	1,723	1,878	1,920	1,970	2,117	7.5%
18 to 24	43,806	49,133	52,897	55,002	56,855	59,450	4.6%
25 to 31	15,484	17,469	18,774	19,861	20,670	24,096	16.6%
Over 31	11,162	13,446	14,703	16,515	19,516	28,735	47.2%
Indigenous Heritage⁴							
Indigenous	8,583	10,606	13,547	16,233	18,903	23,808	25.9%
Non-Indigenous	63,066	70,918	74,456	76,959	79,855	90,200	13.0%
Disability Status⁵							
Permanent disability	3,236	3,723	4,385	4,985	5,549	6,327	14.0%
No Permanent disability	68,222	77,479	83,126	87,622	92,652	107,139	15.6%
Total Unique Learners	71,385	81,102	87,402	92,487	98,043	113,269	15.5%

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the loan year. Therefore, summing up corresponding rows would not add up to the total number of learners funded because they are unique counts.

² Loan year is from August 1 to July 31.

³ As of January 1, 2019, an option was added for Alberta student loan applicants to identify as gender X; due to small counts these numbers have been suppressed for 2018-19 and indicated as N/A (not available).

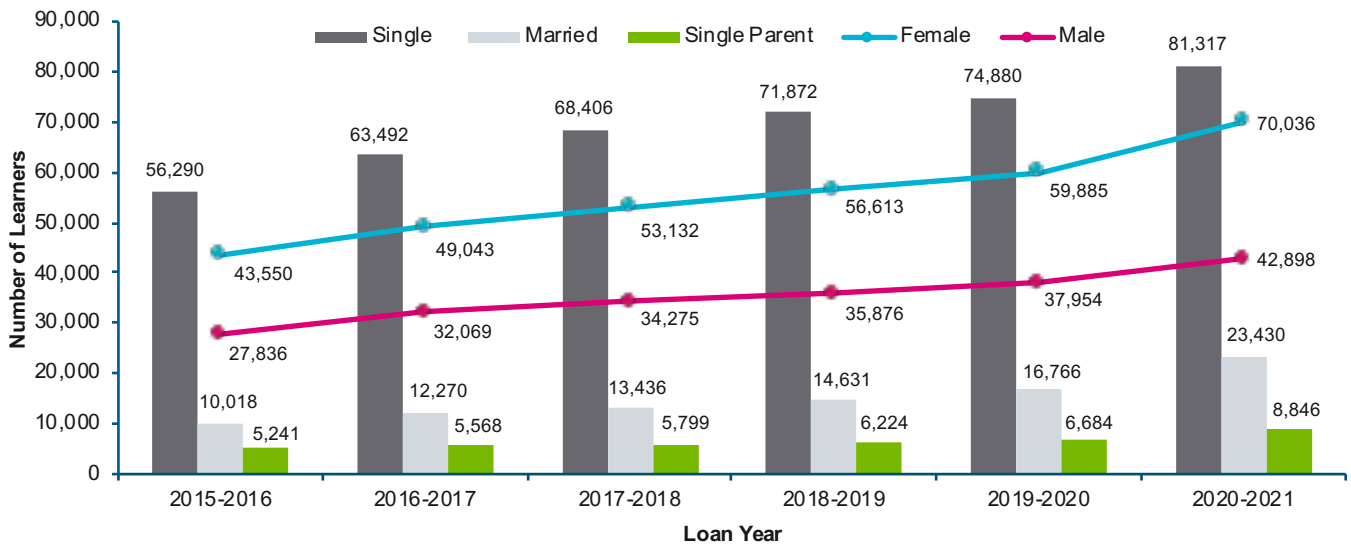
⁴ Learners choose whether or not to disclose their Indigenous heritage when applying for loans. The total number of Indigenous learners reflected here includes only learners who disclosed their Indigenous heritage. There may be additional learners with Indigenous heritage who did not disclose that information.

⁵ A permanent disability is a functional limitation caused by a physical or mental impairment that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to participate in studies at the post-secondary level or in the labour force. The disability is expected to remain for the person's expected natural life.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur each loan year. These changes affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

CHART 3

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME LEARNERS' FUNDED: LOANS AND GRANTS BY LOAN YEAR², MARITAL STATUS AND GENDER³



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the loan year (August 1 to July 31).

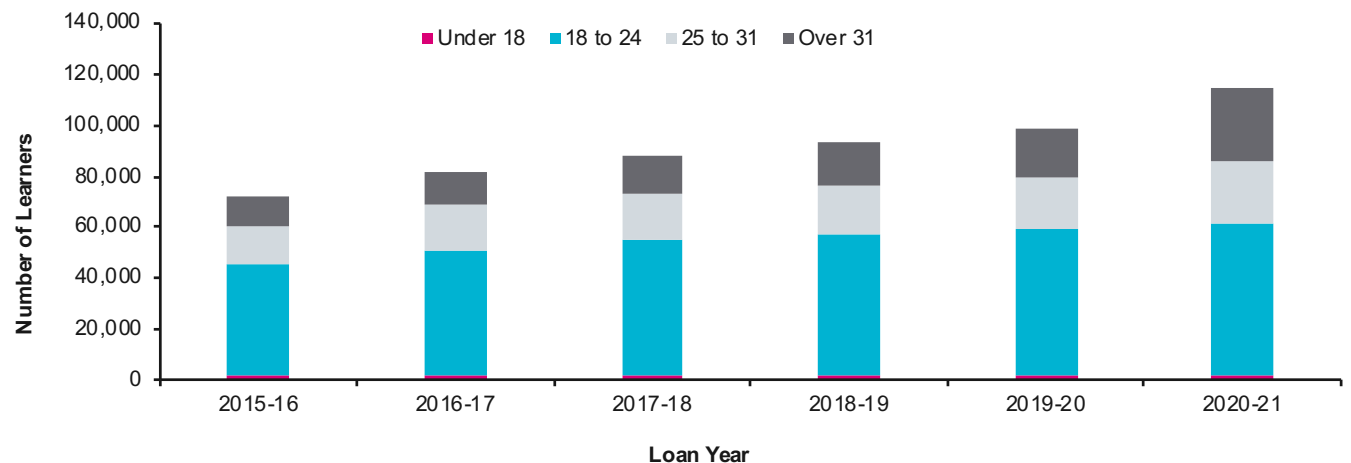
² Loan year is from August 1 to July 31.

³ As of January 1, 2019, an option was added for Alberta student loan applicants to identify as gender X. There is only data for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 years, so it is excluded from the chart. See Table 5 for the numbers.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur each loan year. These changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

CHART 4

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME LEARNERS' FUNDED: LOANS AND GRANTS BY LOAN YEAR² AND AGE



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

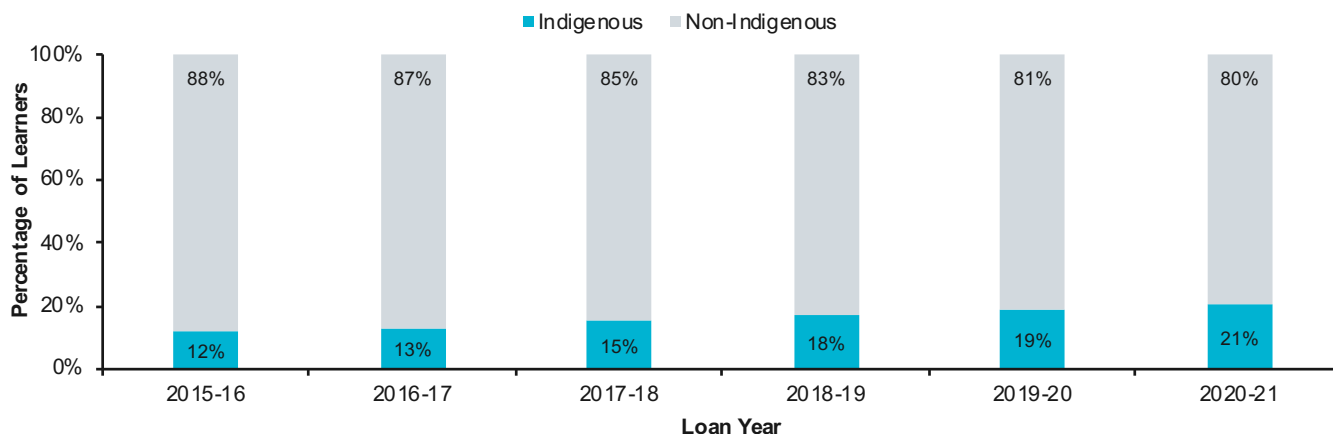
¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the loan year.

² Loan year is from August 1 to July 31.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur in each loan year. These changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

CHART 5

PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME LEARNERS¹ FUNDED: LOANS AND GRANTS BY LOAN YEAR² AND INDIGENOUS HERITAGE³



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the loan year.

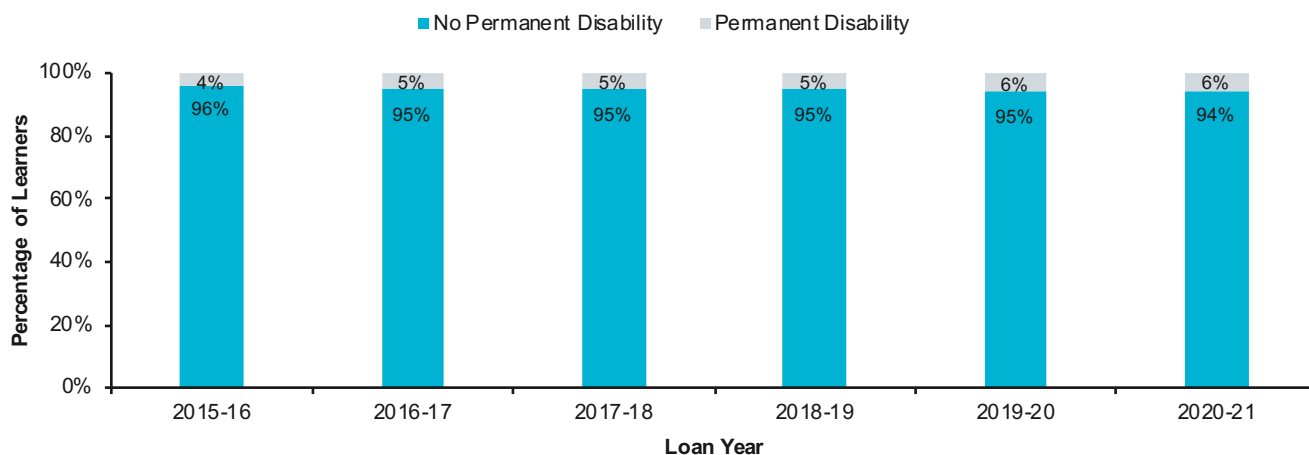
² Loan year is from August 1 to July 31.

³ Learners choose whether or not to disclose their Indigenous heritage when applying for loans. The total number of Indigenous learners reflected here includes only learners who disclosed their Indigenous heritage. There may be additional learners with Indigenous heritage who did not disclose that information.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur in each loan year. These changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

CHART 6

PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME LEARNERS¹ FUNDED: LOANS AND GRANTS BY LOAN YEAR² AND PERMANENT DISABILITY³ STATUS



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the loan year.

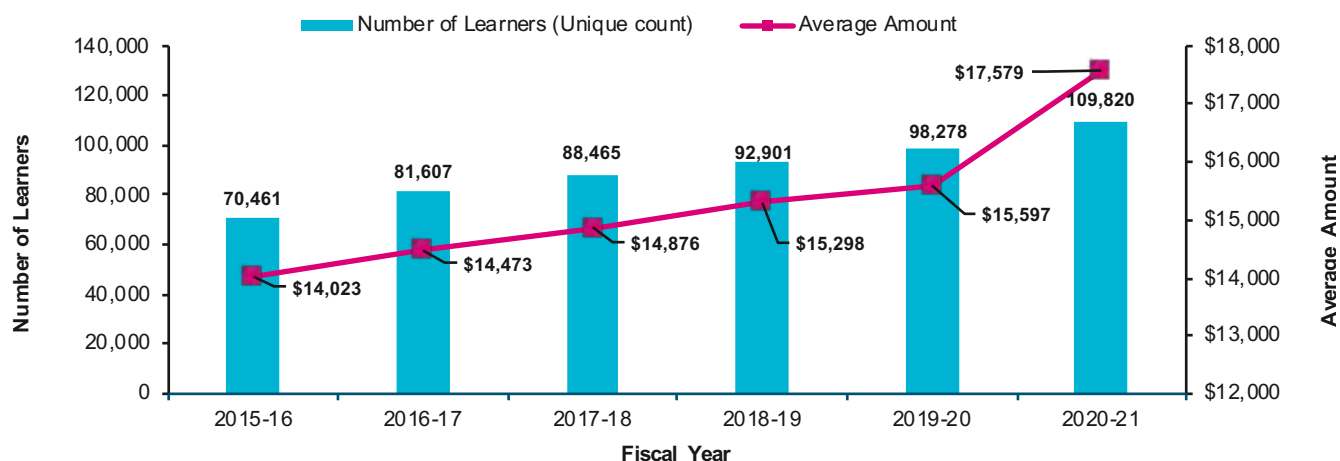
² Loan year is from August 1 to July 31.

³ A permanent disability is a functional limitation caused by a physical or mental impairment that restricts the ability of a person to perform the daily activities necessary to participate in studies at the post-secondary level or in the labour force. The disability is expected to remain for the person's expected natural life.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur in each loan year. These changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

CHART 7

NUMBER OF FULL-TIME LEARNERS¹ FUNDED: LOANS AND GRANTS, AND AVERAGE² AMOUNT RECEIVED PER LEARNER BY FISCAL YEAR³



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). However the total number of learners approved per fiscal year are unique counts.

² Average dollar amount presented here is the combined average amount of Alberta and Canada student loans and grants.

³ Fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur in each loan year. These changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for major Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

TABLE 6

AVERAGE FULL-TIME¹ LOAN AND GRANT AMOUNTS BY LOAN YEAR² AND PROGRAM LENGTH

Program Length	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1-Year Program	\$17,669	\$17,338	\$17,543	\$17,929	\$18,381	\$21,422
2-Year Program	\$14,557	\$15,129	\$15,596	\$16,098	\$17,460	\$21,703
3-Year Program	\$17,899	\$18,267	\$19,121	\$19,399	\$19,274	\$20,771
4-Year Program	\$13,035	\$13,508	\$14,064	\$14,403	\$14,308	\$15,041
5-Year Program	\$13,265	\$13,460	\$14,112	\$14,956	\$15,552	\$16,959

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability). Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the loan year.

² Loan year is from August 1 to July 31.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur in each loan year. These changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

TABLE 7**AVERAGE FULL-TIME¹ LOAN AND GRANT AMOUNTS BY LOAN YEAR² AND CREDENTIAL**

Credential	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Non-Credential	\$10,110	\$10,621	\$11,378	\$11,455	\$11,496	\$10,763
Certificate	\$16,678	\$16,916	\$17,753	\$18,528	\$19,016	\$20,628
Journeyman ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$4,848	\$4,955	\$6,373
Diploma	\$17,293	\$17,431	\$17,656	\$18,131	\$19,211	\$23,347
Applied Degree	\$13,262	\$13,255	\$14,067	\$14,585	\$14,443	\$15,590
Bachelor Degree	\$12,728	\$13,148	\$13,684	\$14,033	\$14,060	\$14,811
Master Degree	\$18,657	\$19,707	\$20,103	\$20,483	\$20,404	\$21,709
Doctoral Degree	\$21,209	\$22,440	\$22,350	\$21,750	\$21,493	\$23,878

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

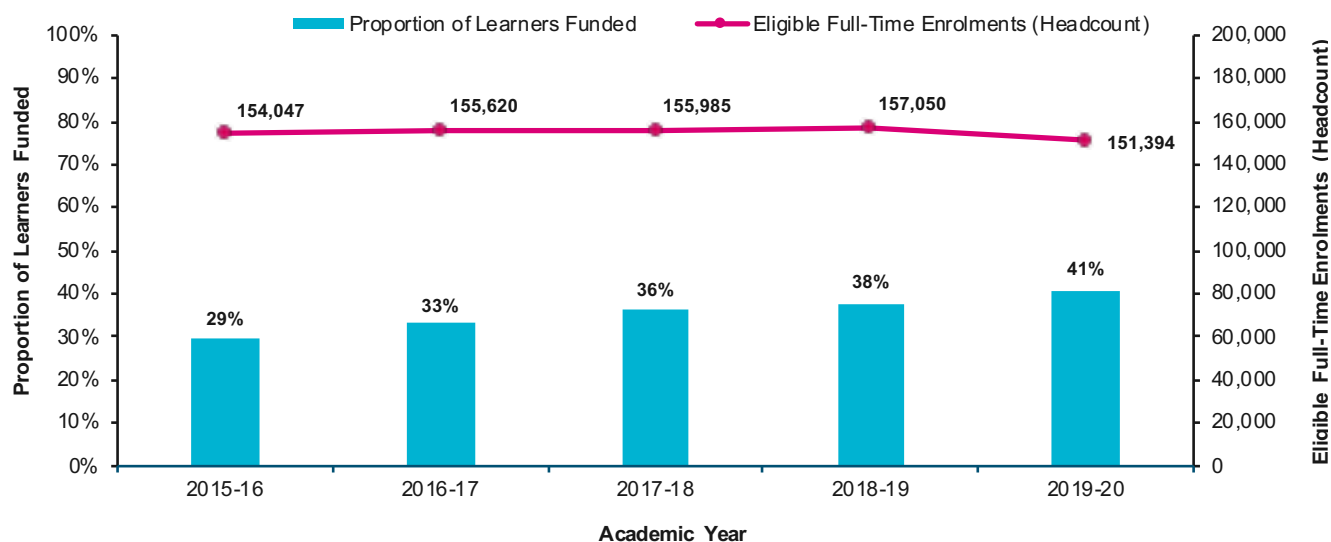
N/A: Not Applicable. Data doesn't exist in the specified years.

¹ Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability).

² Loan year is from August 1 to July 31.

³ Starting in the 2015-16 loan year, loans became available to apprentices in Alberta's apprenticeship programs. Prior to 2018-19, the average dollar amounts reported for apprentices were included with learners in certificate programs.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur each loan year. These changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for Alberta Student Aid program changes by loan year.

CHART 8**PROPORTION OF ELIGIBLE¹ FULL-TIME² PUBLIC POST-SECONDARY ENROLMENTS FUNDED: LOANS³ AND GRANTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR⁴**

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Learner Enrolment Registry and Student Finance System

¹ Includes only Alberta residents enrolled in an Alberta publicly-funded post-secondary institution. Eligible full-time post-secondary enrolment counts are based on students who were full-time at any point in the academic year. Alberta residents here are defined as Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons, as defined in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (Canada), with permanent address in Alberta prior to attending a post-secondary institution.

² Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability) for the funded study period.

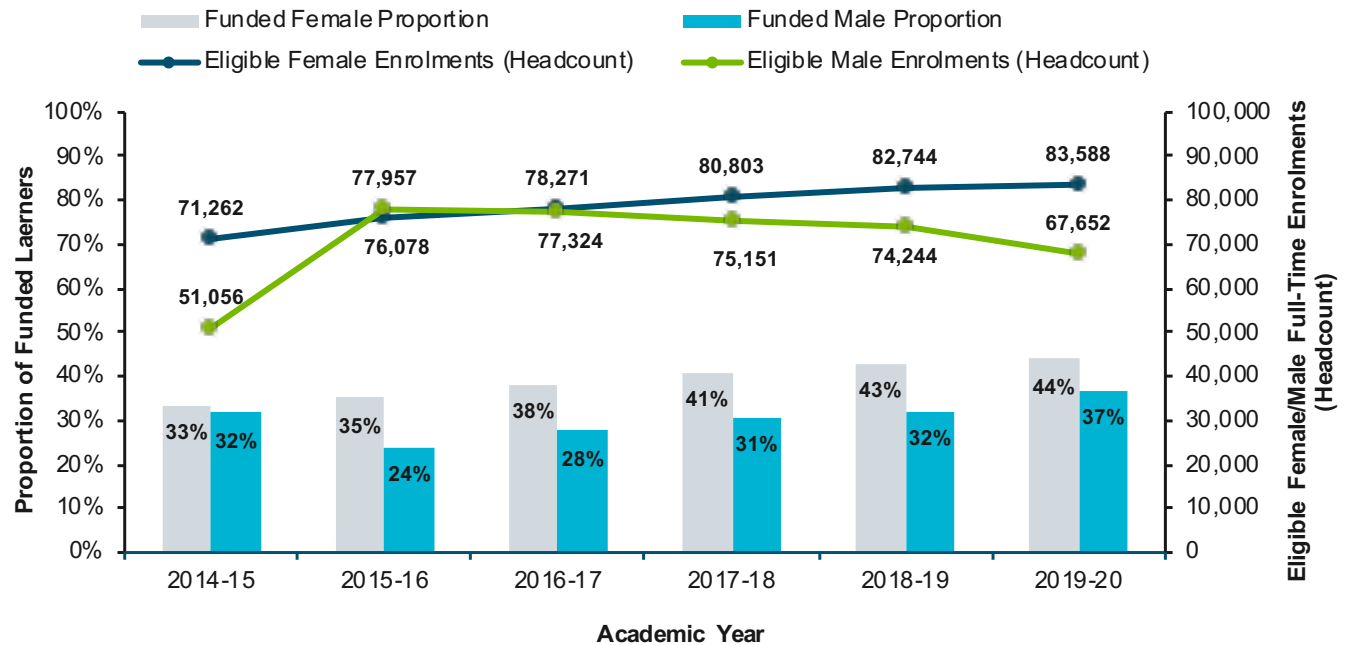
³ Loans and grants for registered Alberta apprentices were made available in the 2015/16 academic year, apprentices are included in enrolments from that year on. Since January 2015, Alberta apprentices have also been able to apply for funding support through the Canada Apprentice Loan (CAL) Program. In 2015-16, 8,000 Alberta apprentices received the CAL totalling \$34 million. In 2016-17, \$31.2 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 7,200 Alberta apprentices. In 2017-18, \$26.1 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 6,100 Alberta apprentices. In 2018-19, \$21.6 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 5,100 Alberta apprentices. In 2019-20, \$17.1 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 4,100 apprentices. In 2020-21, 3,100 apprentices received the CAL totalling \$13.6 million.

⁴ Alberta publicly-funded post-secondary institutions have different academic years.

For more information on Alberta-publicly funded institutions go to www.alberta.ca/types-publicly-funded-post-secondary-institutions.aspx

CHART 9

PROPORTION OF ELIGIBLE¹ FULL-TIME² PUBLIC POST-SECONDARY ENROLMENTS FUNDED: LOANS³ AND GRANTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR⁴ AND GENDER⁵



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Learner Enrolment Registry and Student Finance System

- ¹ Includes only Alberta residents enrolled in an Alberta publicly-funded post-secondary institution. Eligible full-time post-secondary enrolment counts are based on students who were full-time at any point in the academic year. Alberta residents here are defined as Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons, as defined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada), with permanent address in Alberta prior to attending a post-secondary institution.
- ² Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability) for the funded study period.
- ³ Loans and grants for registered Alberta apprentices were made available in the 2015-16 academic year, apprentices are included in enrolments from that year on. Since January 2015, Alberta apprentices have also been able to apply for funding support through the Canada Apprentice Loan (CAL) Program. In 2015-16, 8,000 Alberta apprentices received the CAL totalling \$34 million. In 2016-17, \$31.2 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 7,200 Alberta apprentices. In 2017-18, \$26.1 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 6,100 Alberta apprentices. In 2018-19, \$21.6 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 5,100 Alberta apprentices. In 2019-20, \$17.1 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 4,100 apprentices. In 2020-21 3,100 apprentices received the CAL totalling \$13.6 million.
- ⁴ Alberta publicly-funded post-secondary institutions have different academic years.
- ⁵ As of January 1, 2019, an option was added for Alberta student loan applicants to identify as gender X. Due to small counts, these numbers have been suppressed for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

For more information on Alberta-publicly funded institutions go to

<https://www.alberta.ca/types-publicly-funded-post-secondary-institutions.aspx>

TABLE 8**PROPORTION OF ELIGIBLE¹ FULL-TIME² PUBLIC POST-SECONDARY ENROLMENTS APPROVED FOR LOANS AND GRANTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR³ AND CREDENTIAL**

Credential	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
	Total Enrolments	Proportion Funded	Total Enrolments	Proportion Funded	Total Enrolments	Proportion Funded	Total Enrolments	Proportion Funded	Total Enrolments	Proportion Funded
Non-Graduate Programs										
Certificate ⁴	35,982	9%	32,577	11%	28,604	13%	26,847	14%	18,205	19%
Diploma	26,815	41%	27,458	44%	28,686	47%	28,825	49%	29,197	51%
Applied Degree	1,272	31%	1,267	33%	1,234	34%	1,214	34%	1,118	38%
Bachelor Degree	69,994	38%	73,210	41%	75,957	44%	77,556	45%	79,789	46%
Graduate Programs⁷										
Master ⁵	5,426	18%	5,678	20%	5,925	21%	6,116	22%	6,246	23%
Doctoral ⁶	2,647	4%	2,604	5%	2,610	6%	2,561	7%	8,672	7%

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Learner Enrolment Registry and Student Finance System

¹ Includes only Alberta residents enrolled in an Alberta publicly-funded post-secondary institution. Eligible full-time post-secondary enrolment counts are based on students who were full-time at any point in the academic year. Alberta residents here are defined as Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons, as defined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada), with permanent address in Alberta prior to attending a post-secondary institution.

² Alberta Student Aid defines full-time post-secondary learners as those enrolled in at least 60% of a full course load (or at least 40% of a full course load for a learner with a documented permanent disability) for the funded study period.

³ Alberta publicly-funded post-secondary institutions have different academic years.

⁴ Loans and grants for registered Alberta apprentices were made available in the 2015-16 loan year. Apprentices are included in certificate enrolments from that year on. Since January 2015, Alberta apprentices have also been able to apply for funding support through the Canada Apprentice Loan (CAL) Program. In 2015-16, 8,000 Alberta apprentices received the CAL totalling \$34 million. In 2016-17, \$31.2 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 7,200 Alberta apprentices. In 2017-18, \$26.1 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 6,100 Alberta apprentices. In 2018-19, \$21.6 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 5,100 Alberta apprentices. In 2019-20, \$17.1 million in CAL loans was disbursed to 4,100 apprentices. In 2020-21 3,100 apprentices received the CAL totalling \$13.6 million.

⁵ Includes Masters level certificates, diplomas and degrees.

⁶ Includes Doctoral level certificates, diplomas and degrees.

⁷ In previous Student Aid Statistical Profiles, masters and doctoral level certificates and diplomas were included under certificate. There was no differentiation between graduate and non-graduate programs.

For more information on Alberta-publicly funded institutions go to www.alberta.ca/types-publicly-funded-post-secondary-institutions.aspx

CHART 10

MEDIAN¹ GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOAN DEBT² OF STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS AT TIME OF GRADUATION BY GRADUATING CLASS³



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Graduate Outcomes Survey

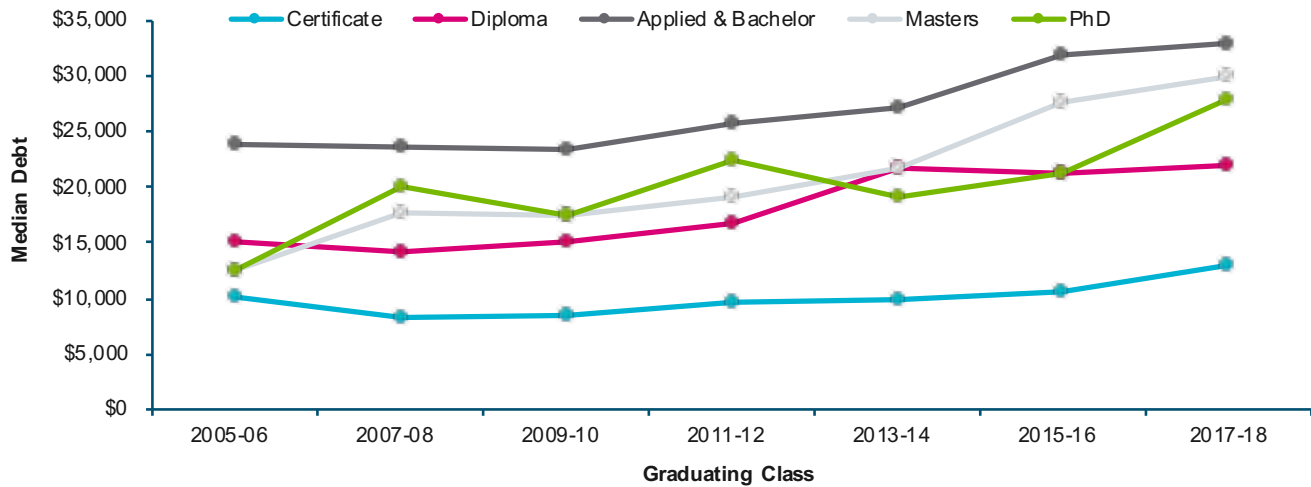
Survey Question: At the time of your graduation, approximately how much did you owe from all government sponsored loans accumulated during your entire post-secondary education?

- ¹ Median debt is rounded to the nearest dollar and is expressed in real 2020 dollars using Bank of Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI). In the 2016/17 Student Aid Statistical Profiles, median debt was not adjusted for inflation.
- ² Debt is self-reported by respondents of the Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) conducted biennially on graduates of Alberta's publicly-funded post-secondary institutions. Only those who indicated they received government student loans for their post-secondary education were included (including graduates who received government student loans but indicated they had \$0 government student loan debt at time of graduation). Those who received federal student loans and financial assistance from other provinces may be included. "Not applicable", "Don't know", and "No response" responses were excluded. In 2017-18, responses of more than \$100,000 were rounded down to \$100,000 to exclude outliers; in 2015-16, responses of more than \$200,000 were excluded. The number of respondents who answered the question ranges between 3,500 and 6,600 depending on the survey year.
- ³ The years represent when the graduates completed their post-secondary programs. Graduates are surveyed approximately two years after graduation.

For more information about GOS, go to: www.alberta.ca/data-collection-research.aspx/

CHART 11

MEDIAN¹ GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOAN DEBT² OF STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS AT THE TIME OF GRADUATION BY GRADUATING CLASS³ AND CREDENTIAL



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Graduate Outcomes Survey

Survey Question: *At the time of your graduation, approximately how much did you owe from all government sponsored loans accumulated during your entire post-secondary education?*

- ¹ Median debt is rounded to the nearest dollar and is expressed in real 2020 dollars using Bank of Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI). In the 2016-17 Student Aid Statistical Profiles, median debt was not adjusted for inflation.
- ² Debt is self-reported by respondents of the Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) conducted biennially on graduates of Alberta's publicly-funded post-secondary institutions. Only those who indicated they received government student loans for their post-secondary education were included (including graduates who received government student loans but indicated they had \$0 government student loan debt at time of graduation). Those who received federal student loans and financial assistance from other provinces may be included. "Not applicable", "Don't know", and "No response" responses were excluded. In 2017-18, responses of more than \$100,000 were rounded down to \$100,000 to exclude outliers; in 2015-16, responses of more than \$200,000 were excluded. The number of respondents who answered the question ranges between 3,500 and 6,600 depending on the survey year.
- ³ The years represent when the graduates completed their post-secondary programs. Graduates are surveyed approximately two years after graduation.

For more information about GOS, go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/data-collection-research.aspx/>

TABLE 9**MEDIAN¹ GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOAN DEBT² OF STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS AT TIME OF GRADUATION BY GRADUATING CLASS³ AND DEMOGRAPHICS⁴**

Graduating Class	2005-06	2007-08	2009-10	2011-12	2013-14	2015-16	2017-18
Age Groups							
22 or younger	\$10,029	\$11,832	\$11,711	\$11,412	\$14,147	\$15,943	\$15,000
23-25	\$17,551	\$16,565	\$15,224	\$16,832	\$21,765	\$23,384	\$25,000
26-30	\$22,566	\$23,665	\$23,422	\$22,443	\$26,118	\$29,761	\$30,000
31-40	\$18,805	\$17,748	\$17,566	\$22,443	\$21,765	\$26,572	\$28,000
41 or older	\$7,522	\$8,283	\$10,540	\$11,221	\$16,324	\$13,818	\$18,000
Marital Status							
Single	\$18,805	\$17,748	\$17,566	\$20,198	\$21,765	\$25,509	\$25,000
Married/Common law	\$12,537	\$14,199	\$15,224	\$15,149	\$18,500	\$21,258	\$24,000
Divorced/Separated/Widowed	\$17,551	\$23,665	\$14,053	\$19,076	\$21,765	\$23,384	\$30,000
Gender							
Female	\$16,298	\$17,748	\$17,566	\$19,076	\$21,765	\$24,446	\$25,000
Male	\$17,551	\$17,748	\$17,566	\$16,832	\$21,765	\$23,384	\$25,000
Indigenous Heritage							
Indigenous	\$12,537	\$15,382	\$16,395	\$14,588	\$16,324	\$21,258	\$21,000
Non-Indigenous	\$17,551	\$17,748	\$17,566	\$17,954	\$21,765	\$24,446	\$25,000
Disability Status							
Yes	\$18,805	\$14,199	\$14,053	\$22,443	\$21,765	\$23,384	\$25,000
No	\$17,551	\$17,748	\$17,566	\$17,954	\$21,765	\$23,384	\$25,000
Overall	\$17,551	\$17,748	\$17,566	\$17,954	\$21,765	\$23,384	\$25,000

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Graduate Outcomes Survey

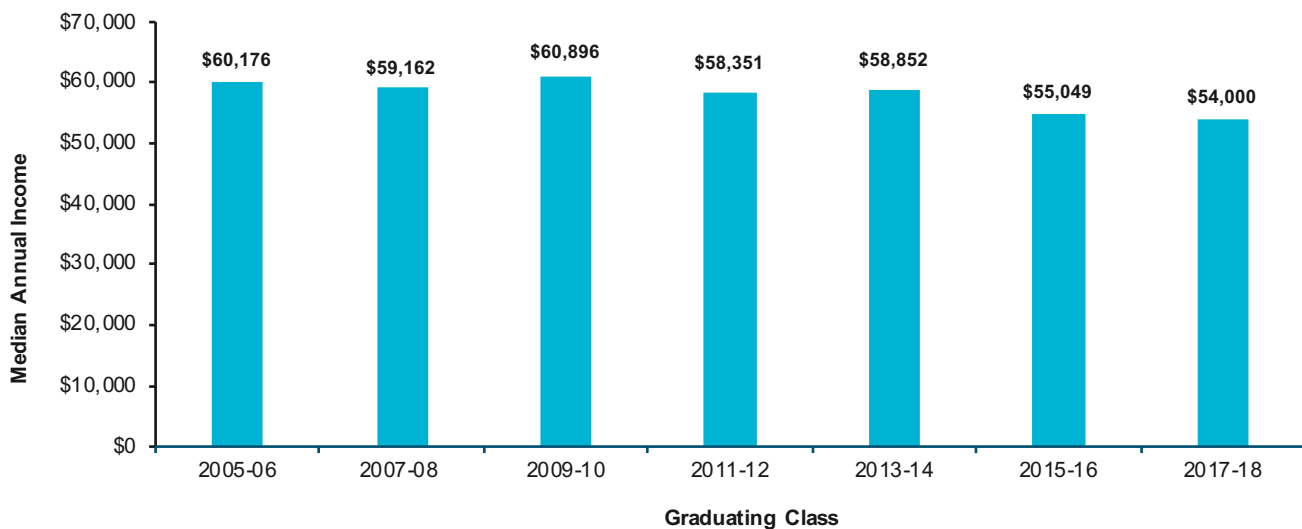
Survey Question: At the time of your graduation, approximately how much did you owe from all government sponsored loans accumulated during your entire post-secondary education?

- ¹ Median debt is rounded to the nearest dollar and is expressed in real 2020 dollars using Bank of Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI). In the 2016-17 Student Aid Statistical Profiles, median debt was not adjusted for inflation.
- ² Debt is self-reported by respondents of the Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) conducted biennially on graduates of Alberta's publicly-funded post-secondary institutions. Only those who indicated they received government student loans for their post-secondary education were included (including graduates who received government student loans but indicated they had \$0 government student loan debt at time of graduation). Those who received federal student loans and financial assistance from other provinces may be included. "Not applicable", "Don't know", and "No response" responses were excluded. In 2017-18, responses of more than \$100,000 were rounded down to \$100,000 to exclude outliers; in 2015-16, responses of more than \$200,000 were excluded. The number of respondents who answered the question ranges between 3,500 and 6,600 depending on the survey year.
- ³ The years represent when the graduates completed their post-secondary programs. Graduates are surveyed approximately two years after graduation.
- ⁴ For 2015-16 graduates onward, age was calculated using date of birth and January 1 of the survey year. Prior to the 2015-16 graduates, age was self-reported by survey respondents.

For more information about GOS, go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/data-collection-research.aspx/>

CHART 12

MEDIAN¹ ANNUAL INCOME² OF STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION BY GRADUATING CLASS³



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Graduate Outcomes Survey

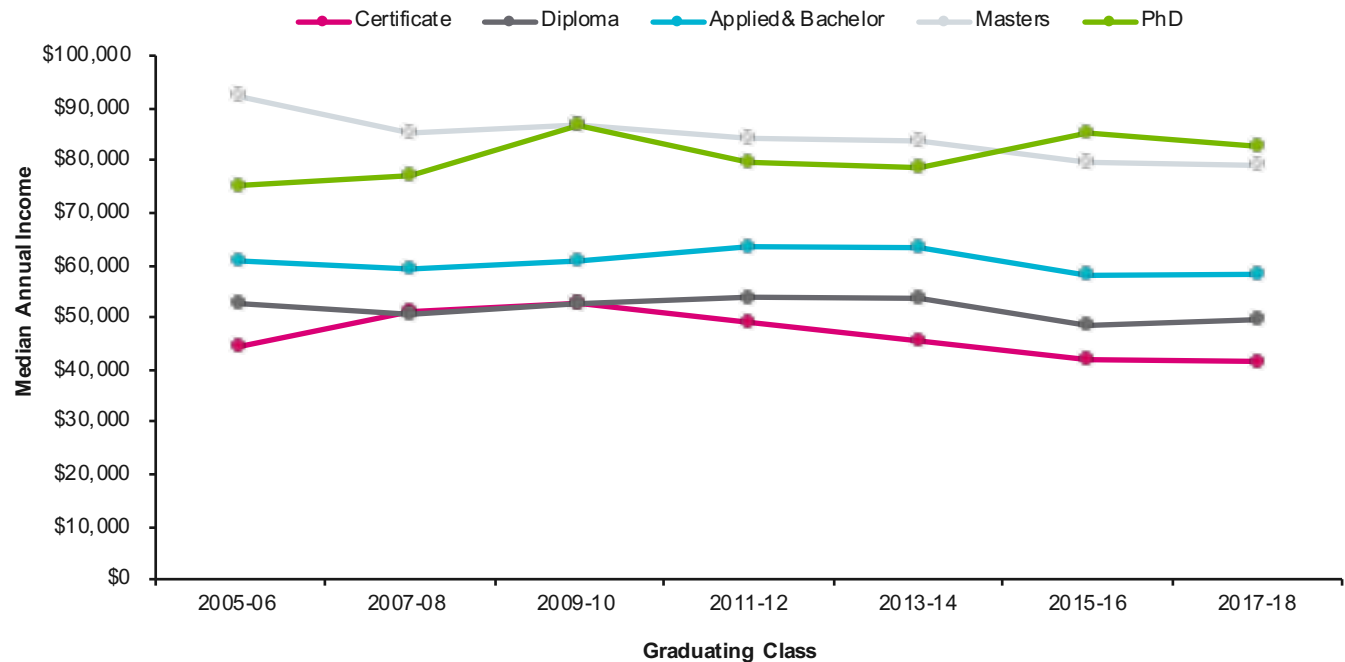
Survey Question: Working your usual hours at your (main) job, approximately what is your (hourly/daily/weekly/bi-weekly/semi-monthly (every two weeks)/monthly/yearly) gross salary or earnings, before taxes and deductions? (including gratuities, commission and other earnings)?

- ¹ Median income is rounded to the nearest dollar and is expressed in real 2020 dollars using Bank of Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI). In the 2016-17 Student Aid Statistical Profiles, median debt was not adjusted for inflation.
- ² Income here is from main job, that is, the job in which graduates work the highest number of hours each week. Income is self-reported by respondents of the Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) conducted biennially on graduates of Alberta's publicly-funded post-secondary institutions. The data includes only those graduates who indicated they received government student loans for their post-secondary education. Those who received federal student loans and financial assistance from other provinces may be included. "Don't know" and "Prefer not to say" responses were excluded. In 2017-18, responses of more than \$150,000 were recoded to \$150,000 to exclude outliers. The number of respondents who answered the question ranges between 2,700 and 6,000 depending on the survey year.
- ³ The years represent when the graduates completed their post-secondary programs. Graduates are surveyed approximately two years after graduation.

For more information about GOS, go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/data-collection-research.aspx/>

CHART 13

MEDIAN¹ ANNUAL INCOME² OF STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION BY GRADUATING CLASS³ AND CREDENTIAL



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Graduate Outcomes Survey

Survey Question: Working your usual hours at your (main) job, approximately what is your (hourly/daily/weekly/bi-weekly/semi-monthly (every two weeks)/monthly/yearly) gross salary or earnings, before taxes and deductions? (including gratuities, commission and other earnings)?

- ¹ Median income is rounded to the nearest dollar and is expressed in real 2020 dollars using Bank of Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI). In the 2016-17 Student Aid Statistical Profiles, median debt was not adjusted for inflation.
- ² Income here is from main job, that is, the job in which graduates work the highest number of hours each week. Income is self-reported by respondents of the Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) conducted biennially on graduates of Alberta's publicly-funded post-secondary institutions. The data includes only those graduates who indicated they received government student loans for their post-secondary education. Those who received federal student loans and financial assistance from other provinces may be included. "Don't know" and "Prefer not to say" responses were excluded. In 2017-18, responses of more than \$150,000 were recoded to \$150,000 to exclude outliers. The number of respondents who answered the question ranges between 2,700 and 6,000 depending on the survey year.
- ³ The years represent when the graduates completed their post-secondary programs. Graduates are surveyed approximately two years after graduation.

For more information about GOS, go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/data-collection-research.aspx/>

TABLE 10**MEDIAN¹ ANNUAL INCOME² OF STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION BY GRADUATING CLASS³ AND DEMOGRAPHICS⁴**

Demographics	2005-06	2007-08	2009-10	2011-12	2013-14	2015-16	2017-18
Age Groups							
22 or younger	\$42,625	\$39,378	\$45,672	\$43,763	\$45,630	\$44,216	\$41,600
23-25	\$52,654	\$49,696	\$52,699	\$53,771	\$54,412	\$48,638	\$49,450
26-30	\$62,683	\$60,298	\$62,068	\$61,717	\$60,941	\$57,396	\$58,000
31-40	\$65,504	\$68,154	\$70,265	\$65,700	\$67,906	\$60,011	\$60,000
41 or older	\$70,910	\$75,727	\$76,121	\$68,621	\$65,294	\$62,675	\$56,000
Marital Status							
Single	\$56,415	\$55,375	\$58,554	\$56,107	\$57,676	\$53,144	\$52,000
Married/Common law	\$68,450	\$70,994	\$70,265	\$67,328	\$65,294	\$60,908	\$59,000
Divorced/Separated/Widowed	\$58,922	\$63,303	\$62,482	\$54,479	\$55,382	\$55,685	\$48,048
Gender							
Female	\$53,456	\$55,612	\$56,746	\$53,862	\$54,412	\$52,507	\$50,400
Male	\$65,190	\$63,895	\$65,696	\$66,520	\$65,294	\$60,797	\$60,000
Indigenous Heritage							
Indigenous	\$56,415	\$56,824	\$53,870	\$56,107	\$56,588	\$54,303	\$54,000
Non-Indigenous	\$60,176	\$59,162	\$60,896	\$58,351	\$59,307	\$55,270	\$54,000
Disability Status							
Yes	\$45,383	\$48,276	\$42,159	\$51,028	\$52,235	\$48,673	\$47,114
No	\$60,176	\$59,162	\$60,896	\$58,351	\$59,734	\$55,270	\$54,100
Overall	\$60,176	\$59,162	\$60,896	\$58,351	\$58,852	\$55,049	\$54,000

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Graduate Outcomes Survey

Survey Question: Working your usual hours at your (main) job, approximately what is your (hourly/daily/weekly/bi-weekly/semi-monthly (every two weeks)/monthly/yearly) gross salary or earnings, before taxes and deductions? (including gratuities, commission and other earnings)?

¹ Median income is rounded to the nearest dollar and is expressed in real 2020 dollars using Bank of Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI). In the 2016-17 Student Aid Statistical Profiles, median debt was not adjusted for inflation.

² Income here is from main job, that is, the job in which graduates work the highest number of hours each week. Income is self-reported by respondents of the Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) conducted biennially on graduates of Alberta's publicly-funded post-secondary institutions. The data includes only those graduates who indicated they received government student loans for their post-secondary education. Those who received federal student loans and financial assistance from other provinces may be included. "Don't know" and "Prefer not to say" responses were excluded. In 2017-18, responses of more than \$150,000 were recoded to \$150,000 to exclude outliers. The number of respondents who answered the question ranges between 2,700 and 6,000 depending on the survey year.

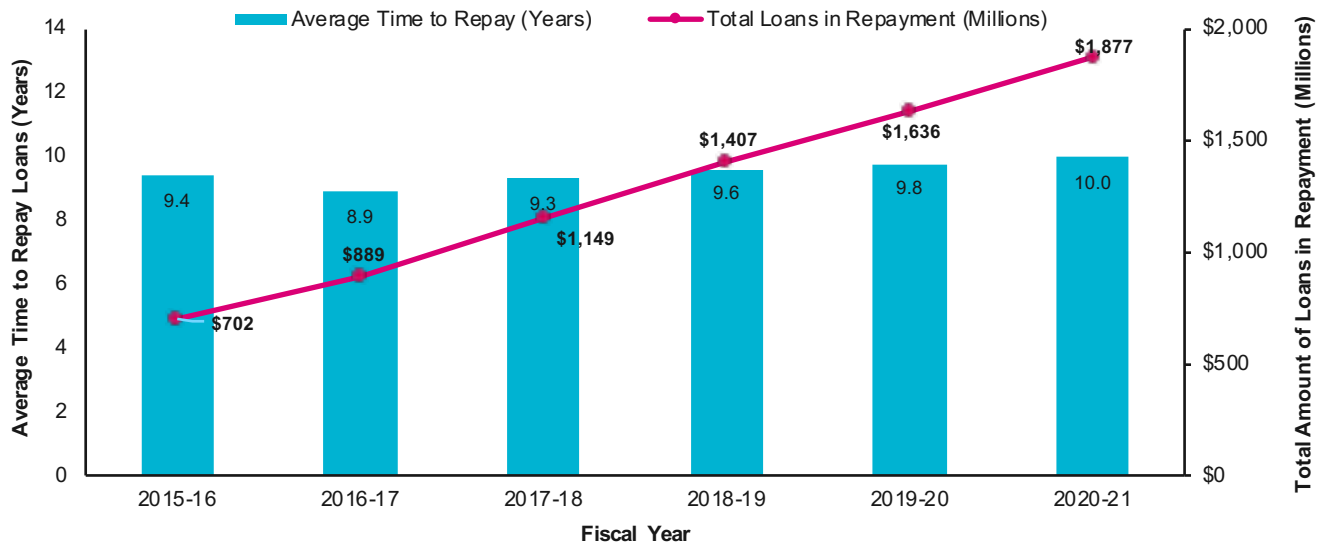
³ The years represent when the graduates completed their post-secondary programs. Graduates are surveyed approximately two years after graduation.

⁴ For 2015-16 graduates onward, age was calculated using date of birth and January 1 of the survey year. Prior to the 2015-16 graduates, age was self-reported by survey respondents.

For more information about GOS, go to: <https://www.alberta.ca/data-collection-research.aspx/>

CHART 14

AVERAGE TIME TO REPAY¹ ALBERTA STUDENT LOANS AND TOTAL AMOUNT OF LOANS IN REPAYMENT BY FISCAL YEAR²



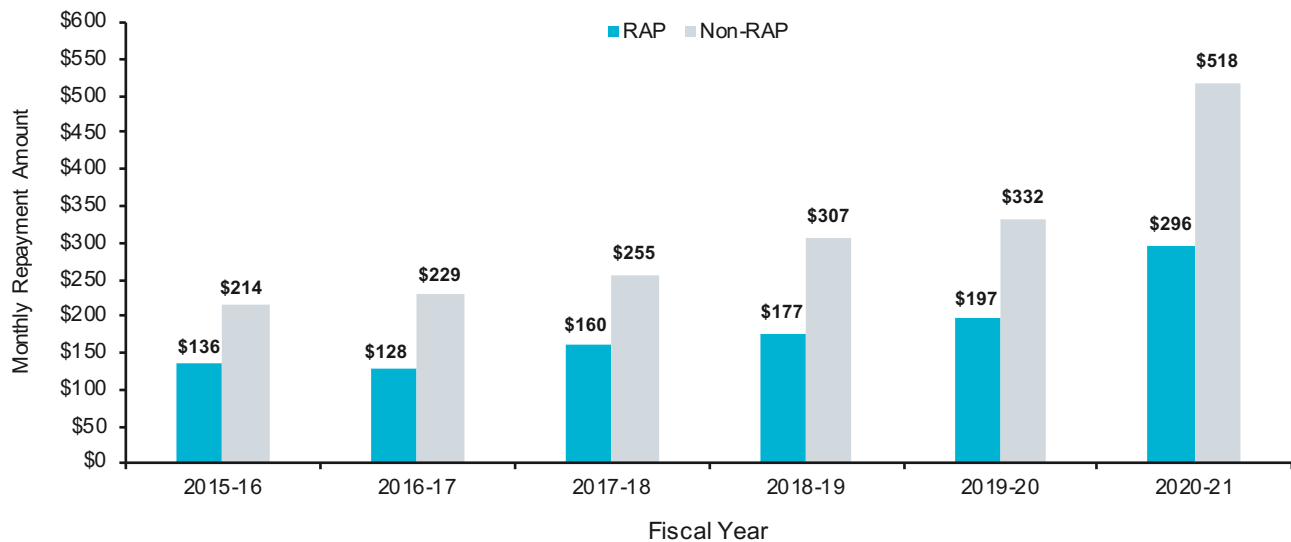
Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ Average time to repay loans is calculated based on borrowers loan repayment schedule and may not reflect actual repayment behaviour as borrowers could repay early or be delinquent in their monthly payments.

² Fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.

CHART 15

AVERAGE MONTHLY ALBERTA STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT AMOUNT PER BORROWER BY FISCAL YEAR¹ AND REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PLAN (RAP) STATUS



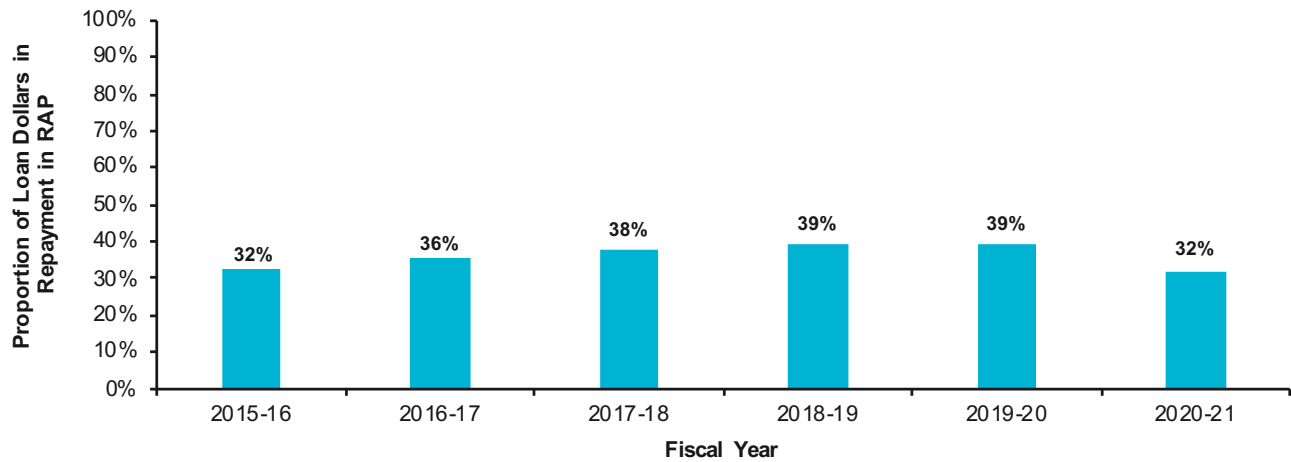
Source: Alberta Advanced Education

¹ These statistics cover Alberta student loan borrowers who are in repayment and made loan payment transactions in the respective fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). The monthly repayment amounts represent a 12-month average. These monthly amounts only include loan borrowers' payments towards the interest and/or principal portions of their Alberta student loans. The amounts for 2020-21 include a 6-month pause on borrower repayment. In the first 6-months among Non-RAP borrowers, a majority made no repayments; however, a small number made repayments that averaged \$801 per month. After the repayment pause ended, the average repayment amount for the last 6-months dropped to \$472. The monthly average came to \$518 for the fiscal year.

Results for 2019-20 have been restated.

CHART 16

PROPORTION¹ OF ALBERTA STUDENT LOAN DOLLARS IN REPAYMENT AND IN THE REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PLAN (RAP)² BY FISCAL YEAR³



Source: Alberta Advanced Education

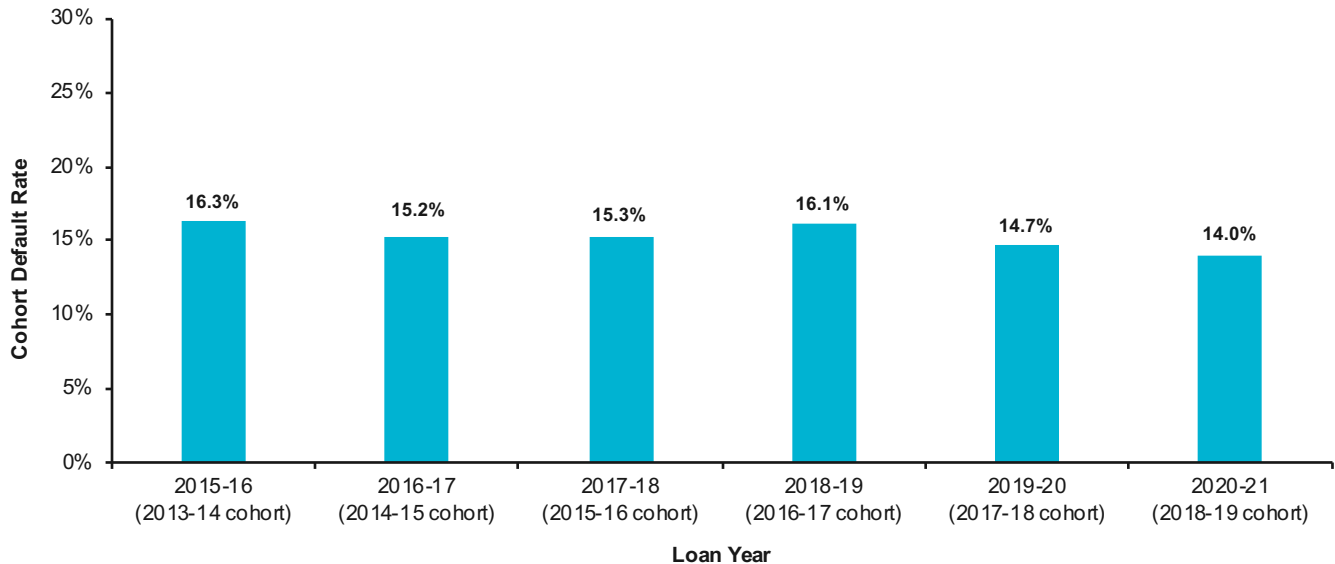
- ¹ The proportion of loan dollars in RAP is calculated as the value of Alberta student loans with a repayment assistance plan (RAP) start date in the fiscal year divided by the total dollar amount of Alberta student loans in repayment. Loans in repayment do not include those that are in default.
- ² Alberta's Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP) was implemented in November 2010. The growth in the RAP usage rates reflects awareness of the program over time.
- ³ These statistics reflect Alberta student loan portfolio balances as of March 31.

Default Rates

The three-year cohort default rate is defined as the proportion of borrowers who defaulted in the first three years of repayment over the total number of borrowers that went into repayment in that loan year. A cohort is defined as all borrowers whose loans went into repayment in a loan year. Cohorts are followed for three years as most defaults happen in this time period. Students who returned to study in the three-year period are excluded from the cohort. Loan year is from August 1 to July 31.

CHART 17A

ALBERTA STUDENT LOAN THREE-YEAR COHORT DEFAULT RATE BY LOAN YEAR¹



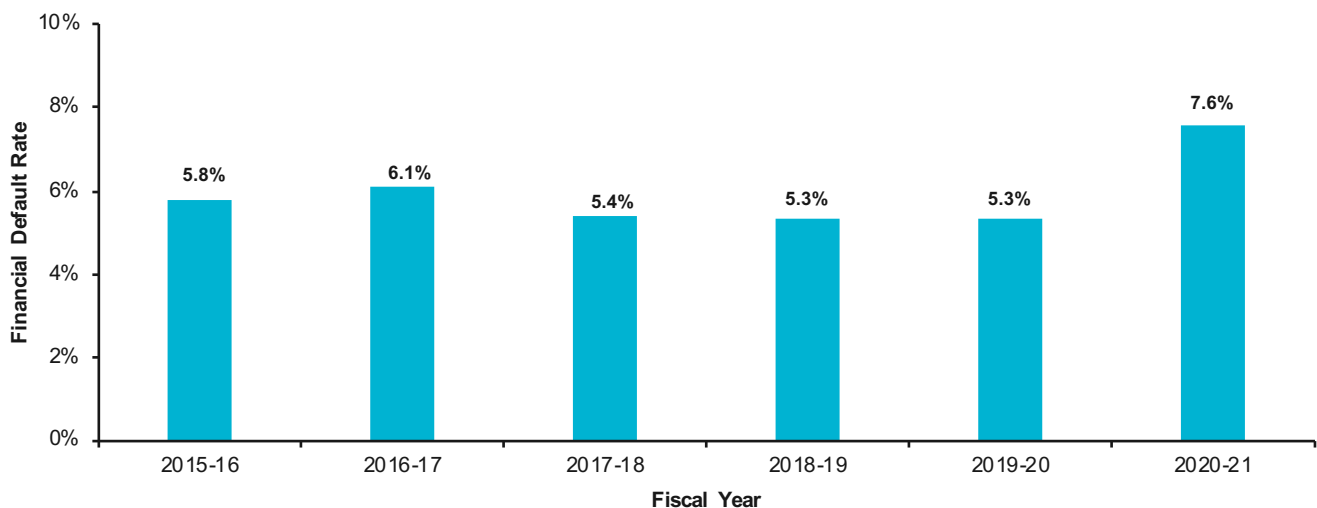
Source: Alberta Advanced Education

¹ In the Advanced Education annual reports and previous Student Aid Statistical Profiles, the financial default rate was used.

The Financial Default Rate calculates delinquent loans in repayment as a percentage of loans in repayment that could potentially default. It is based on the dollar value of the loan portfolio. It is calculated in accordance with the Public Sector Accounting Standards PS 3050 Loans Receivables. Fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.

CHART 17B

ALBERTA STUDENT LOAN FINANCIAL DEFAULT RATE BY FISCAL YEAR



Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

TABLE 11
NUMBER OF PART-TIME¹ LEARNERS FUNDED²: LOANS AND GRANTS BY FISCAL YEAR³

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Loans	1,784	2,098	2,180	1,817	1,615	824
Part Time Canada Student Loan	1,784	2,098	2,180	1,817	1,615	824
Canada Grants	1,604	1,965	2,222	2,930	3,414	3,204
Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities	174	165	188	207	208	164
Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities	94	84	74	65	66	43
Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies	1,497	1,860	2,095	2,914	3,282	3,070
Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Students with Dependants	33	45	41	446	592	415
Alberta Grants	898	1,039	1,086	431	132	143
Alberta Part-Time Grant	898	1,039	1,086	431	132	143
Total Unique Learners Approved	2,439	2,943	3,260	3,273	3,512	3,312

Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Student Finance System

¹ These statistics cover only part-time learners. Alberta Student Aid defines part-time learners are those enrolled in less than 60% of a full course load (or less than 40% if a learner has a documented permanent disability). Learners with a permanent disability studying between 40% and 50% of a full course load may apply for full-time or part-time funding.

² Learners may have been approved for a loan or grant on more than one application in the fiscal year. Therefore, summing up corresponding rows would not add up to the total number of learners funded because they are unique counts.

³ Fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31.

Note: There are a number of program changes that occur in each academic year. The program changes may affect the statistics presented above. See page 28 for major Alberta Student Aid program changes by academic year.

Grants to Student Loan Borrowers

Canada Grants Available in 2020-21

- **Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students** is available to low- and middle-income students pursuing full-time post-secondary studies in a multi-year program. Students in apprenticeship programs, graduate studies or one-year programs, including open studies, are not eligible to receive this grant. Students who meet eligibility requirements for this grant may receive up to \$750 per month of study. The grant amount provided is based on family income and family size with grant amounts gradually decreasing as family income increases.
- **Skills Boost Top-Up to the Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students** is available to students in study periods beginning on or after August 1, 2018. To be eligible, students must be in receipt of the Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students and have been out of high school for at least 10 years as of the study period start date. Students who meet eligibility requirements will receive \$200 per month of studies.
- **Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependents** is available to low- and middle-income students with dependants under 12 years of age pursuing post-secondary studies. Students who meet eligibility requirements for this grant may receive up to \$400 per month of study for each child younger than age 12 at the start of the school year. The grant amount provided is based on family income and family size with grant amounts gradually decreasing as family income increases. Students will also receive the grant for any dependent child who is 12 years of age or older who has a permanent disability that requires special daily care and for any wholly dependent individual for whom the student is financially responsible.
- **Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities** is a grant of \$4,000 per loan year (August 1 to July 31) available to students with a documented permanent disability.
- **Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities** is available to students with a documented permanent disability who require exceptional education-related services or equipment. Students who meet the eligibility requirements for this grant can receive up to \$20,000 per loan year.
- **Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies** is available to low- and middle-income students pursuing part-time post-secondary studies. Students who meet eligibility requirements for this grant may receive up to \$3,600 per loan year not exceeding the student's assessed need. The grant amount provided is based on family income and family size with grant amounts gradually decreasing as family income increases. A student cannot receive both the Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies and the Alberta Part-Time Grant for the same study period.
- **Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Students with Dependents** is available to low- and middle-income students with dependants under 12 years of age pursuing part-time post-secondary studies. Students will also receive the grant for any dependent child who is 12 years of age or older and has a permanent disability that requires special daily care and for any wholly dependent individual for whom the student is financially responsible. Students who meet eligibility requirements for this grant may receive up to \$3,840 per loan year not exceeding the student's assessed need. The grant amount provided is based on family income and family size with grant amounts gradually decreasing as family income increases. For students with one or two dependants, the maximum amount is \$80 per week of study. For students with three or more dependants, the maximum amount is \$120 per week of study.

For more information on federal grants go to: canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/student-financial-aid.html

Alberta Grants Available in 2020-21

- **Alberta Student Grant for Full-Time Students** is available to students in study periods beginning on or after August 1, 2020. Low- and middle-income students in apprenticeship programs, graduate studies or one-year programs, including open studies, are eligible to receive this grant. Students who meet eligibility requirements for this grant may receive up to \$375 per month of study. The grant amount provided is based on family income and family size with grant amounts gradually decreasing as family income increases. A student is not eligible to receive the Alberta Student Grant for Full-Time Students and the Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students for the same study period.
- **Alberta Grant for Students with Disabilities** is available to full-time students with a documented permanent disability to help cover education-related services and equipment costs when students are not eligible to receive or have costs not covered by the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities. Students who meet the eligibility requirements for this award may receive up to \$3,000 per loan year.
- **Alberta Part-Time Grant** is available to low- and middle-income students pursuing part-time post-secondary studies attending an Alberta post-secondary institution. To be eligible, a part-time student must be enrolled in a provincially designated program of study that is not designated to receive the Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies, or have received the Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies during the loan year but when applying for a third semester of funding, is not eligible to receive the Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies for the study period. Students who meet eligibility requirements for this grant receive up to \$600 per semester. A student cannot receive both the Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies and the Alberta Part-Time Grant for the same study period.

For more information on Alberta student grants, go to studentaid.alberta.ca.

Program Changes from Loan Years 2011-12 to 2020-21

Note: Some of the statistics presented in this document are in fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). However, the program changes outlined below occurred in the loan year (August 1 to July 31). The program changes, therefore, crossover two fiscal years.

2011-12

Provincial Changes

- Change made to eligibility for Loan Relief Completion program.
- Introduced the Alberta Grant for Students with Disabilities.

Federal Changes

- Increased part-time earnings exemption to \$433 per month.

2012-13

Provincial Changes

- Replaced the use of savings, part-time earnings, assistantships, stipends, and Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) as resources in provincial eligibility assessment with the Flat Rate Student Contribution of \$1,500 per academic year.
- Removed forced parental contribution from provincial eligibility calculation for dependent students.
- Allowed computer costs of up to \$200 in the provincial eligibility assessment to align with the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP).
- Streamlined application processes for undergraduate students studying at designated institutions outside of Canada.
- Extended the interest-free period by six months between the end of studies and when payment for Alberta Student Loans begin. Interest-free status was extended to part-time students who attended designated post-secondary institutions.
- Discontinued the Loan Relief Program and replaced it with the Alberta Completion Incentive Grant (CIG) for students who graduated after August 1, 2012.
- RRSPs and savings no longer used to determine a student's eligibility for part-time provincial grant funding to align with the CSLP.

Federal Changes

- Harmonized income thresholds for the Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Studies and the Part-Time Canada Loan with the income thresholds for Canada Student Grants.
- Discontinued the Federal Transition Grant.
- RRSPs and savings no longer used to determine a student's eligibility for part-time federal funding.

2013-14

Provincial Changes

- Effective April 1, 2014, shifted full authority for funding students in one-year certificate programs (between 12-52 weeks) to Alberta Student Aid from Alberta Works.
- Initiated Alberta Low Income Grant for students in one-year certificate programs.

Federal Changes

- No program changes.

2014-15

Provincial and Federal Changes

- Changed residency status for part-time students to match those of independent full-time students.

2015-16

Provincial Changes

- Increased Alberta Low-Income Grant from \$120 per month to \$250 per month to align with the CSLP.
- Increased living allowances to align with the CSLP, including annual adjustments by the Consumer Price Index to ensure living allowances keep pace with rising living costs.
- Increased annual loan limits and total maximum loan limits.
- Removed Employment Insurance benefits, forced spousal/partner contributions, and Tax Free Savings Accounts from the provincial eligibility assessment.
- Made student loans and grants available to registered Alberta apprentices taking classroom instruction at a post-secondary institution. Apprentices also became eligible for interest-free status on their Alberta student loans for the duration of their program including on-the-job learning.
- Discontinued Alberta Completion Incentive Grant (CIG) as of July 31, 2015.

2016-17

Provincial Changes

- No program changes.

Federal Changes

- Increased the amount of Canada Student Grant for Students from Low-Income Families from \$250 to \$375 per month of full-time studies.
- Increased the amount of Canada Student Grant for Students from Middle-Income Families from \$100 to \$150 per month of full-time studies.

2017-18

Provincial Changes

- No program changes.

Federal Changes

- Combined the Canada Student Grant for Students from Low Income Families and the Canada Student Grant for Students from Middle Income Families into a single grant – the Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students. As part of this change, there was a shift to a new income threshold table to provide a sliding scale grant amount to low- and middle-income students.
- Removed income, savings, investments, and a number of other resources from the federal eligibility assessment. They were replaced with a federal student contribution amount of up to \$3,000 per loan year with specific amounts calculated based on family income and family size.
- Removed the spousal/partner income from the federal eligibility assessment. It was replaced with a federal spouse/partner contribution amount equal to 10% of the family income above federal low-income threshold.

2018-19

Provincial Changes

- Changes to eligibility for the Alberta Part-Time Grant.

Federal Changes

- Expanded eligibility for the Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependants. As part of this change, there was a shift to a new income threshold table to provide a sliding scale grant amount to low and middle income students.
- Expanded eligibility for the Canada Student Grant for Part-Time Students with Dependants. As part of this change, there was a shift to a new income threshold table to provide a sliding scale grant amount to low and middle income students.
- Expanded eligibility for Part-Time Canada Student Loans.
- Rolled out a three year Skills Boost Pilot Project which includes the:
 - Skills Boost Top-Up to the Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students; and
 - Use of the student's current year family income if it is expected to be lower than the prior year's family income (line 150) to determine eligibility for full-time and part-time income-tested federal grants, and the student and spouse/partner contribution amounts in the full-time federal eligibility assessment.

2019-20

Provincial Changes

- Effective April 1, 2020, the floating interest rate for Alberta Student Loans changed from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)'s prime rate to CIBC's prime rate + 1%.

Federal Changes

- Increased the maximum amount for the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities from \$8,000 to \$20,000.
- Expanded eligibility for the Severe Permanent Disability Benefit so that more student loan borrowers with severe permanent disabilities can qualify for loan forgiveness for Canada Student Loans.

- Effective November 1, 2019:
 - the floating interest rate for Canada Student Loans changed from prime + 2.5% to prime;
 - the fixed interest rate for Canada Student Loans changed from prime + 5% to prime +2%; and
 - interest no longer accrues on Canada Student Loans during the six month non-repayment period after a student loan borrower leaves studies.
- Effective January 1, 2020, added a new option for loan rehabilitation of Canada Student Loans by allowing outstanding interest to be capitalized after a borrower defaults.

2020-21

Provincial Changes

- To help students cover unexpected costs due to sudden closure of post-secondary institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, students were eligible for up to \$3,000 in additional loan funding during the 2019-20 loan year.
- To support Alberta student loan borrowers during the COVID-19 pandemic, Alberta student loan repayment was paused from March 30, 2020 until September 30, 2020, with no accrual of interest.
- Eliminated several academic progress policies including Program Length + 1 Limit, Scholastic Progress, Successive Short-Term Programs, and Open Studies.
- Consolidated the Maintenance Grant and the Alberta Low Income Grant into the new Alberta Student Grant for Full-Time Students.

Federal Changes

- Canada Student Loan borrowers who are on the Repayment Assistance Plan for Borrowers with a Permanent Disability and who are more than five years into repayment are no longer restricted from further federal funding.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, several temporary measures were implemented:
 - Canada Student Loan repayment was paused and interest was waived from March 30, 2020 until September 30, 2020;
 - Canada Student Grant amounts (excluding the Skills Boost Top-Up to the Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students and the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities) were temporarily doubled for one year;
 - the weekly Canada Student Loan limit was temporarily increased from \$210 to \$350 per week for one year; and
 - student contributions and spousal contributions were temporarily removed for one year.
- Effective April 1, 2021, interest on Canada Student Loans is waived until March 31, 2023.
- The Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) is renamed the Canada Student Financial Assistance (CSFA) Program.

For more information on Alberta Student Aid go to studentaid.alberta.ca