

# Accessibility to Higher Education



NAGPS Legislative  
Concerns Committee

**We urge Congress to keep Federal loan programs that currently benefit students, to keep PSLF, to remove the proposed loan cap provisions, and to equalize the loan rates for graduate and undergraduate borrowers.**

The average cumulative debt for an undergraduate is **\$29,000**, for a Master's is **\$57,000**, and **\$75,000** for a doctoral degree. This figure increases to **\$146,000** for a professional degree. [3]

## Student Loan Statistics

- 32.1 million students borrow \$1,003.3 billion in Direct Loans to pay for college students to pay for school [1].
- In 2016, Income Driven Repayment plans, under PSLF, increased by 36% [2].
- Private student loan debt volume hit \$7.8 billion in 2014-15, up from \$5.2 billion in 2010-11 [5].
- Graduate students comprise 13% of the borrowing population, borrowing 40% of all loan dollars, and account for 77% of student loan profit [4]

## Loan Forgiveness & Loan Caps

- PSLF incentivizes people to go into public service occupations, address areas of national importance, and serve our vulnerable populations [6]
- A loan cap of \$28,500 will create a funding gap that will either cause students not to go to grad school or to fill the gap with more expensive private loans. [6]

## Why This Matters

- When the federal government invests in graduate-professional education, the entire nation greatly benefits. [7]
- Jobs requiring advanced degrees are expected to grow by at least 20% between 2010 and 2020 [8]
- Domestic enrollment in graduate education has seen a decline over the past several years. [9]

## **Federal investment**

in doctoral education fills a critical gap that neither states or industry can fill

## **\$28,500 Loan Caps**

will push grad students to more expensive private loans or cause them not to pursue a degree at all [6]

## **13%:77%**

Grad-Prof students:  
13% of loans;  
77% of net profit [4]

## **National Need**

PSLF incentivizes public service provides resources to our vulnerable populations [6]

# Accessibility to Higher Education

---



NAGPS Legislative  
Concerns Committee

## References

[1] Delisle, Jason . "The State of Graduate Student Borrowing." *The Graduate Student Debt Review*, New America Education Policy Program, Mar. 2014, [static.newamerica.org/attachments/750-the-graduate-student-debt-review/GradStudentDebtReview-Delisle-Final.pdf](http://static.newamerica.org/attachments/750-the-graduate-student-debt-review/GradStudentDebtReview-Delisle-Final.pdf).

[2] "Department of Education Releases New Public Service Loan Forgiveness Application Data." *Department of Education Releases New Public Service Loan Forgiveness Application Data | U.S. Department of Education*, 22 Aug. 2016, [www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-releases-new-public-service-loan-forgiveness-application-data](http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-releases-new-public-service-loan-forgiveness-application-data).

[3] Average cumulative student debt at graduation (2012-13 academic year). Analysis by Mark Kantrowitz, Publisher of Fastweb.com and FinAid.org. [www.edvisors.com/media/files/studentaidpolicy/20140107-debt-at-graduation.pdf](http://www.edvisors.com/media/files/studentaidpolicy/20140107-debt-at-graduation.pdf)

[4] Department of Education: Student Loans Overview (Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal). [www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget15/justifications/s-loansoverview.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget15/justifications/s-loansoverview.pdf)

[5] The Institute for College Access & Success. "DEBT Private Loans : Facts and trends ." *He Institute for College Access & Success*, June 2016, [http://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub\\_files/private\\_loan\\_facts\\_trends.pdf](http://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/private_loan_facts_trends.pdf)

[6] <https://www.cnn.com/2018/01/25/gop-actions-may-make-graduate-school-too-costly-for-many.html>

[7] Association of American Universities, Graduate Education in the National Interest <http://www.aau.edu/research/article.aspx?id=4668>

[8] The Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2010-2020 Projections Overview. [www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2012/ted\\_20120228.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2012/ted_20120228.htm)

[9] CGS, Graduate Enrollment and Degrees: 2003 to 2013. [http://cgsnet.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/GED\\_report\\_2013.pdf](http://cgsnet.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/GED_report_2013.pdf)

[10] Association of American Universities, Understanding Doctoral Education in the U.S. [www.aau.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=11582](http://www.aau.edu/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=11582)