TABLE 5-3

College graduates, by broad field of highest degree, father's education, mother's education, level of highest degree, and median amount borrowed to finance undergraduate degree: 2021

(Number)

Field of highest degree, father's education, and mother's education	Bachelor's						Master's						Doctorate						Professional					
	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over
All fields	42,870,000	18,629,000	5,614,000	4,996,000	4,439,000	9,192,000	19,296,000	7,643,000	2,447,000	1,834,000	1,377,000	3,299,000	2,643,000	1,320,000	348,000	175,000	134,000	241,000	3,784,000	1,592,000	394,000	345,000	249,000	556,000
Father's education																								
Less than high school completed	5,676,000	2,504,000	960,000	737,000	543,000	933,000	2,593,000	1,001,000	418,000	265,000	159,000	343,000	341,000	153,000	57,000	21,000	16,000	26,000	307,000	109,000	42,000	22,000	19,000	49,000
High school diploma or equivalent	11,006,000	4,286,000	1,562,000	1,290,000	1,249,000	2,619,000	4,406,000	1,441,000	600,000	451,000	346,000	906,000	504,000	223,000	72,000	42,000	40,000	50,000	634,000	177,000	71,000	66,000	80,000	105,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	8,194,000	3,034,000	1,167,000	1,025,000	982,000	1,986,000	3,459,000	1,172,000	425,000	374,000	370,000	706,000	396,000	173,000	54,000	42,000	10,000	47,000	573,000	195,000	99,000	91,000	26,000	94,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	9,354,000	4,531,000	1,056,000	1,054,000	891,000	1,822,000	4,028,000	1,816,000	500,000	332,000	234,000	590,000	596,000	323,000	79,000	27,000	31,000	50,000	822,000	346,000	82,000	69,000	60,000	151,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	4,477,000	2,095,000	496,000	501,000	458,000	927,000	2,499,000	1,098,000	251,000	239,000	142,000	412,000	343,000	178,000	37,000	18,000	22,000	33,000	488,000	214,000	52,000	29,000	23,000	79,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	1,644,000	1,058,000	108,000	111,000	91,000	276,000	954,000	552,000	78,000	55,000	56,000	88,000	200,000	126,000	16,000	9,000	6,000	13,000	592,000	378,000	25,000	31,000	19,000	40,000
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	1,283,000	692,000	133,000	140,000	99,000	219,000	907,000	454,000	127,000	69,000	36,000	130,000	225,000	132,000	29,000	11,000	9,000	18,000	293,000	146,000	21,000	37,000	19,000	28,000
Not applicable	1,235,000	427,000	134,000	138,000	127,000	409,000	450,000	109,000	47,000	49,000	34,000	125,000	37,000	12,000	3,000	4,000	S	S	75,000	28,000	S	D	D	10,000
Mother's education																								
Less than high school completed	5,447,000	2,467,000	932,000	671,000	433,000	945,000	2,422,000	971,000	379,000	221,000	150,000	288,000	380,000	193,000	50,000	22,000	13,000	24,000	342,000	120,000	30,000	17,000	30,000	51,000
High school diploma or equivalent	12,915,000	5,422,000	1,994,000	1,520,000	1,402,000	2,577,000	5,413,000	1,987,000	741,000	562,000	392,000	948,000	622,000	274,000	97,000	51,000	30,000	45,000	792,000	229,000	139,000	93,000	75,000	130,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	9,601,000	3,663,000	1,288,000	1,193,000	1,105,000	2,352,000	4,159,000	1,540,000	574,000	437,000	372,000	797,000	489,000	226,000	70,000	37,000	37,000	59,000	789,000	312,000	87,000	86,000	52,000	126,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	9,588,000	4,626,000	911,000	1,052,000	951,000	2,048,000	3,999,000	1,759,000	424,000	340,000	238,000	675,000	572,000	313,000	64,000	30,000	29,000	54,000	1,020,000	502,000	60,000	105,000	63,000	130,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	3,723,000	1,696,000	350,000	413,000	386,000	877,000	2,462,000	1,016,000	260,000	208,000	186,000	456,000	393,000	210,000	50,000	27,000	19,000	40,000	521,000	265,000	64,000	33,000	17,000	93,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	511,000	275,000	44,000	33,000	52,000	105,000	273,000	148,000	27,000	17,000	13,000	40,000	80,000	44,000	6,000	4,000	3,000	8,000	172,000	78,000	12,000	7,000	S	10,000
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	389,000	193,000	25,000	30,000	41,000	99,000	308,000	132,000	28,000	24,000	19,000	37,000	81,000	48,000	S	3,000	3,000	8,000	103,000	71,000	D	S	S	9,000
Not applicable	697,000	287,000	69,000	83,000	69,000	189,000	261,000	91,000	12,000	27,000	7,000	57,000	27,000	13,000	1,000	S	D	S	44,000	16,000	D	D	D	D
S&E fields	15,014,000	6,593,000	1,912,000	1,822,000	1,488,000	3,199,000	4,703,000	2,013,000	523,000	416,000	311,000	647,000	1,582,000	860,000	184,000	92,000	73,000	110,000	58,000	25,000	3,000	5,000	5,000	17,000
Father's education																								
Less than high school completed	1,884,000	817,000	341,000	253,000	172,000	301,000	535,000	221,000	78,000	46,000	38,000	56,000	198,000	102,000	26,000	8,000	10,000	8,000	15,000	3,000	S	*	D	S
High school diploma or equivalent	3,560,000	1,409,000	507,000	448,000	375,000	821,000	927,000	316,000	121,000	100,000	66,000	153,000	256,000	119,000	35,000	19,000	17,000	20,000	9,000	S	S	D	D	1,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	2,757,000	1,014,000	385,000	384,000	299,000	675,000	758,000	272,000	96,000	66,000	71,000	141,000	205,000	109,000	20,000	18,000	5,000	21,000	8,000	3,000	1,000	D	D	S
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	3,485,000	1,681,000	373,000	379,000	344,000	708,000	1,198,000	576,000	130,000	84,000	67,000	148,000	397,000	228,000	51,000	17,000	14,000	25,000	10,000	7,000	D	D	D	2,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	1,742,000	815,000	173,000	196,000	172,000	388,000	657,000	298,000	55,000	76,000	34,000	78,000	233,000	125,000	25,000	11,000	15,000	20,000	8,000	4,000	D	D	D	2,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	625,000	401,000	52,000	44,000	39,000	89,000	252,000	148,000	17,000	16,000	10,000	23,000	128,000	84,000	10,000	8,000	5,000	7,000	3,000	2,000	D	D	D	D
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	556,000	299,000	47,000	66,000	47,000	98,000	283,000	159,000	22,000	20,000	17,000	32,000	149,000	88,000	16,000	8,000	8,000	9,000	3,000	S	D	D	D	D
Not applicable	406,000	158,000	35,000	53,000	40,000	119,000	91,000	23,000	4,000	8,000	8,000	16,000	17,000	6,000	2,000	S	D	S	D	D	D	D	D	D
Mother's education																								
Less than high school completed	1,817,000	831,000	289,000	231,000	164,000	302,000	630,000	263,000	77,000	46,000	38,000	60,000	227,000	128,000	29,000	7,000	5,000	8,000	14,000	2,000	S	D	D	S
High school diploma or equivalent	4,069,000	1,703,000	677,000	523,000	388,000	777,000	1,151,000	482,000	152,000	96,000	70,000	159,000	355,000	173,000	48,000	24,000	14,000	27,000	14,000	6,000	1,000	D	D	2,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	3,385,000	1,260,000	410,000	414,000	401,000	900,000	909,000	319,000	117,000	104,000	84,000	160,000	280,000	146,000	32,000	21,000	19,000	26,000	14,000	7,000	D	D	D	S
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	3,472,000	1,679,000	345,000	414,000	322,000	711,000	1,100,000	529,000	110,000	89,000	59,000	148,000	371,000	215,000	37,000	17,000	18,000	29,000	11,000	7,000	D	D	D	2,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	1,569,000	738,000	137,000	180,000	161,000	354,000	661,000	298,000	56,000	57,000	44,000	94,000	230,000	125,000	32,000	16,000	13,000	15,000	4,000	2,000	D	D	D	1,000

TABLE 5-3

College graduates, by broad field of highest degree, father's education, mother's education, level of highest degree, and median amount borrowed to finance undergraduate degree: 2021

(Number)

Field of highest degree, father's education, and mother's education	Bachelor's						Master's						Doctorate						Professional					
	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	240,000	154,000	13,000	16,000	15,000	42,000	93,000	54,000	4,000	7,000	5,000	11,000	53,000	33,000	2,000	4,000	2,000	S	S	D	D	D	D	D
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	202,000	100,000	12,000	18,000	13,000	58,000	85,000	43,000	5,000	8,000	6,000	7,000	51,000	34,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	2,000	D	D	D	D	D	D
Not applicable	260,000	127,000	29,000	26,000	23,000	55,000	74,000	25,000	S	9,000	S	8,000	15,000	7,000	1,000	S	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
S&E-related fields	5,017,000	2,084,000	631,000	534,000	522,000	1,246,000	2,644,000	958,000	289,000	239,000	219,000	521,000	355,000	133,000	47,000	19,000	31,000	53,000	1,825,000	699,000	160,000	115,000	83,000	285,000
Father's education																								
Less than high school completed	745,000	314,000	106,000	69,000	89,000	168,000	353,000	114,000	67,000	33,000	25,000	66,000	36,000	13,000	4,000	S	S	S	147,000	60,000	21,000	4,000	S	12,000
High school diploma or equivalent	1,336,000	490,000	193,000	156,000	135,000	362,000	620,000	185,000	60,000	58,000	57,000	164,000	97,000	42,000	10,000	S	12,000	17,000	294,000	61,000	30,000	27,000	26,000	62,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	1,017,000	355,000	143,000	112,000	114,000	293,000	483,000	156,000	65,000	39,000	56,000	92,000	52,000	9,000	7,000	2,000	3,000	11,000	225,000	62,000	33,000	28,000	S	42,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	1,128,000	522,000	114,000	110,000	124,000	257,000	541,000	218,000	48,000	50,000	35,000	96,000	84,000	31,000	13,000	5,000	S	12,000	387,000	145,000	35,000	19,000	18,000	73,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	367,000	187,000	35,000	42,000	29,000	75,000	333,000	132,000	31,000	34,000	25,000	54,000	37,000	16,000	5,000	S	S	S	250,000	94,000	16,000	S	11,000	47,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	183,000	120,000	7,000	19,000	14,000	24,000	155,000	85,000	10,000	14,000	S	16,000	21,000	11,000	S	D	D	S	320,000	202,000	14,000	10,000	S	23,000
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	102,000	51,000	25,000	S	4,000	17,000	105,000	51,000	6,000	10,000	5,000	20,000	24,000	10,000	D	D	D	S	152,000	60,000	11,000	16,000	D	20,000
Not applicable	138,000	45,000	9,000	21,000	14,000	49,000	54,000	16,000	3,000	1,000	10,000	13,000	2,000	*	D	D	D	D	50,000	16,000	D	D	D	D
Mother's education																								
Less than high school completed	716,000	311,000	91,000	77,000	69,000	166,000	311,000	103,000	44,000	19,000	26,000	67,000	47,000	21,000	4,000	S	S	6,000	174,000	65,000	15,000	S	S	16,000
High school diploma or equivalent	1,525,000	609,000	242,000	174,000	184,000	317,000	737,000	246,000	90,000	86,000	57,000	149,000	88,000	33,000	15,000	4,000	S	9,000	362,000	96,000	51,000	37,000	33,000	76,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	1,143,000	415,000	167,000	114,000	113,000	333,000	591,000	216,000	59,000	51,000	73,000	114,000	66,000	17,000	7,000	S	10,000	13,000	362,000	102,000	44,000	33,000	18,000	65,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	1,098,000	496,000	85,000	113,000	121,000	283,000	558,000	197,000	47,000	56,000	40,000	102,000	70,000	31,000	7,000	5,000	3,000	7,000	477,000	246,000	20,000	19,000	18,000	57,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	356,000	178,000	31,000	31,000	26,000	89,000	336,000	147,000	40,000	19,000	20,000	67,000	57,000	24,000	S	3,000	S	11,000	262,000	118,000	24,000	16,000	S	54,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	60,000	31,000	D	7,000	S	17,000	37,000	14,000	S	3,000	1,000	11,000	10,000	S	D	D	D	S	106,000	34,000	D	D	D	S
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	22,000	5,000	S	S	D	7,000	31,000	14,000	S	S	D	7,000	16,000	5,000	D	D	D	S	50,000	33,000	D	D	D	S
Not applicable	99,000	37,000	8,000	15,000	S	35,000	43,000	21,000	S	D	D	S	2,000	*	D	D	D	D	31,000	4,000	D	D	D	D
Non-S&E fields	22,838,000	9,952,000	3,071,000	2,640,000	2,429,000	4,746,000	11,950,000	4,672,000	1,635,000	1,179,000	847,000	2,132,000	707,000	328,000	117,000	64,000	30,000	77,000	1,900,000	868,000	230,000	225,000	160,000	254,000
Father's education																								
Less than high school completed	3,047,000	1,374,000	513,000	415,000	282,000	463,000	1,705,000	666,000	274,000	186,000	96,000	221,000	107,000	37,000	27,000	10,000	5,000	12,000	146,000	47,000	20,000	17,000	S	30,000
High school diploma or equivalent	6,110,000	2,388,000	862,000	686,000	740,000	1,436,000	2,859,000	941,000	419,000	292,000	224,000	589,000	151,000	62,000	28,000	17,000	12,000	14,000	330,000	112,000	40,000	36,000	54,000	42,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	4,420,000	1,665,000	639,000	529,000	568,000	1,019,000	2,218,000	744,000	265,000	269,000	243,000	473,000	139,000	56,000	27,000	22,000	2,000	16,000	339,000	129,000	65,000	63,000	17,000	48,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	4,741,000	2,328,000	568,000	565,000	423,000	857,000	2,289,000	1,022,000	321,000	199,000	132,000	346,000	115,000	65,000	14,000	5,000	6,000	13,000	424,000	194,000	47,000	49,000	42,000	76,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	2,368,000	1,094,000	288,000	264,000	257,000	465,000	1,509,000	668,000	165,000	128,000	83,000	280,000	73,000	37,000	7,000	5,000	3,000	9,000	230,000	116,000	36,000	17,000	11,000	30,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	836,000	538,000	49,000	48,000	38,000	163,000	547,000	318,000	51,000	25,000	39,000	49,000	51,000	31,000	S	S	S	6,000	269,000	174,000	11,000	21,000	13,000	16,000
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	624,000	342,000	61,000	69,000	48,000	104,000	519,000	244,000	99,000	40,000	13,000	78,000	52,000	34,000	7,000	S	D	S	138,000	84,000	10,000	21,000	S	S
Not applicable	692,000	223,000	90,000	64,000	73,000	241,000	304,000	69,000	40,000	40,000	17,000	96,000	18,000	6,000	D	D	D	D	23,000	13,000	D	D	D	S
Mother's education																								
Less than high school completed	2,914,000	1,325,000	552,000	362,000	199,000	476,000	1,481,000	605,000	258,000	155,000	87,000	161,000	106,000	44,000	17,000	14,000	4,000	10,000	154,000	53,000	14,000	11,000	20,000	28,000
High school diploma or equivalent	7,321,000	3,109,000	1,075,000	823,000	830,000	1,483,000	3,525,000	1,259,000	499,000	379,000	265,000	640,000	179,000	69,000	34,000	23,000	7,000	9,000	416,000	126,000	87,000	54,000	41,000	52,000

TABLE 5-3

College graduates, by broad field of highest degree, father's education, mother's education, level of highest degree, and median amount borrowed to finance undergraduate degree: 2021

(Number)

Field of highest degree, father's education, and mother's education	Bachelor's						Master's						Doctorate						Professional					
	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over	Total	$0	$1–$10,000	$10,001–$20,000	$20,001–$30,000	$30,001 and over
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	5,073,000	1,987,000	711,000	665,000	590,000	1,119,000	2,660,000	1,005,000	399,000	282,000	214,000	523,000	143,000	63,000	31,000	11,000	8,000	21,000	413,000	203,000	44,000	53,000	33,000	57,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	5,018,000	2,450,000	481,000	525,000	508,000	1,054,000	2,341,000	1,033,000	267,000	195,000	139,000	425,000	132,000	66,000	20,000	8,000	8,000	18,000	532,000	249,000	40,000	86,000	45,000	72,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	1,799,000	780,000	182,000	203,000	199,000	435,000	1,464,000	571,000	164,000	132,000	122,000	296,000	106,000	61,000	10,000	7,000	2,000	14,000	255,000	144,000	40,000	17,000	13,000	38,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	211,000	90,000	30,000	S	34,000	S	143,000	81,000	22,000	S	S	18,000	17,000	9,000	D	D	D	D	65,000	43,000	D	5,000	S	2,000
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	165,000	88,000	D	9,000	27,000	34,000	192,000	74,000	21,000	11,000	S	23,000	15,000	9,000	D	D	S	D	52,000	38,000	D	D	S	S
Not applicable	337,000	123,000	32,000	42,000	41,000	99,000	144,000	44,000	6,000	18,000	S	45,000	11,000	6,000	D	D	D	D	13,000	D	D	D	D	D

* = suppressed when population estimate < 500. D = suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information. S = suppressed for reliability; coefficient of variation exceeds publication standards.

S&E = science and engineering.

Note(s):
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Totals for master's, doctorate, and professional highest degree earners include individuals who did not earn an undergraduate degree. These are primarily individuals who earned a first degree at an international institution for which the award is not counted as an undergraduate award by U.S. standards.

Source(s):
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Survey of College Graduates, 2021.