

# The State of Private Student Loans in 2019

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**Mike Brown** (<https://lendedu.com/blog/author/mike-brown/>)

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As the cost of college (<https://lendedu.com/blog/average-cost-of-college-statistics/>) continues to climb ever higher, so too do student loan debt levels (<https://lendedu.com/blog/average-student-loan-debt-statistics/>) in the United States.

Currently, there is \$1.52 trillion in outstanding student loan debt in the nation. That collective sum is owed by 45 million student loan borrowers, and borrowers from the Class of 2017 had an average of \$27,975 in student loan debt.

To cover the higher education price tag, federal student loans (<https://lendedu.com/blog/federal-student-loans/>) are usually the first option that consumers turn to after scholarships, grants, and savings have been exhausted. But as that price tag keeps swelling, private student loans (<https://lendedu.com/blog/private-student-loans/>) are increasingly used to fill the gaps left by federal borrowing limits (<https://lendedu.com/blog/federal-student-loan-limits/>).

With over 100 different private student loan lenders, the market has exploded in recent years. Now, there is around \$102 billion in private student loan debt, or 7.5% of the country's outstanding student debt balance. Each year, roughly 1.4 million college students will use a private student loan to help pay for college.

Using our exclusive data that features close to 200,000 users that have gone through the LendEDU private student loan portal, LendEDU has put together an extensive private student loan report that highlights industry trends.

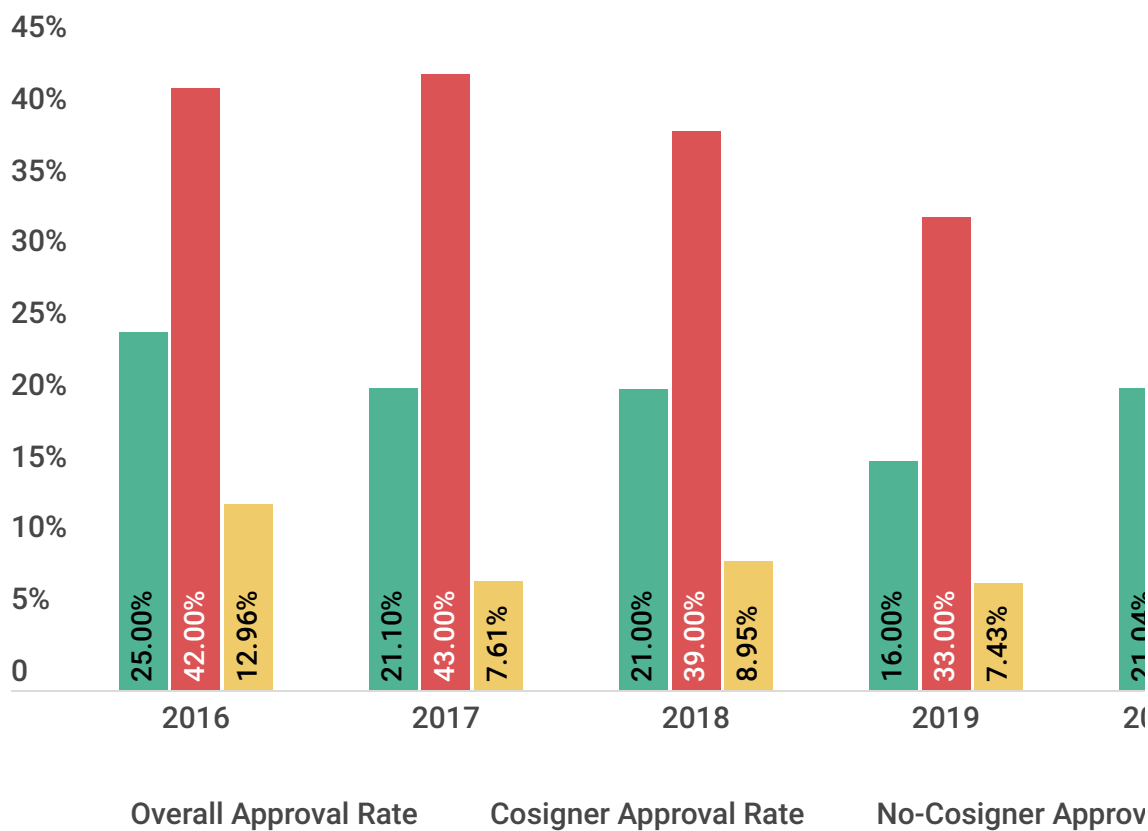
Below, you can see how important private student loan statistics, like approval rates, average interest rates, and average approved loan amount, have changed in the market from 2016 to 2019.

## Private Student Loan Data From 2016 to 2019

### Overall Approval Data

- From 2016 to 2019, the **approval rate** for private student loans was **21.04%**.
  - From 2016 to 2019, the **approval rate for students with cosigners** on private student loans was **40.51%**; **37.35%** of all applicants **applied with a cosigner**.
  - From 2016 to 2019, the **approval rate for students without cosigners** on private student loans was **8.66%**; **62.65%** of all applicants **applied without a cosigner**.
- From 2016 to 2019, the **average approved loan amount** for a private student loan was **\$13,780**.

### Tracking Approval Rates



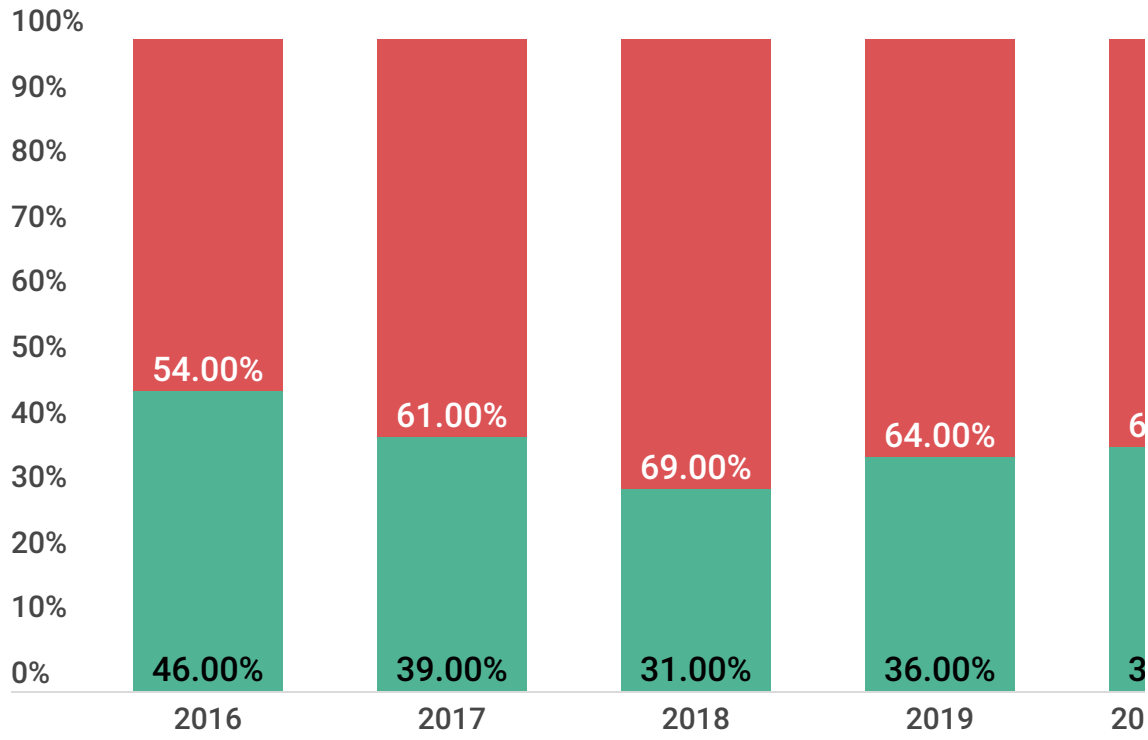
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The data above reflects nearly 200,000 users who went through LendEDU's private student loan portal between 2016 and 2019.

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# Tracking Cosigner/No-Cosigner Applications



Percentage of Applications With a Cosigner

Percentage of Applications Without a Cosigner

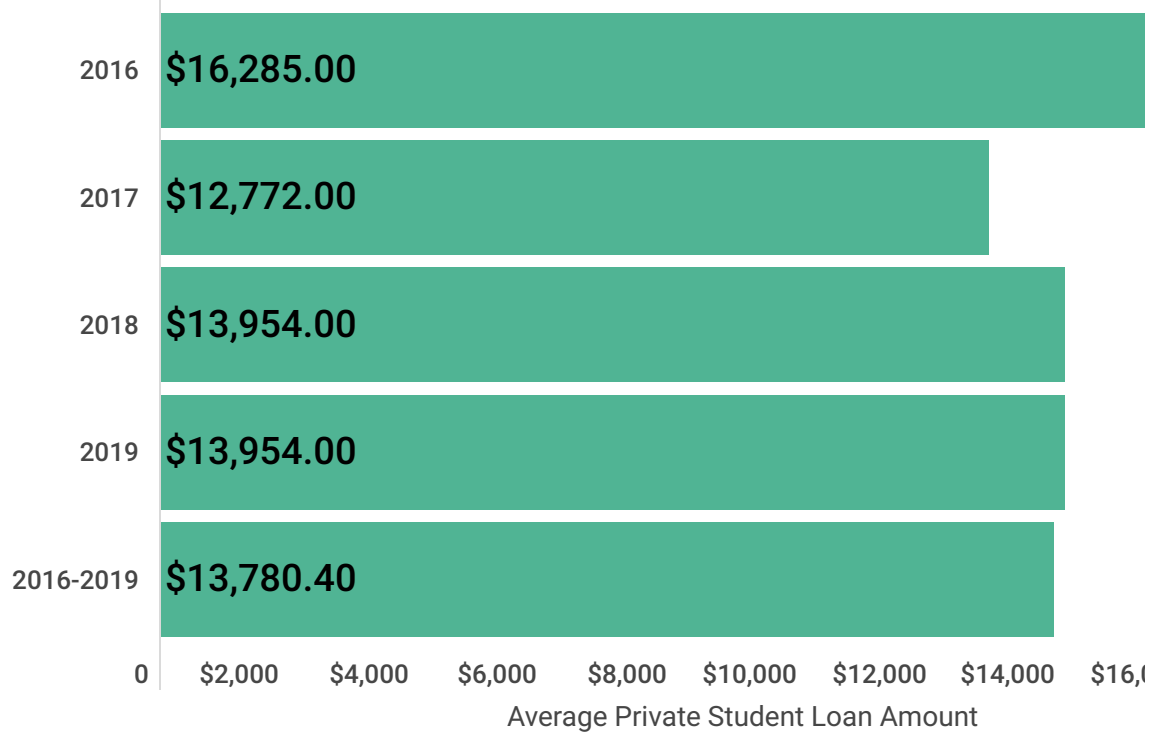
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## Tracking the Average Private Student Loan Amount



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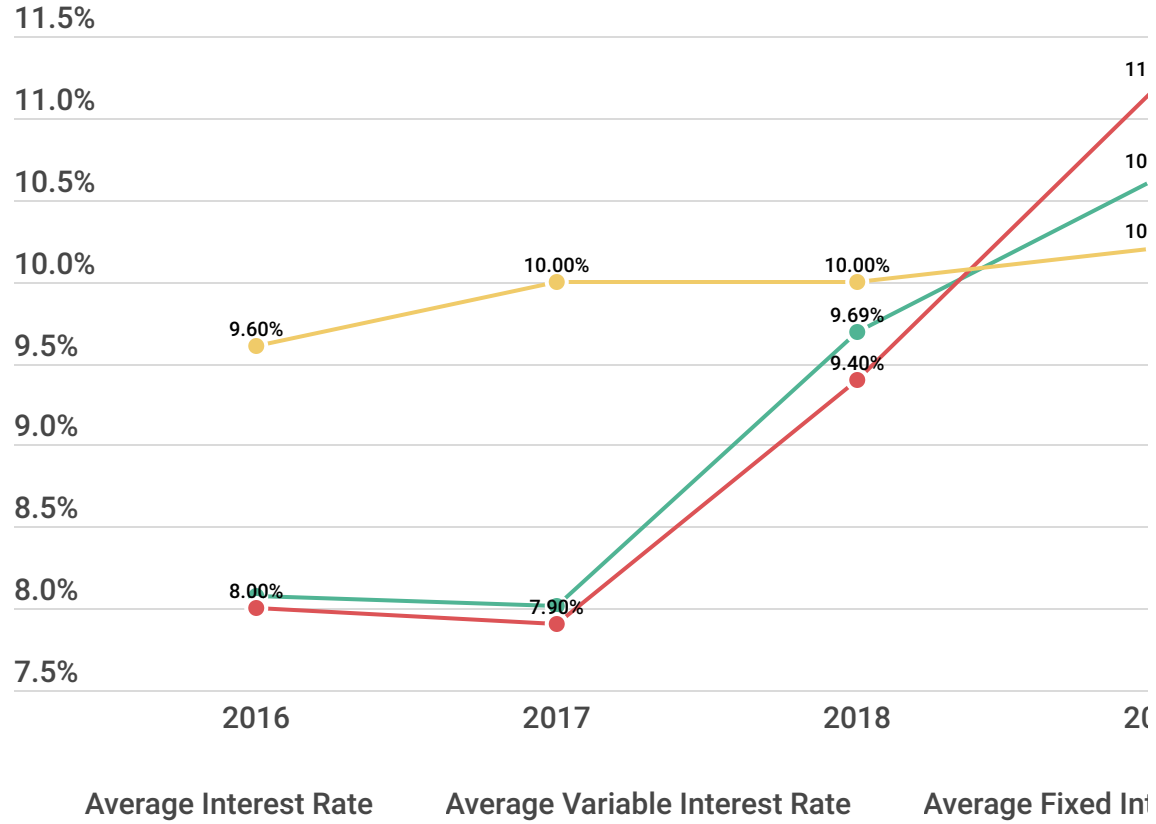
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## Overall Interest Rate Data

- From 2016 to 2019, the **average interest rate** on a private student loan was **8.86%**.
  - From 2016 to 2019, the **average VARIABLE interest rate** on a private student loan was **8.81%**.
  - From 2016 to 2019, the **average FIXED interest rate** on a private student loan was **9.97%**.
- From 2016 to 2019, the **average cosigned interest rate** on a private student loan was **8.74%**.
  - From 2016 to 2019, the **average cosigned VARIABLE interest rate** on a private student loan was **8.49%**.
  - From 2016 to 2019, the **average cosigned FIXED interest rate** on a private student loan was **10.00%**.

## Tracking No-Cosigner Interest Rates



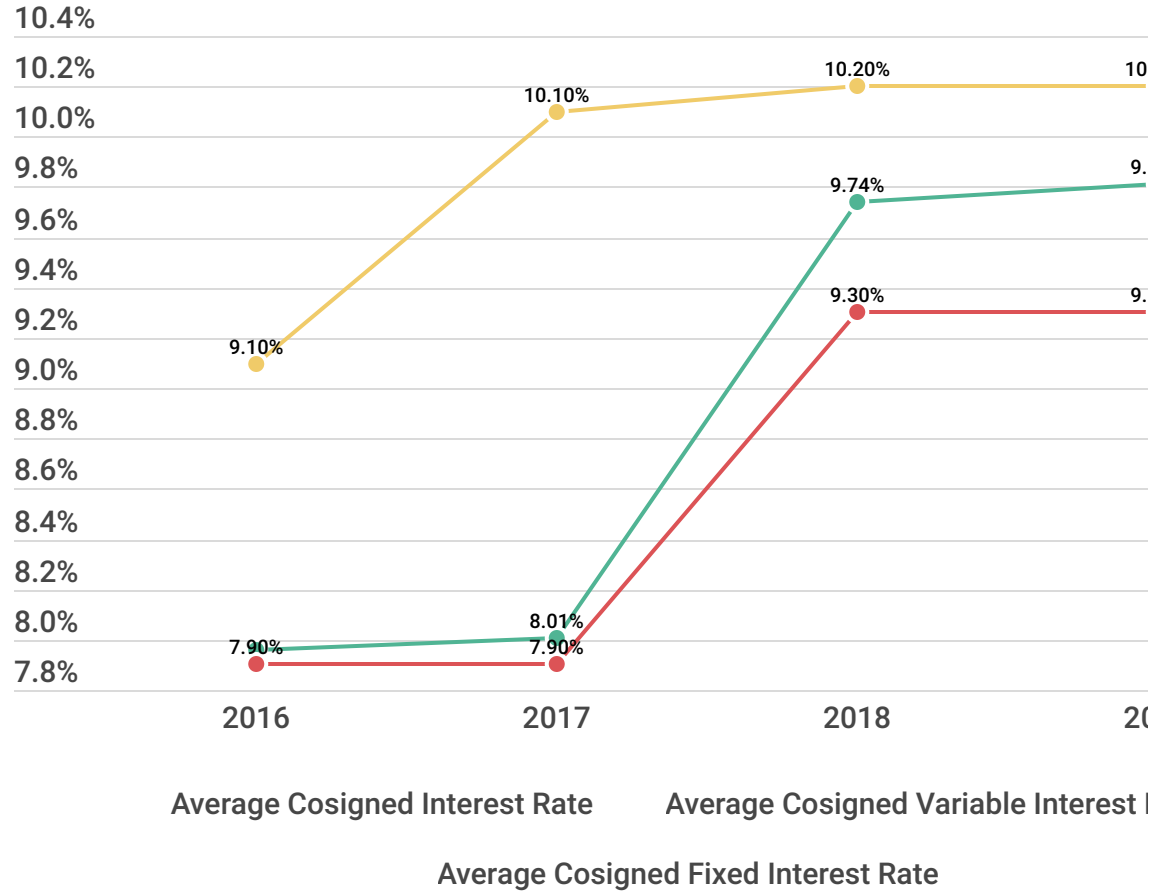
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## Tracking Cosigner Interest Rates



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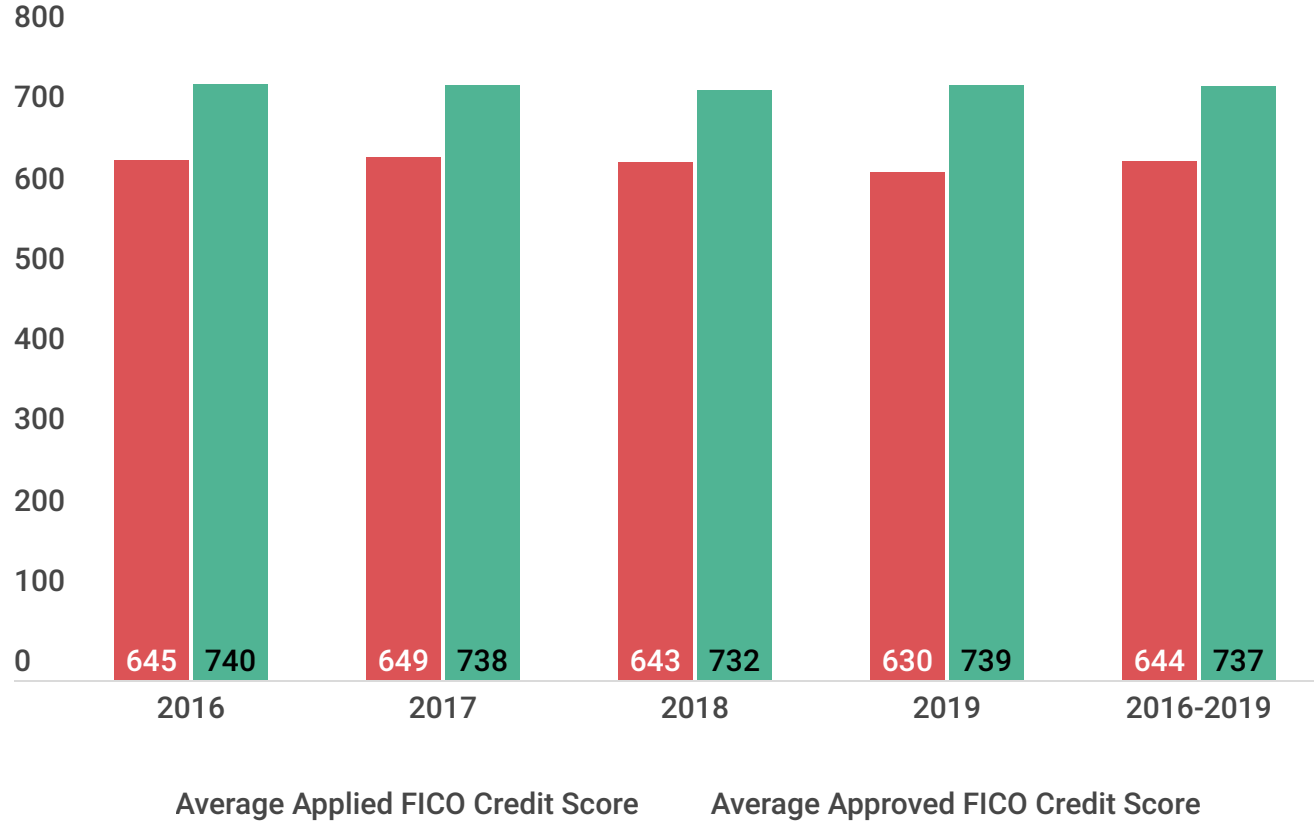
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## Overall Qualification Data

- From 2016 to 2019, the **average APPROVED FICO credit score** for a private student loan applicant was **737**.
  - From 2016 to 2019, the **average APPLIED FICO credit score** for a private student loan applicant was **644**.
- From 2016 to 2019, the **average APPROVED income** for a private student loan applicant was **\$72,947**.
  - From 2016 to 2019, the **average APPLIED income** for a private student loan applicant was **\$44,583**.

## Tracking Credit Scores



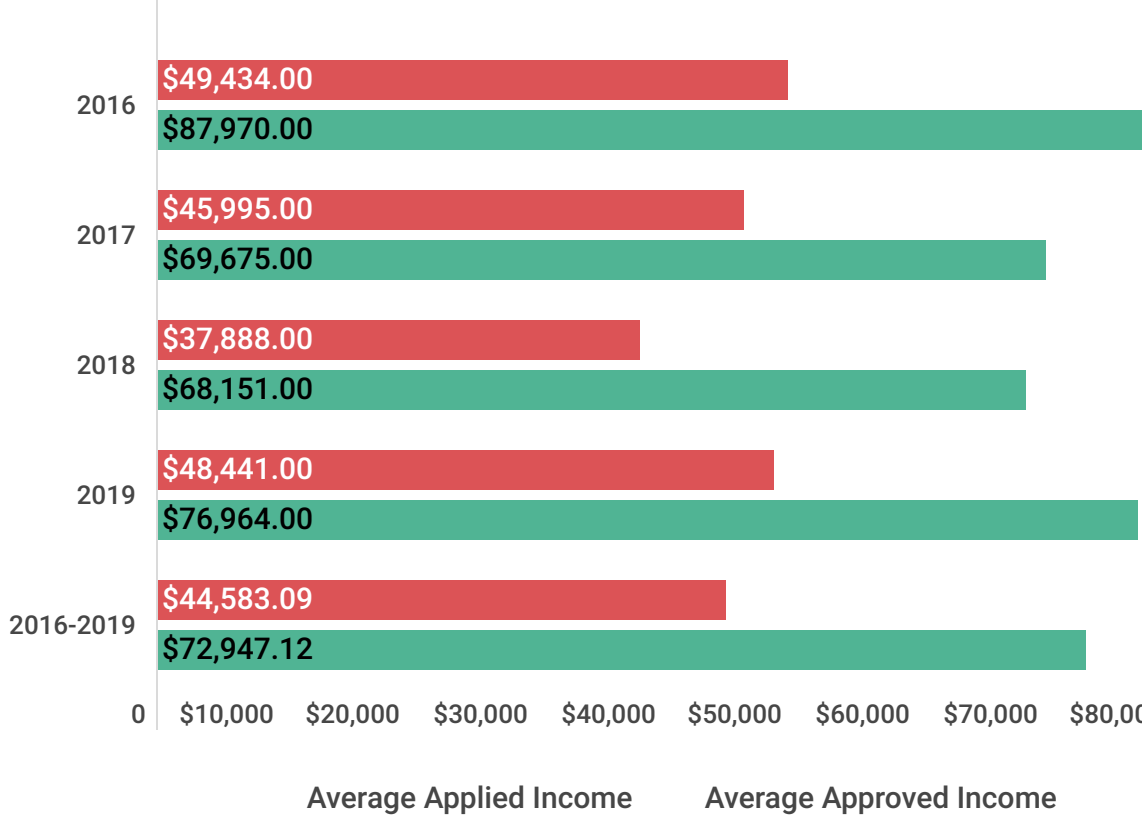
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## Tracking Income



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## How to Manage Student Loan Repayment

After completing your college education and entering the working world, student loan repayment can sometimes feel like an uphill battle.

LendEDU (<https://www.pinterest.com/lendedu/>) provides a few tips below on how to conquer your student loan debt.

### If Necessary, Take Advantage of Student Loan Forbearance or Deferment

There are times when financial hardships are unavoidable, which can make student loan repayment even more difficult. But there are two options potentially available to you: forbearance or deferment.



Student loan forbearance (<https://lendedu.com/blog/student-loan-forbearance/>) is often available for both federal and private student loans (<https://lendedu.com/blog/private-student-loans/>) and will allow you to pause your student loan payments for a certain amount of time in the case of financial hardship. Student loan deferment (<https://lendedu.com/blog/student-loan-deferment/>) essentially works the same way, but interest will likely continue to accrue with this option.

## Understand the Various Student Loan Repayment Plans

If you have student loan debt (<https://lendedu.com/blog/average-student-loan-debt-statistics>) from federal student loans (<https://lendedu.com/blog/federal-student-loans/>), there are a number of repayment plans (<https://lendedu.com/blog/federal-student-loan-repayment/>) available to you that should help make your student loan payments more manageable.

For example, there is the standard 10-year repayment plan, the graduated plan, the extended plan, and different income-driven repayment plans (<https://lendedu.com/blog/income-driven-repayment-plans-guide>) with which you only have to make monthly payments that represent a reasonable percentage of your income.

## Consider Refinancing Your Student Loans

Refinancing your student loans (<https://lendedu.com/blog/refinance-student-loans/>) is another potential route you could take that could possibly lead to a lower student loan interest rate (<https://lendedu.com/blog/student-loan-interest-rates>) or a more favorable repayment term.

If you can get a lower interest rate by refinancing, you might be able to pay off your student loans faster (<https://lendedu.com/blog/how-to-pay-off-student-loans-fast/>) than expected. LendEDU (<https://www.facebook.com/lendedu/>) has a number of articles on refinancing, including this review of ELFI student loan refinancing (<https://lendedu.com/blog/elfi-student-loans-review/#refinancing>) and a guide on how to refinance Sallie Mae student loans (<https://lendedu.com/blog/refinance-sallie-mae-loans/>).

## Methodology

All data used in this report was compiled from close to 200,000 users who went through LendEDU's private student loan portal when applying for a private student loan between 2016 and 2019. Data has been provided from private student loan lenders including College Ave Student Loans (<https://lendedu.com/blog/college-ave-student-loans>), Sallie Mae (<https://lendedu.com/blog/our-sallie-mae-student-loans-review/>), Discover (<https://lendedu.com/blog/true-discover-student-loans-facts/>), Citizens Bank (<https://lendedu.com/blog/citizens-bank-student-loans-review>), and SunTrust (<https://lendedu.com/blog/reviewing-suntrust-student-loans-for-borrowers>).

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Hoboken, NJ, 07030



The application data was pooled from the five aforementioned companies and weighted based on the proportion of users. All of the users were sent to one of the five private student loan lenders from the LendEDU website.

## Categories

Each lender provides slightly different reporting and data. Therefore, some lenders did not provide certain data fields. Due to privacy concerns, we are unable to provide applicant weighting or confirm lender-specific data.

[Student Loans \(/blog/category/student-loans/\)](/blog/category/student-loans/)  
[Personal Loans \(/blog/category/personal-loans/\)](/blog/category/personal-loans/)  
[Home Equity \(/blog/category/home-equity/\)](/blog/category/home-equity/)  
[See more of LendEDU's Research \(https://lendedu.com/our-research/\)](/blog/category/insurance/)

[Insurance \(/blog/category/insurance/\)](/blog/category/insurance/)  
[Pet Insurance \(/blog/category/pet-insurance/\)](/blog/category/pet-insurance/)

## Author: Mike Brown

[Credit Cards \(/blog/category/credit-cards/\)](/blog/category/credit-cards/)



[Auto Loans \(/blog/category/auto-loans/\)](/blog/category/auto-loans/)

In his role at LendEDU, Mike uses data, usually from surveys and publicly-available resources, to analyze and identify emerging personal finance trends and tell unique stories. Mike's work, featured in major outlets like The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post, provides consumers with a personal finance measuring stick and can help them make informed finance decisions.

[Refinance \(/blog/refinance-student-loans/\)](/blog/refinance-student-loans/)

[Private Student Loans \(/blog/private-student-loans/\)](/blog/private-student-loans/)  
[Student Loans Without a Cosigner \(/blog/student-loans-without-a-cosigner/\)](/blog/student-loans-without-a-cosigner/)  
[Best Personal Loans \(/blog/best-personal-loans/\)](/blog/best-personal-loans/)  
[Best Pet Insurance \(/blog/best-pet-insurance/\)](/blog/best-pet-insurance/)  
[Best HELOCs \(/blog/home-equity-line-of-credit/\)](/blog/home-equity-line-of-credit/)  
[Best Home Equity Loans \(/blog/home-equity-loans/\)](/blog/home-equity-loans/)  
[Best Tax Relief Companies \(/blog/best-tax-relief-companies/\)](/blog/best-tax-relief-companies/)

## Company

[Blog \(/blog/\)](/blog/)  
[About \(/about/\)](/about/)  
[Privacy \(/privacy-policy/\)](/privacy-policy/)  
[Terms of Use \(/terms-of-use/\)](/terms-of-use/)  
[Careers \(/careers/\)](/careers/)  
[Work With Us \(/work-with-us/\)](/work-with-us/)

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