

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: 2023

(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	44,465,000	16,353,000	5,895,000	5,732,000	4,846,000	11,639,000	20,042,000	7,196,000	2,381,000	2,005,000	1,691,000	3,977,000	2,976,000	1,313,000	354,000	255,000	190,000	412,000	4,214,000	1,599,000	472,000	366,000	239,000	773,000	
Father's education																									
Less than high school completed	5,653,000	2,078,000	1,025,000	800,000	592,000	1,157,000	2,576,000	888,000	429,000	247,000	210,000	395,000	344,000	133,000	63,000	23,000	21,000	42,000	322,000	110,000	59,000	32,000	11,000	47,000	
High school diploma or equivalent	11,129,000	3,430,000	1,619,000	1,604,000	1,274,000	3,201,000	4,496,000	1,243,000	601,000	546,000	415,000	1,090,000	543,000	184,000	76,000	63,000	31,000	101,000	677,000	192,000	98,000	85,000	40,000	133,000	
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	8,334,000	2,537,000	1,188,000	1,134,000	979,000	2,496,000	3,548,000	1,051,000	414,000	376,000	397,000	792,000	494,000	205,000	59,000	43,000	31,000	85,000	579,000	194,000	94,000	45,000	35,000	148,000	
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	10,267,000	4,353,000	1,114,000	1,206,000	1,006,000	2,588,000	4,395,000	1,851,000	444,000	429,000	359,000	801,000	677,000	311,000	70,000	56,000	53,000	90,000	990,000	351,000	81,000	89,000	65,000	195,000	
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	4,575,000	1,886,000	478,000	475,000	571,000	1,165,000	2,627,000	1,128,000	247,000	239,000	156,000	458,000	412,000	204,000	51,000	24,000	31,000	43,000	632,000	269,000	55,000	41,000	34,000	114,000	
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	1,616,000	932,000	164,000	118,000	105,000	296,000	1,017,000	535,000	79,000	66,000	48,000	146,000	204,000	120,000	12,000	13,000	11,000	25,000	616,000	347,000	42,000	33,000	30,000	78,000	
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	1,318,000	635,000	123,000	162,000	120,000	278,000	926,000	390,000	109,000	76,000	76,000	173,000	245,000	139,000	21,000	27,000	9,000	18,000	333,000	121,000	36,000	24,000	24,000	53,000	
Not applicable	1,574,000	501,000	183,000	232,000	199,000	458,000	455,000	111,000	59,000	26,000	30,000	122,000	57,000	18,000	3,000	S	3,000	8,000	66,000	15,000	S	D	D	6,000	
Mother's education																									
Less than high school completed	5,326,000	1,976,000	964,000	802,000	463,000	1,121,000	2,538,000	833,000	394,000	295,000	191,000	366,000	365,000	155,000	45,000	27,000	14,000	32,000	353,000	126,000	47,000	13,000	20,000	66,000	
High school diploma or equivalent	13,151,000	4,430,000	2,072,000	1,858,000	1,522,000	3,270,000	5,410,000	1,690,000	692,000	570,000	521,000	1,169,000	680,000	261,000	103,000	73,000	43,000	88,000	861,000	294,000	154,000	93,000	30,000	163,000	
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	9,857,000	3,276,000	1,222,000	1,261,000	1,165,000	2,934,000	4,189,000	1,457,000	587,000	408,000	339,000	903,000	566,000	226,000	72,000	42,000	52,000	95,000	890,000	333,000	103,000	83,000	64,000	171,000	
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	9,997,000	4,144,000	1,043,000	1,132,000	940,000	2,740,000	4,337,000	1,751,000	417,000	392,000	343,000	852,000	639,000	303,000	76,000	56,000	30,000	92,000	1,123,000	414,000	97,000	101,000	87,000	202,000	
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	4,175,000	1,637,000	402,000	480,000	556,000	1,099,000	2,768,000	1,118,000	231,000	258,000	258,000	556,000	496,000	246,000	45,000	45,000	42,000	74,000	635,000	287,000	52,000	53,000	26,000	129,000	
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	579,000	307,000	32,000	66,000	43,000	131,000	274,000	155,000	23,000	23,000	S	33,000	88,000	54,000	5,000	3,000	6,000	9,000	208,000	80,000	11,000	22,000	S	26,000	
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	463,000	191,000	44,000	40,000	62,000	126,000	261,000	99,000	17,000	35,000	14,000	60,000	99,000	50,000	7,000	7,000	3,000	16,000	94,000	50,000	S	D	S	15,000	
Not applicable	917,000	392,000	117,000	94,000	96,000	218,000	264,000	93,000	20,000	24,000	10,000	40,000	42,000	18,000	2,000	S	D	S	51,000	14,000	D	D	D	D	
S&E fields	15,463,000	5,654,000	2,158,000	1,969,000	1,787,000	3,896,000	4,918,000	1,865,000	569,000	475,000	363,000	865,000	1,654,000	805,000	200,000	123,000	98,000	164,000	73,000	24,000	9,000	5,000	S	22,000	
Father's education																									
Less than high school completed	1,757,000	618,000	332,000	279,000	205,000	321,000	541,000	184,000	89,000	45,000	33,000	102,000	179,000	81,000	28,000	8,000	13,000	11,000	12,000	2,000	S	S	D	S	
High school diploma or equivalent	3,684,000	1,143,000	581,000	476,000	493,000	992,000	989,000	297,000	124,000	117,000	85,000	208,000	270,000	108,000	38,000	26,000	12,000	35,000	11,000	2,000	S	1,000	D	2,000	
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	2,838,000	861,000	409,000	408,000	340,000	821,000	816,000	247,000	90,000	821,000	101,000	156,000	234,000	98,000	32,000	19,000	15,000	31,000	13,000	2,000	S	D	D	S	
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	3,746,000	1,550,000	454,000	403,000	410,000	929,000	1,234,000	540,000	122,000	113,000	90,000	177,000	413,000	220,000	44,000	29,000	24,000	36,000	12,000	7,000	D	D	D	3,000	
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	1,750,000	721,000	186,000	218,000	172,000	453,000	733,000	323,000	82,000	56,000	49,000	118,000	256,000	130,000	29,000	17,000	21,000	23,000	15,000	4,000	D	D	D	4,000	
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	612,000	326,000	80,000	47,000	32,000	126,000	241,000	126,000	21,000	19,000	13,000	25,000	120,000	71,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	13,000	4,000	3,000	D	D	D	D	
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	586,000	275,000	59,000	78,000	50,000	125,000	263,000	114,000	31,000	19,000	19,000	60,000	161,000	88,000	16,000	17,000	7,000	14,000	5,000	S	D	D	D	D	
Not applicable	489,000	160,000	57,000	60,000	84,000	128,000	101,000	34,000	10,000	5,000	8,000	19,000	20,000	8,000	2,000	S	S	S	D	D	D	D	D	D	
Mother's education																									
Less than high school completed	1,709,000	637,000	326,000	273,000	171,000	302,000	643,000	237,000	87,000	64,000	38,000	86,000	217,000	103,000	31,000	10,000	8,000	8,000	14,000	3,000	S	S	D	D	
High school diploma or equivalent	4,118,000	1,329,000	740,000	587,000	473,000	989,000	1,177,000	425,000	136,000	129,000	88,000	210,000	364,000	157,000	53,000	30,000	20,000	35,000	13,000	3,000	S	S	D	3,000	
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	3,360,000	1,062,000	406,000	419,000	449,000	1,025,000	963,000	313,000	128,000	104,000	84,000	192,000	286,000	124,000	31,000	24,000	22,000	43,000	19,000	8,000	D	D	D	S	
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	3,872,000	1,615,000	452,000	403,000	411,000	991,000	1,173,000	486,000	122,000	991,000	112,000	215,000	382,000	199,000	47,000	30,000	20,000	38,000	16,000	6,000	D	D	D	4,000	
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	1,596,000	625,000	162,000	210,000	189,000	411,000	717,000	294,000	74,000	47,000	63,000	123,000	264,000	145,000	26,000	22,000	23,000	23,000	8,000	1,000	D	D	D	3,000	

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: 2023

(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)	275,000	136,000	24,000	29,000	18,000	67,000	90,000	53,000	8,000	5,000	4,000	13,000	58,000	37,000	4,000	2,000	3,000	6,000	2,000	S	D	D	D	D
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	224,000	114,000	19,000	15,000	23,000	54,000	70,000	31,000	5,000	8,000	4,000	13,000	63,000	31,000	6,000	5,000	2,000	10,000	D	D	D	D	D	D
Not applicable	307,000	136,000	29,000	33,000	52,000	57,000	86,000	26,000	9,000	5,000	S	12,000	20,000	8,000	2,000	S	D	S	D	D	D	D	D	D
S&E-related fields	5,261,000	1,709,000	734,000	627,000	638,000	1,552,000	2,882,000	950,000	317,000	257,000	255,000	648,000	434,000	144,000	39,000	31,000	40,000	94,000	2,132,000	641,000	208,000	150,000	113,000	383,000
Father's education																								
Less than high school completed	842,000	285,000	136,000	101,000	85,000	234,000	353,000	110,000	61,000	34,000	26,000	70,000	48,000	13,000	S	5,000	S	10,000	165,000	57,000	31,000	S	S	12,000
High school diploma or equivalent	1,419,000	389,000	189,000	190,000	192,000	459,000	674,000	160,000	86,000	66,000	78,000	185,000	104,000	32,000	9,000	7,000	10,000	31,000	313,000	69,000	32,000	36,000	13,000	52,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	973,000	268,000	146,000	114,000	118,000	327,000	551,000	161,000	62,000	44,000	55,000	142,000	73,000	15,000	6,000	3,000	S	24,000	264,000	75,000	34,000	20,000	15,000	67,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	1,160,000	458,000	141,000	131,000	117,000	313,000	457,000	224,000	62,000	55,000	45,000	127,000	107,000	37,000	9,000	7,000	11,000	22,000	512,000	130,000	40,000	40,000	25,000	110,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	440,000	136,000	71,000	47,000	86,000	101,000	388,000	158,000	28,000	43,000	31,000	60,000	48,000	20,000	9,000	S	S	S	325,000	96,000	17,000	22,000	20,000	68,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	168,000	75,000	15,000	11,000	18,000	49,000	147,000	74,000	7,000	6,000	11,000	26,000	20,000	12,000	D	D	D	1,000	343,000	171,000	26,000	10,000	15,000	48,000
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	92,000	36,000	25,000	S	6,000	21,000	108,000	48,000	7,000	8,000	7,000	22,000	24,000	14,000	D	D	D	D	173,000	41,000	28,000	13,000	17,000	24,000
Not applicable	166,000	62,000	11,000	28,000	17,000	48,000	53,000	14,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	16,000	9,000	S	D	D	D	D	38,000	S	D	D	D	S
Mother's education																								
Less than high school completed	770,000	248,000	129,000	86,000	65,000	242,000	345,000	98,000	49,000	34,000	22,000	75,000	49,000	11,000	2,000	6,000	S	S	202,000	69,000	25,000	S	S	20,000
High school diploma or equivalent	1,579,000	466,000	254,000	225,000	230,000	404,000	760,000	231,000	108,000	65,000	95,000	170,000	101,000	26,000	15,000	7,000	16,000	20,000	394,000	102,000	66,000	37,000	13,000	70,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	1,233,000	380,000	167,000	160,000	146,000	379,000	630,000	199,000	80,000	51,000	45,000	166,000	89,000	30,000	10,000	S	5,000	27,000	424,000	118,000	44,000	29,000	20,000	101,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	1,083,000	380,000	109,000	108,000	126,000	360,000	673,000	231,000	47,000	54,000	65,000	141,000	98,000	40,000	5,000	4,000	5,000	21,000	575,000	175,000	49,000	38,000	51,000	100,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	382,000	155,000	41,000	29,000	40,000	118,000	358,000	144,000	26,000	43,000	24,000	75,000	74,000	29,000	S	9,000	14,000	12,000	313,000	106,000	14,000	30,000	S	69,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	72,000	27,000	S	S	18,000	19,000	43,000	27,000	S	2,000	S	7,000	6,000	1,000	D	D	D	D	140,000	48,000	S	S	D	19,000
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	45,000	4,000	S	D	5,000	15,000	39,000	9,000	4,000	7,000	S	9,000	15,000	6,000	D	D	D	D	49,000	22,000	S	D	D	4,000
Not applicable	96,000	49,000	12,000	10,000	7,000	18,000	32,000	11,000	S	2,000	D	4,000	S	S	D	D	D	D	35,000	S	D	D	D	D
Non-S&E fields	23,742,000	8,990,000	3,003,000	3,136,000	2,421,000	6,191,000	12,241,000	4,381,000	1,495,000	1,273,000	1,073,000	2,464,000	888,000	365,000	116,000	101,000	51,000	154,000	2,009,000	935,000	255,000	211,000	124,000	369,000
Father's education																								
Less than high school completed	3,053,000	1,175,000	556,000	420,000	302,000	601,000	1,683,000	593,000	279,000	168,000	151,000	223,000	117,000	39,000	31,000	11,000	6,000	21,000	145,000	51,000	26,000	22,000	4,000	29,000
High school diploma or equivalent	6,026,000	1,899,000	849,000	938,000	590,000	1,750,000	2,833,000	785,000	391,000	364,000	253,000	697,000	168,000	44,000	29,000	30,000	9,000	35,000	353,000	121,000	63,000	49,000	27,000	79,000
Some college, vocational, or trade school (including 2-year degrees)	4,523,000	1,408,000	633,000	613,000	521,000	1,348,000	2,180,000	643,000	262,000	231,000	276,000	494,000	188,000	92,000	21,000	S	S	30,000	302,000	117,000	58,000	23,000	20,000	76,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	5,361,000	2,345,000	519,000	672,000	479,000	1,346,000	2,555,000	1,086,000	259,000	261,000	225,000	498,000	156,000	54,000	16,000	S	18,000	33,000	466,000	214,000	41,000	48,000	39,000	82,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	2,385,000	1,029,000	221,000	210,000	313,000	611,000	1,505,000	648,000	137,000	140,000	75,000	280,000	108,000	54,000	13,000	6,000	5,000	17,000	292,000	169,000	36,000	19,000	12,000	42,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	835,000	531,000	69,000	60,000	55,000	121,000	629,000	334,000	51,000	41,000	23,000	94,000	64,000	37,000	2,000	S	5,000	S	269,000	173,000	16,000	22,000	15,000	29,000
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	640,000	324,000	40,000	81,000	63,000	132,000	555,000	228,000	70,000	49,000	49,000	92,000	60,000	37,000	4,000	6,000	D	S	155,000	76,000	S	26,000	7,000	29,000
Not applicable	918,000	280,000	115,000	144,000	98,000	281,000	301,000	63,000	46,000	19,000	20,000	87,000	27,000	9,000	D	D	D	S	26,000	13,000	S	D	D	3,000
Mother's education																								
Less than high school completed	2,846,000	1,091,000	509,000	443,000	227,000	577,000	1,551,000	497,000	258,000	196,000	131,000	205,000	100,000	42,000	12,000	11,000	5,000	17,000	136,000	54,000	18,000	8,000	S	41,000
High school diploma or equivalent	7,455,000	2,636,000	1,078,000	1,046,000	819,000	1,877,000	3,473,000	1,034,000	449,000	377,000	338,000	788,000	215,000	77,000	35,000	36,000	7,000	33,000	453,000	189,000	84,000	55,000	18,000	90,000

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: 2023

(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)	5,264,000	1,834,000	649,000	681,000	569,000	1,531,000	2,596,000	945,000	379,000	254,000	210,000	545,000	191,000	72,000	31,000	14,000	25,000	25,000	448,000	207,000	58,000	51,000	44,000	65,000
Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)	5,042,000	2,148,000	481,000	620,000	402,000	1,389,000	2,491,000	1,035,000	247,000	225,000	203,000	495,000	158,000	64,000	24,000	S	5,000	34,000	532,000	234,000	47,000	63,000	35,000	98,000
Master's degree (e.g., MS, MA, MBA)	2,197,000	858,000	199,000	241,000	327,000	571,000	1,692,000	680,000	131,000	168,000	171,000	358,000	158,000	72,000	14,000	14,000	5,000	39,000	314,000	180,000	39,000	23,000	11,000	56,000
Professional degree (e.g., JD, LLB, MD, DDS)	232,000	144,000	S	30,000	7,000	45,000	141,000	75,000	14,000	16,000	S	13,000	23,000	17,000	D	D	D	D	66,000	31,000	D	11,000	S	6,000
Doctorate (e.g., PhD, DSc, EdD)	193,000	73,000	5,000	S	34,000	57,000	152,000	59,000	9,000	20,000	S	37,000	22,000	13,000	D	D	D	D	45,000	28,000	D	D	D	S
Not applicable	513,000	207,000	75,000	51,000	36,000	143,000	146,000	55,000	8,000	17,000	3,000	23,000	20,000	8,000	D	D	D	D	16,000	12,000	D	D	D	D

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, 2023.