
North Dakota University System

2020 Affordability Report



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
Tuition, Mandatory Fees, Room & Board	2
Estimated Total Student Cost	3
Financial Aid Summary.....	4
Federal Funding Sources.....	5
Annual Loan Volume.....	7
Indebtedness at Graduation	8
Net Price.....	9
Summary of All 2018-19 Aid Sources.....	10

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College affordability is a significant factor in student access, retention and completion. Tuition and fee rates are a major component of affordability, as is the availability of financial aid programs from federal, state, institutional and private sources. Strategically designed approaches to college affordability can better assist families in preparing for post-secondary education, accessing programs and attaining educational goals. This report outlines key affordability factors of the North Dakota University System (NDUS).

Executive Summary

- The 2019-20 tuition and mandatory fee rates at the state doctoral (UND and NDSU), masters (Minot State), and regional four-year universities (Mayville State, Dickinson State and Valley City State) were lower than the regional peers. (Chart 1a)
- Room and board rates at all state doctoral, masters, and four-year universities were significantly lower than regional peer averages. (Chart 1b)
- The 2019-20 NDUS two-year college tuition and fees are higher than regional counterparts, however, the room/board rates are comparative to their regional counterparts. (Charts 1a and 1b)
- The average 2019-20 student total cost, prior to financial aid and other discounts, was \$23,600 at doctoral universities, \$19,400 at the master's university, \$18,800 at the regional four-year universities and \$17,100 at two-year colleges. (Chart 2a)
- Tuition and mandatory fees comprised approximately 41% of total student costs at doctoral universities, 39% at masters/four-year universities, and 29% at two-year campuses. (chart 2b)
- Room and board accounted for approximately 39% of total student costs at doctoral universities, 37% at masters/four-year universities and 44% at two-year campuses. (Chart 2b)
- In 2018-19, 56% of all NDUS students received some type of financial aid, which is comparable to national rates. Nearly 34% of aid was in the form on non-repayable grants and scholarships. (Chart 3a, 3b, 3d)
- In the past 5 years, 64% of total aid dollars disbursed were in the form of self-help aid (student loans and Work Study), 31% came from various sources of grants and scholarships, and 5% from tuition waivers. Self-help aid has been trending down during this time period, while institutional scholarships are increasing. (Charts 3c, 3d)
- Federal campus-based grant (FSEOG), Pell Grants and Perkins loans awarded to NDUS students decreased by \$4.5 million (-10.7%) from 2013-14 to 2018-19. Federal student loans have experienced similar results over this five-year period, dropping by 8.9%. (Table 4a)
- All NDUS universities and colleges saw a reduction in total loan amount borrowed, number of borrowers, and number of borrowers compared to headcount in 2018-19. (Table 5)
- Student loan indebtedness for 2019 NDUS graduates averaged \$29,037, a 1% decrease from the prior year. The Institute for College Access & Success reported the 2018 national indebtedness level at \$29,200, an increase of 2%. (Chart 6)
- Net Price at most NDUS campuses is below or comparable to regional counterparts. (Charts 7a and 7b)
- Institutional and private scholarships and grants accounted for \$43.7 million in awards to NDUS students, tuition waivers \$13.4 million, and federal grants \$38.1 million. (Charts 8a)
- State appropriated fund totaling \$15.4 million provided non-repayable grants and scholarships to ND resident students. (Chart 8b)

Tuition, Mandatory Fees, Room and Board

The average of tuition and fees, and room and board for NDUS doctoral, masters and four-year universities continue to be less than the regional peer institutions in 2019-20. The two-year colleges for both categories of costs continue to trend above the regional comparisons. Regional comparisons include peer institutions from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Chart 1a

North Dakota Institutions Average Resident Undergraduate Tuition and Fees Compared to Regional Averages

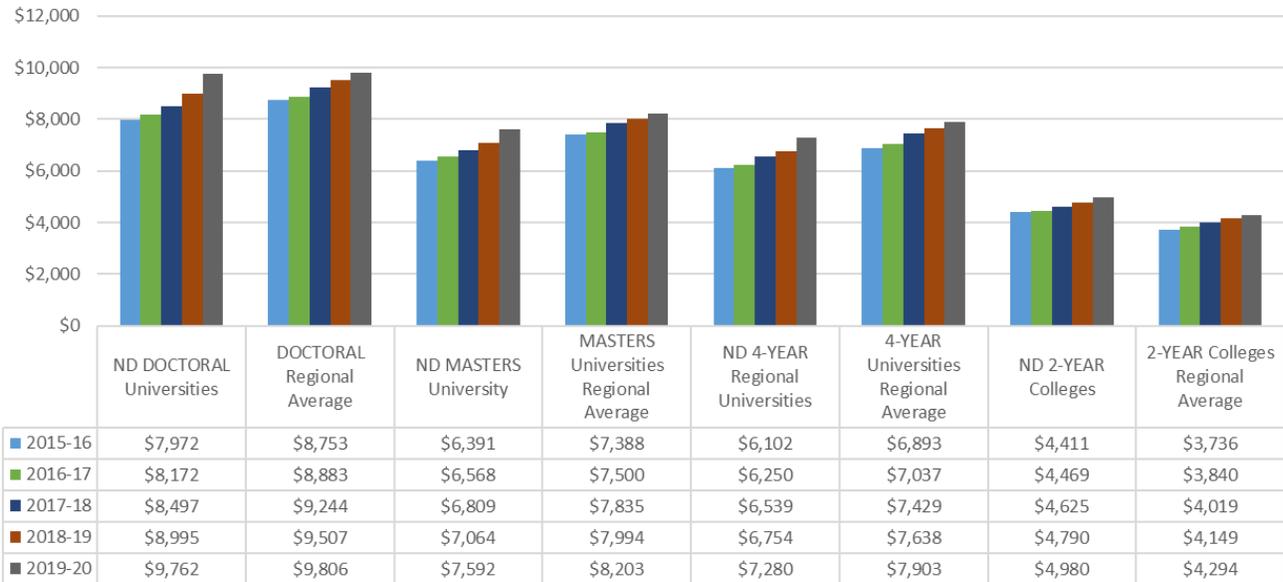
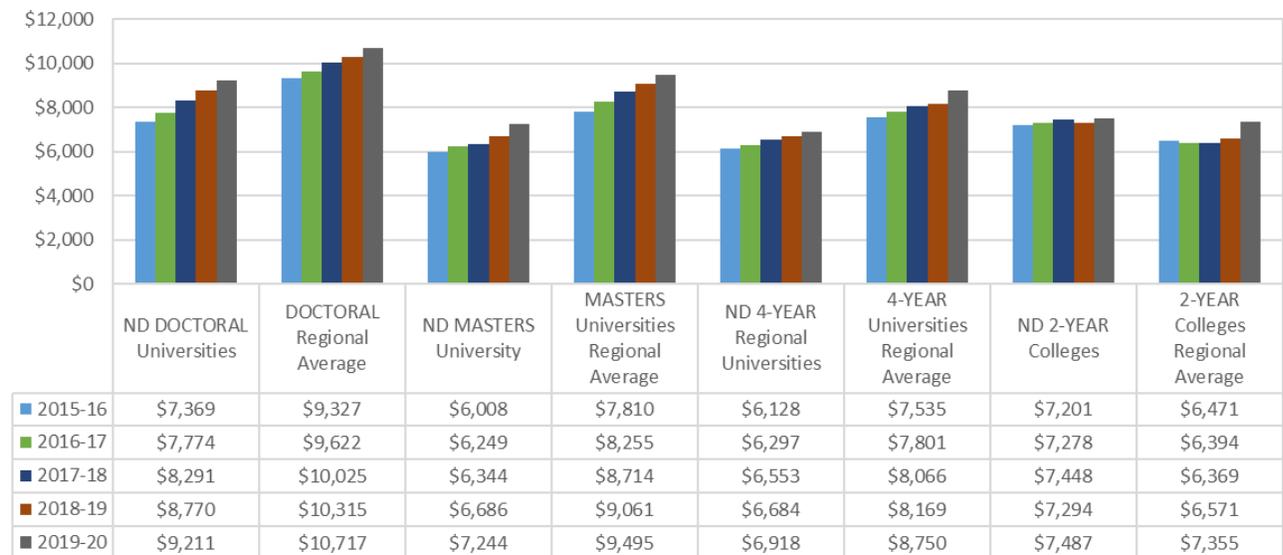


Chart 1b

North Dakota Institutions Average Room and Board Costs Compared to Regional Averages



Estimated Total Student Cost

Estimated total student costs for 2019-20 range from \$17,100 at two-year colleges to \$23,600 at the doctoral universities. Tuition and mandatory fees comprised 29% to 41% of total costs. Room and board represent another 37% to 44% of total cost. The remaining costs consist of educational-related indirect expenses, including books, supplies, transportation and miscellaneous expenses. Actual indirect costs may vary.

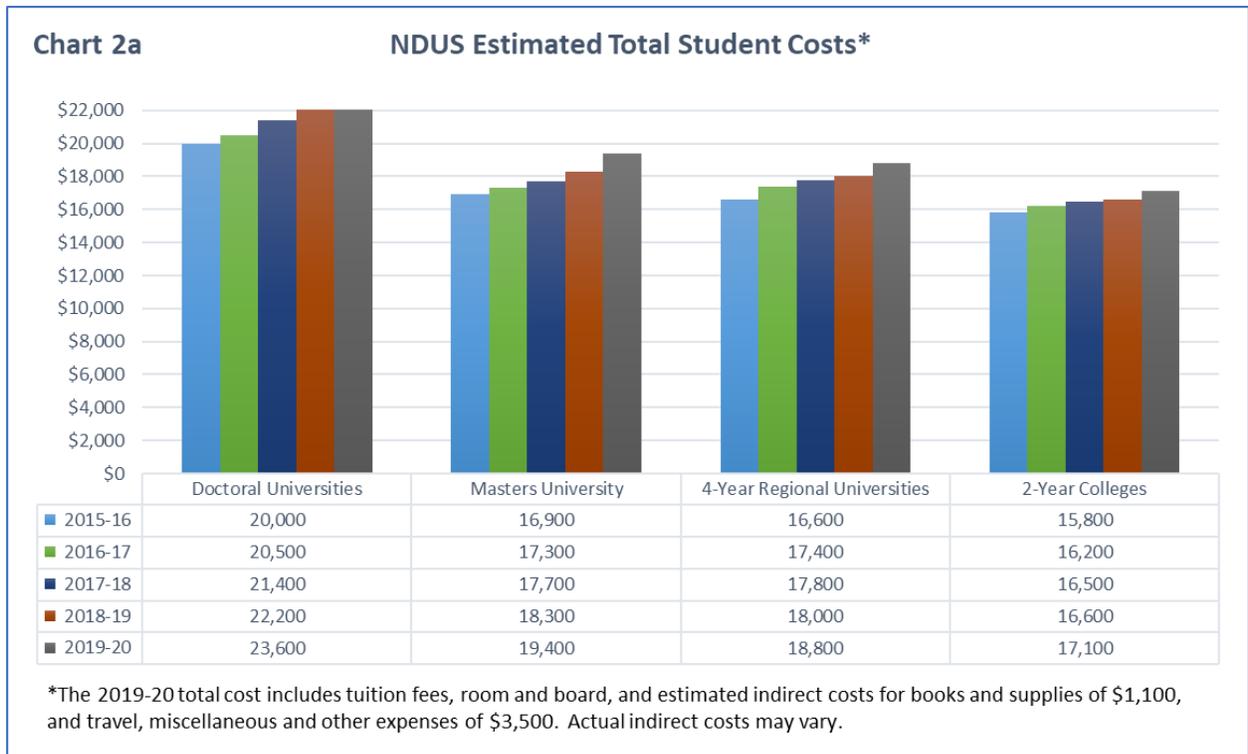


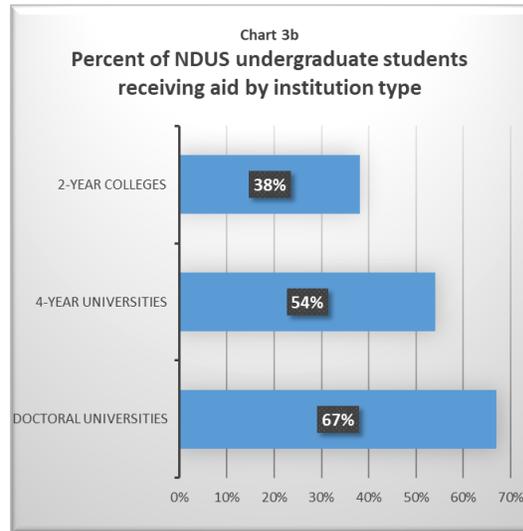
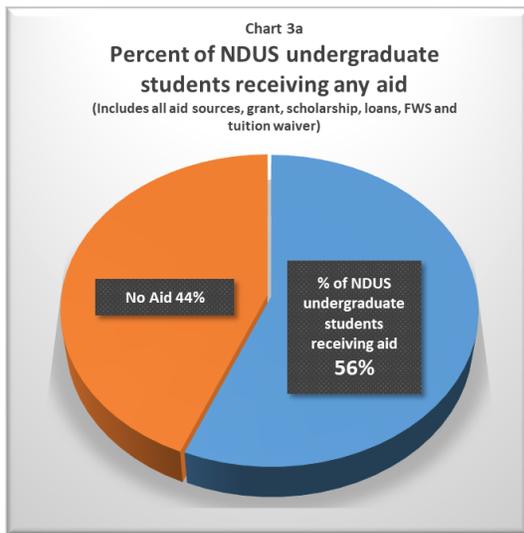
Chart 2b Estimated Percent of Total Student Cost by Category

NDUS Institution	Tuition & Fees	Room & Board	Other Education Expenses
Doctoral Universities	41%	39%	20%
Masters University	38%	37%	25%
4-Year Regional Universities	38%	37%	25%
2-Year Colleges	29%	44%	27%

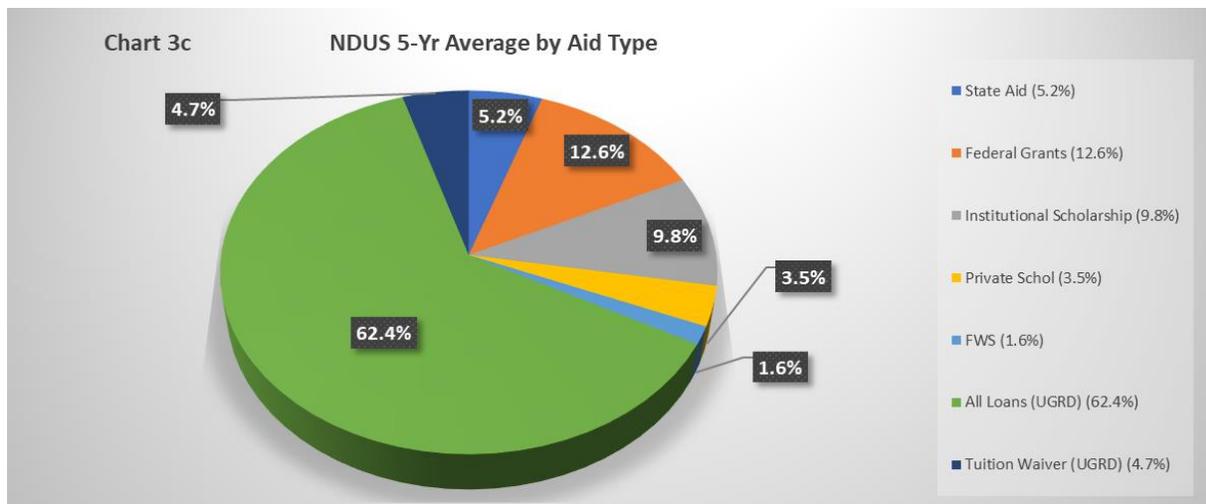
Financial Aid Summary

In addition to costs, college affordability is dependent on many factors from savings and earnings, to the availability of financial aid. Students attending NDUS institutions can take advantage of various aid programs. Financial aid includes, but is not limited to, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Work Study, student loans (federal and private), state grants and scholarships, institutional scholarships, tuition waivers, institutional work, private scholarships, and Veteran's benefits.

In 2018-19, 56% of all undergraduate students received some type of financial aid from one or more sources, which was slightly down from the prior year. At UND and NDSU, an average of 67% of students received some type of aid. The amount was 54% at four-year universities and 38% at two-year colleges. Nationally, 2017-18 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data shows that 58% of public 2-year and 4-year students receive some type of financial aid.

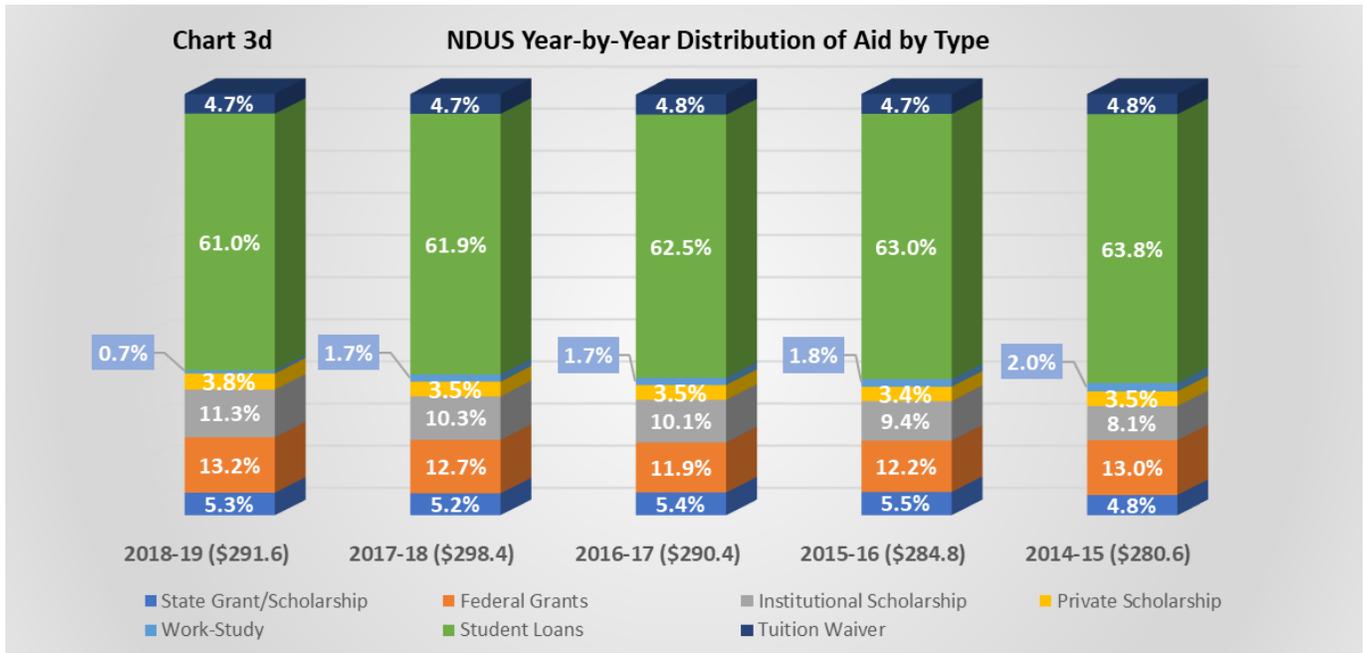


Over the past 5 years, approximately 64% of all aid was disbursed in the form of self-help aid (student loans and Work Study.) The remainder came from various sources of grants, scholarships, and waivers. Federal Pell Grants and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) have accounted for over 12% of all aid disbursed in the past 5 years. Tuition waivers have averaged just under 5% and institutional scholarships 10%. State aid programs and private-sector scholarships averaged around 5% and 4% respectively.



The percentage of aid in the form of student loans and Work Study has been trending down over the past 5 years, while institutional scholarships are increasing. The remainder of the categories remain steady.

In 2018-19, approximately 62% of the financial aid disbursed was in the form of self-help aid (student loans and Work Study), 5% from state grants/scholarships, 13% from federal grants, 11% from institutional scholarships, 4% from private scholarship sources and the remaining 5 % from tuition waivers.



Federal Funding Sources

Campus-based grants and loans consist of the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Perkins Loan and Federal Work Study. The Federal Pell Grant program provides non-repayable grants to the neediest students. Federal student loans may be either need-based (subsidized) or non-need based (unsubsidized.) Table 4a summarizes the federal student loan, grant and work program disbursements received by NDUS students for a 10-year period through the 2018-19 academic year.

Federal student loan volume decreased by 8.9% from 2013-14 to 2018-19. The previous 5-year period reported in 2019 also showed a similar decrease in loan volume of 8.6%. The continual decrease in loan volume correlates with North Dakota’s increased investment in student grants and scholarships. The ND State Grant, ND Academic & CTE Scholarship, ND Scholars Program and ND Indian Scholarship provide resources to assist North Dakota resident students with college costs. The 2009 Legislative Assembly increased the need-based state grant by 227%, ND Scholars by 43% and established the ND Academic and CTE Scholarship, all contributing to student affordability over the past 10 years. Since 2009, these state aid programs have seen increased appropriations for all but one biennium.

While the state investment in student aid programs grows, federal grant and Work Study program dollars and their buying power, continue to decline. In the 2018-19, NDUS institutions disbursed 10.7% less in federal campus-based aid and Pell Grants than five years earlier. Similarly, the previous 5-year period reported in 2019 showed a decrease of 5.1%. Work Study, while declining, has remained fairly level in the 10-year period. The considerable drop in federal campus-based dollars, which are awarded

to the neediest students, is attributed to the Perkins Loan program no longer being federally funded. In 2017-18, the need-based Perkins Loans disbursements totaled \$3.4 million. In 2018-19 it was \$0. The federal Perkins Loan program expired on September 30, 2017, leaving a funding gap for the neediest students.

The Federal Pell Grant, while showing an increase to the maximum annual award, has not kept pace with the rise in tuition and fees across the nation. The College Board noted that in 2008-09, the Pell Grant covered 72% of the tuition and fees at a public 4-year institution. In 2018-19, that decreased to 60%. Additionally, The College Board indicated that the Pell Grant from 2017-18 to 2018-19 increased by 3%; however, this did not result in increased buying power after adjusting for the 3% CPI increase. Further, the 10-year period from 2009-10 to 2019-20 showed that the Pell Grant, while increasing in expenditures, actually fell by 0.3% per year after adjusting for inflation. [College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2018 and 2019.*]

TABLE 4a History of Federal Loan and Grant Aid Volume							
Academic Year 2008-09 through 2018-19							
(Millions of Dollars)							
	2008-09	2013-14	2018-19	2008-09 vs 2018-19 (10-year)		2013-14 vs 2018-19 (5-year)	
Doctoral (NDSU, UND)							
Federal Student Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Parent PLUS)	\$86.4	\$89.3	\$81.2	-\$5.2	-6.0%	-\$8.2	-9.1%
Federal Campus-Based FSEOG, Pell Grant and Perkins	\$15.9	\$24.6	\$20.6	\$4.6	29.1%	-\$4.0	-16.4%
Federal Work Study	\$1.6	\$1.5	\$1.5	-\$0.1	-6.2%	\$0.01	0.9%
Four-Year (DSU, MaSU, MiSU, VCSU)							
Federal Student Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Parent PLUS)	\$24.5	\$20.2	\$19.5	-\$4.9	-20.1%	-\$0.7	-3.2%
Federal Campus-Based FSEOG, Pell Grant and Perkins	\$7.2	\$7.9	\$7.6	\$0.4	5.7%	-\$0.3	-3.8%
Federal Work Study	\$0.4	\$0.5	\$0.4	\$0.0	-1.7%	-\$0.04	-7.5%
Two-year (BSC, LRSC, WSC, NDSCS, DCB)							
Federal Student Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Parent PLUS)	\$27.5	\$22.6	\$19.6	-\$7.8	-28.5%	-\$3.0	-13.2%
Federal Campus-Based FSEOG, Pell Grant and Perkins	\$8.6	\$10.1	\$9.9	\$1.3	14.9%	-\$0.2	-2.0%
Federal Work Study	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.2	-\$0.1	-22.4%	-\$0.05	-20.1%
NDUS Total							
Federal Student Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Parent PLUS)	\$138.3	\$132.2	\$120.4	-\$18.0	-13.0%	-\$11.8	-8.9%
Federal Campus-Based FSEOG, Pell Grant and Perkins	\$31.7	\$42.6	\$38.1	\$6.3	20.0%	-\$4.5	-10.7%
Federal Work Study	\$2.3	\$2.2	\$2.1	-\$0.2	-7.3%	-\$0.1	-3.4%

Graduate and Professional students excluded when possible; Excludes Graduate PLUS, private, institutional loans.

Federal Loans include: FFELP and Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized and Parent PLUS; Excludes Perkins Loans as included with "campus-based" aid.

Annual Loan Volume

As previously indicated, federal loan borrowing has declined over the past 5 and 10 years. Table 6 shows that in 2018-19 the number of borrowers, total amount borrowed, as well as number of borrowers to total headcount, also declined at all institution types. The following is a historical perspective of total borrowing year-by-year over the past 10 years.

Table 5 Average Annual Loan Volume and Percentage of Students Borrowing				
Doctoral Universities (NDSU, UND)				
Year	Loan Amount Borrowed (millions of dollars)	Number of Borrowers ²	Number of Borrowers/Total Headcount ³ Enrollment	Average Annual Loan
2008-09	\$116.90	18,158	66%	\$6,438
2009-10	\$123.00	15,970	56%	\$7,702
2010-11	\$129.20	16,779	58%	\$7,700
2011-12	\$133.90	17,047	57%	\$7,855
2012-13	\$129.90	16,538	69%	\$7,855
2013-14	\$131.22	17,795	75%	\$7,374
2014-15	\$90.26	15,237	64%	\$5,924
2015-16	\$89.04	15,258	65%	\$5,836
2016-17	\$87.71	14,535	62%	\$6,034
2017-18	\$88.26	14,522	63%	\$6,078
2018-19¹	\$81.18	12,212	56%	\$6,648
5-yr change	-38.14%	-31.37%	-25.97%	-9.85%
10-yr change	-30.56%	-32.75%	-15.68%	3.26%
4-Year Universities Annual Loan Volume (DSU, MaSU, MiSU, VCSU)				
Year	Loan Amount Borrowed (millions of dollars)	Number of Borrowers ²	Number of Borrowers/Total Headcount ³ Enrollment	Average Annual Loan
2008-09	\$27.10	5,880	70%	\$4,609
2009-10	\$25.90	4,298	49%	\$6,026
2010-11	\$26.50	4,414	53%	\$6,004
2011-12	\$24.90	4,116	53%	\$6,050
2012-13	\$22.70	3,730	51%	\$6,086
2013-14	\$22.03	3,847	55%	\$5,727
2014-15	\$20.58	3,649	53%	\$5,640
2015-16	\$20.43	3,659	54%	\$5,583
2016-17	\$21.15	3,666	53%	\$5,769
2017-18	\$20.86	3,490	51%	\$5,977
2018-19¹	\$19.54	3,118	46%	\$6,267
5-yr change	-11.31%	-18.95%	-17.66%	9.43%
10-yr change	-27.90%	-46.97%	-34.89%	35.97%
2-Year Colleges Annual Loan Volume (BSC, LRSC, DCB, NDSCS, WSC)				
Year	Loan Amount Borrowed (millions of dollars)	Number of Borrowers ²	Number of Borrowers/Total Headcount ³ Enrollment	Average Annual Loan
2008-09	\$30.10	7,500	74%	\$4,013
2009-10	\$27.70	5,101	48%	\$5,430
2010-11	\$28.50	5,301	47%	\$5,376
2011-12	\$28.60	5,150	48%	\$5,553
2012-13	\$25.00	4,633	43%	\$5,396
2013-14	\$23.11	4,499	42%	\$5,136
2014-15	\$21.87	4,201	39%	\$5,206
2015-16	\$20.99	4,045	37%	\$5,189
2016-17	\$22.15	4,210	39%	\$5,261
2017-18	\$21.68	3,977	37%	\$5,451
2018-19¹	\$19.64	3,548	32%	\$5,536
5-yr change	-15.01%	-21.14%	-21.84%	7.77%
10-yr change	-34.75%	-52.69%	-56.12%	37.94%

¹ 2008-09 through 2013-14 loan volume includes FFEL or Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized, and Parent PLUS only. From 2013-14 forward, loan volume includes Direct Subsidized, Direct Unsubsidized, Perkins Loan and Parent PLUS; excludes Graduate PLUS, institutional and private loans.

² Borrowers may be duplicated.

³ Undergraduate headcount based on Fall enrollment reports.

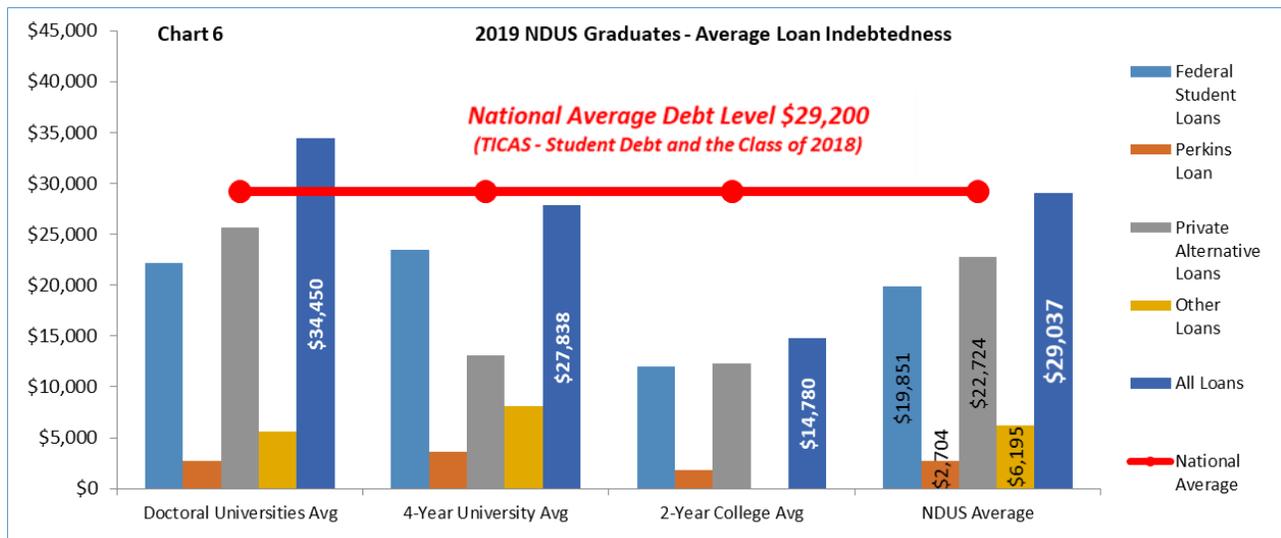
Indebtedness at Graduation

Student loan borrowing is one option for students to cover the costs of education. Student loans, when borrowed minimally and for real expenses, can assist college-going individuals with costs and ultimately, degree attainment. For some, borrowing helps to reduce the stress of working long hours, while attending classes and doing homework. While indebtedness at graduation is not a measure of affordability for currently-enrolled students, it is a factor in overall affordability once graduates transition into the workforce.

Indebtedness at graduation among 2019 NDUS graduates with loans averaged \$29,037, a decrease of approximately 1% from the prior year. The average amounts break down as follows:

- Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans (\$19,851)
- Perkins Loans (\$2,704)
- Alternative/Private Student Loans (\$22,724)
- Other institutional loans (\$6,195)

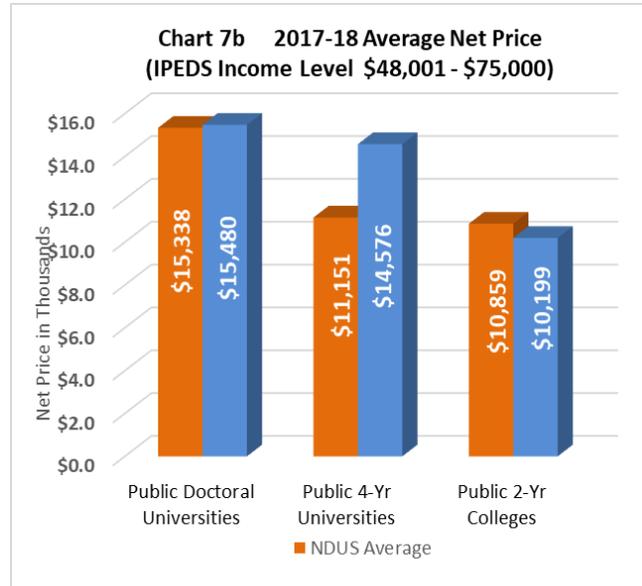
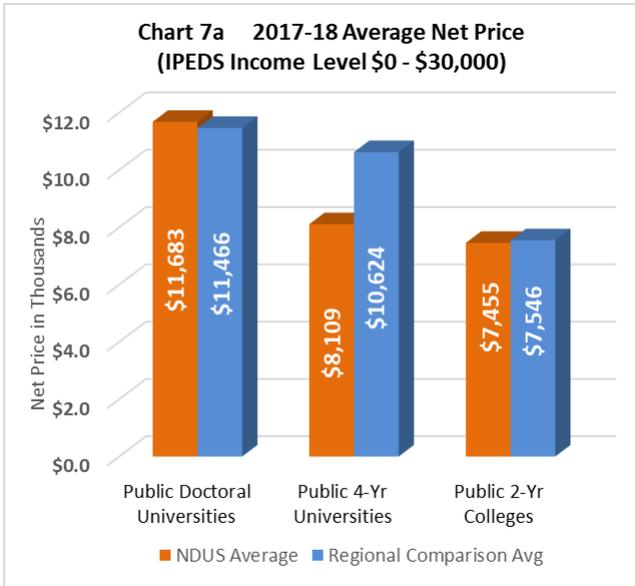
The NDUS 2019 average indebtedness remains below the national average reported by The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) for 2018, which was \$29,200. The national rate increased by 2% from the 2017 TICAS-reported data.



Tracking and collection of loan indebtedness data is not mandated by federal regulation. Reports such as The Institute for College Access & Success rely upon schools voluntarily providing debt information, which is not always accurate or complete. Additionally, not all schools participate in such surveys. To formulate a complete picture of indebtedness among NDUS graduates, NDUS data is taken directly from system reports based on a given cohort of students and include all loan types.

Net Price

One factor that families may look at when considering college affordability is net price. Net price is the estimated out-of-pocket cost after all scholarship and grants are applied to full cost of attendance. While the dollar amount is important, a family’s ability to pay may be better reflected by the percentage of income required to cover net price. In 2017-18, income earners below \$30,000 had a lower average net price at NDUS four-year universities and 2-year colleges, and nearly the same net price at doctoral universities, compared to regional counterparts. For middle income earners (\$48,001-\$75,000), the net price at NDUS doctoral universities and 4-year universities was lower than regional counterparts, and slightly above for 2-year colleges. Regional comparisons include public four-year and public two-year institutions in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.



While net price among North Dakota public institutions is below or comparable to regional counterparts, it has been shown that affordability is strongly tied to family income levels. Lower income families earning \$28,376 (10th percentile) in North Dakota require a greater percentage of their income to cover estimated net price compared to families earning a median income of \$66,505. This is a potential concern for the neediest families.

% of 2018 ND Lowest (10%) Quintile Income (\$28,367) Required to Cover Net Price		% of 2018 ND Median Income (\$66,505) Required to Cover Net Price	
NDUS Doctoral Universities	41%	NDUS Doctoral Universities	23%
NDUS 4-Year Universities	29%	NDUS 4-Year Universities	17%
NDUS 2-Year Colleges	26%	NDUS 2-Year Colleges	16%

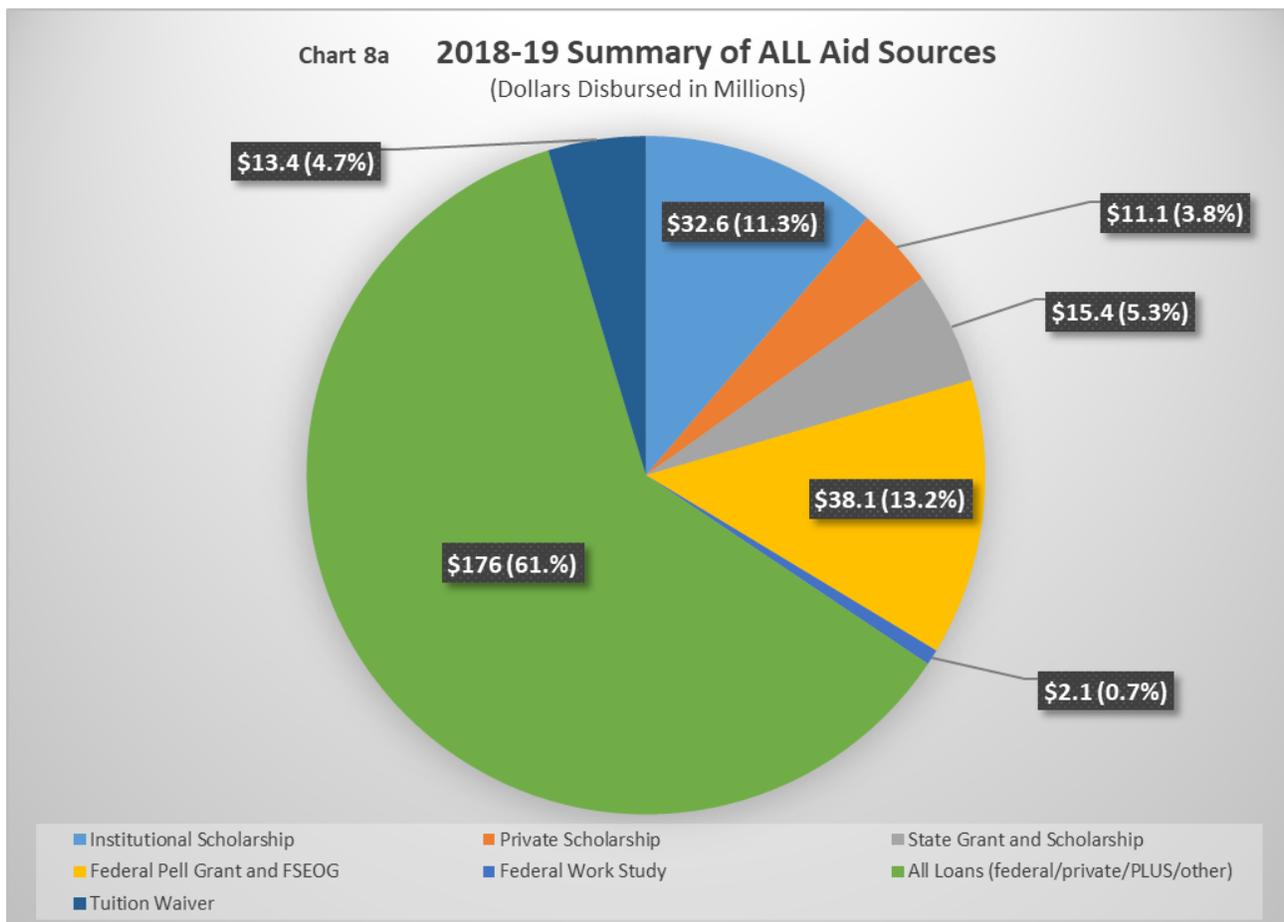
Summary of All Aid Sources

As was previously noted, federal grants contributed considerably to affordability in 2018-19. However, students must also rely on other sources of funding. Further contributing to affordability are state-funded grants and scholarships, tuition waivers, institutional scholarships and privately funded scholarships, among others.

In 2018-19 federal grants totaled \$38.1 million and other non-federal grants and scholarships accounted for \$59.1 million. Further, tuition waivers totaled \$13.4 million. Overall, this is a total of \$110.6 million, a significant amount of non-repayable sources of financial aid for students.

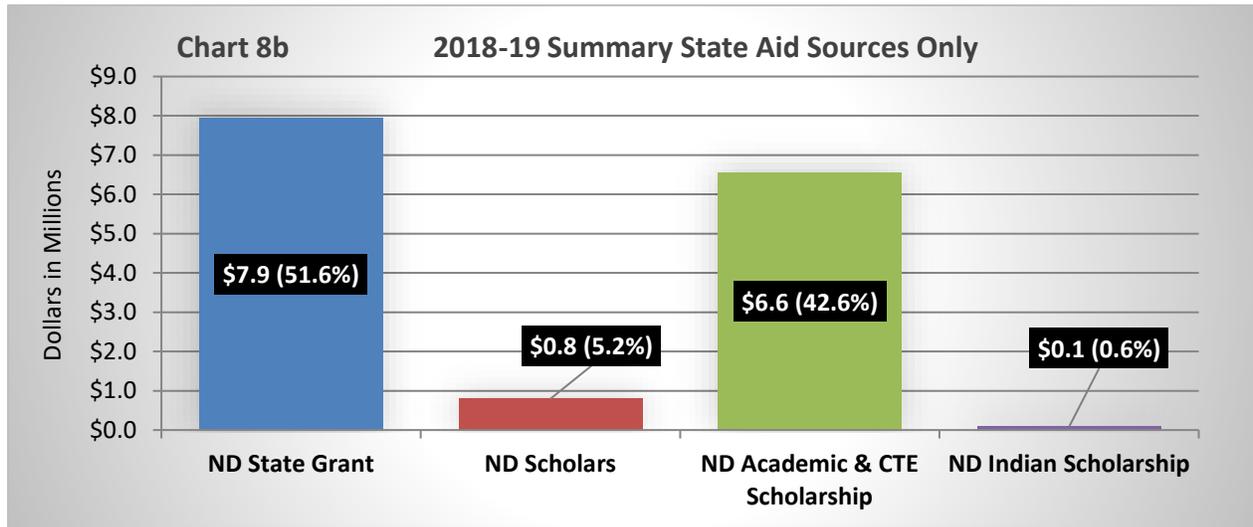
Institutional scholarships are often funded through endowments and gifts to institutions for the benefit of students meeting specific scholarship requirements. Students were awarded institutional scholarships in the form of athletics, performing arts or institutional merit awards of \$32.6 million in 2018-19, an increase of \$2 million from the prior year.

The private sector also contributed in the form of scholarships. Privately funded scholarships grew by nearly 6% from 2017-18 to 2018-19, from 7,174 students receiving \$10.5 million, to 7,272 students receiving \$11.1 million.



Total state-appropriated dollars disbursed to students attending NDUS institutions in 2018-19 was \$15.4 million. Of these state dollars, nearly 52% was provided in the form of the need-based state grant, which is awarded to the neediest students. The ND Academic and CTE Scholarships account for the

second largest category of state aid awarded to students attending NDUS institutions at close to 43%. As was previously indicated, state appropriated funds have grown significantly over the past 10 years, contributing to increased affordability for ND resident students.



It is also note-worthy to mention Veteran’s benefits. The Post 9/11 GI Bill is a significant source of financial aid for NDUS students. In 2017-18, IPEDS-reported data showed that GI Bill benefits were provided to 1,196 students in an amount of \$7.2 million. Over a 5-year period through 2017-18, the average GI Bill benefits in the NDUS was \$6.8 million per year. IPEDS data lags by one year and therefore, the 2018-19 data was not yet available at the time of this report.

IPEDS-Reported Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits										
Institution	2017-18		2016-17		2015-16		2014-15		2013-14	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Bismarck State College	139	533,720	147	514,247	176	639,910	170	646,177	147	497,943
Dakota College at Bottineau	23	47,690	29	60,421	31	68,730	20	37,457	21	74,447
Lake Region State College	66	159,720	68	168,859	62	146,499	44	85,826	72	132,396
North Dakota State College of Science	55	176,012	48	166,663	36	71,093	38	129,185	35	139,674
Williston State College	7	13,756	8	20,681	13	34,724	4	6,936	10	25,208
Dickinson State University	33	143,996	26	131,113	18	98,469	13	43,072	20	101,470
Mayville State University	17	51,090	16	56,582	18	58,742	16	61,381	23	67,779
Minot State University	206	1,145,028	226	1,137,810	256	1,264,940	219	1,155,975	216	1,090,271
Valley City State University	24	97,721	23	78,171	6	12,833	20	40,133	11	39,080
North Dakota State University	220	1,408,135	222	1,436,961	225	1,388,109	201	1,241,484	215	1,289,371
University of North Dakota	406	3,433,870	407	3,394,756	414	3,500,094	310	2,448,960	397	3,191,759
TOTALS	1,196	7,210,738	1,220	7,166,264	1,255	7,284,143	1,055	5,896,586	1,167	6,649,398

As has been shown, students rely on a variety of financial aid sources to fund their education. The various scholarship, grant, tuition waiver, work and student loan programs reported on in this report, provided a total of \$288.7 million in financial aid resources in the 2018-19 academic year, plus an additional \$6.8 million in estimated Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits.