
North Dakota University System

2023 Affordability Report



600 E Boulevard Department 215
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0602
Website: www.ndus.edu

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Report Prepared By

Jamie Wilke, NDUS Director of Finance

Brenda Zastoupil, NDUS Financial Aid Director

North Dakota University System (NDUS) 2023 Affordability Report

College affordability is a significant factor in student access, retention, and completion. Tuition and fee rates are a component of affordability, as is the availability of financial aid programs from federal, state, institutional and private sources, among other factors. Strategically designed approaches to college affordability can better assist students in preparing for post-secondary education, accessing programs, and degree persistence. This report outlines key affordability factors within the North Dakota University System (NDUS) by focusing on student costs and availability of financial aid. This report includes regional comparisons, which include peer institutions from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

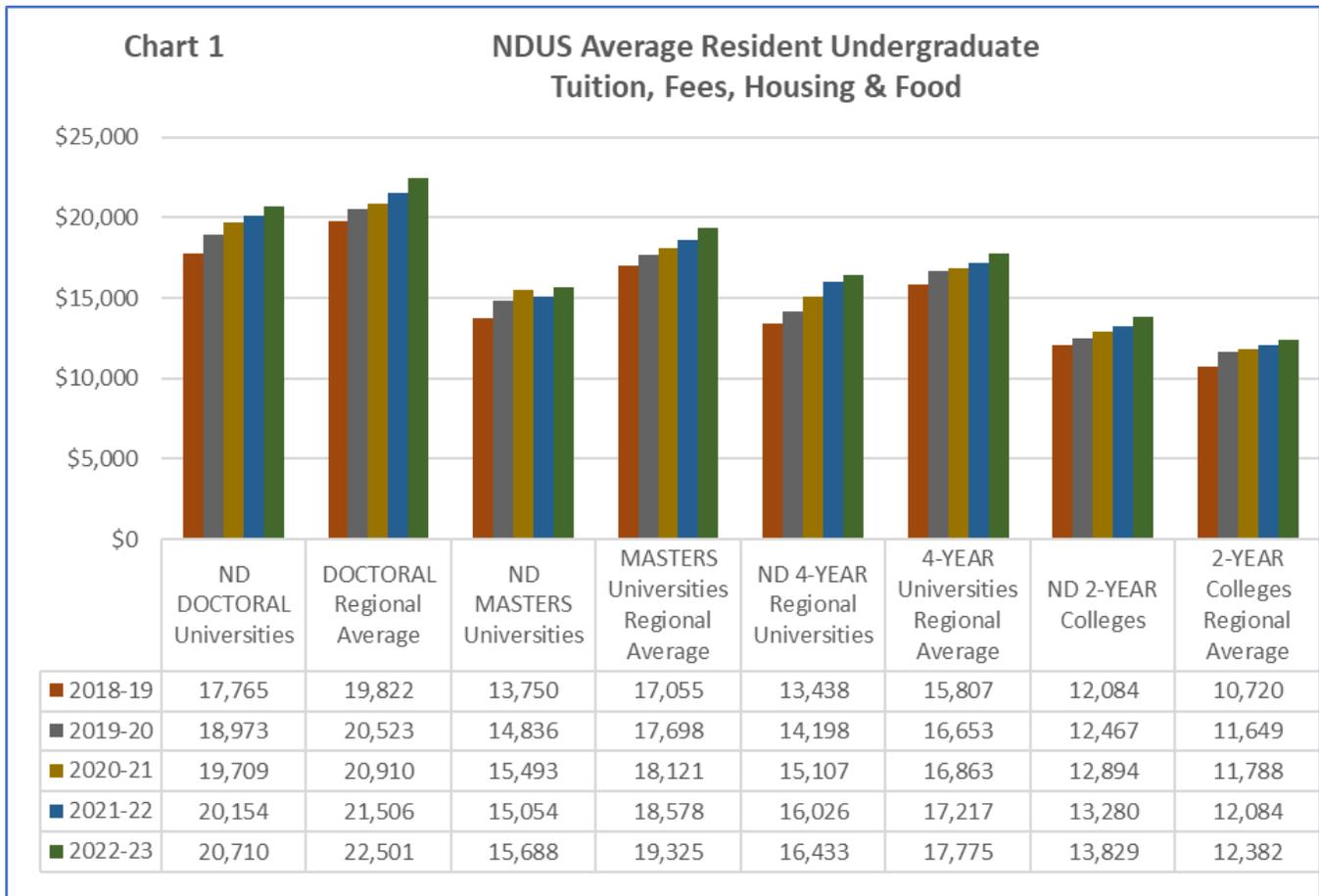
Executive Summary

- The average 2022-23 total cost of tuition, fees, housing, and food, prior to financial aid and other discounts was \$20,710 at doctoral universities, 8% lower than regional peers, \$15,688 at Minot State University (master's), 19% lower than regional peers, and \$16,433 at four-year universities, 7.5% lower than regional peers. The average at two-year colleges was \$13,829, which continues to track above regional comparisons. (Chart 1)
 - The 2022-23 housing and food rates at all state doctoral, masters, and four-year universities were significantly lower than regional peer averages, while two-year colleges continue to be above their regional counterparts.
- Basic needs, which are comprised of living expenses such as housing, food, transportation, daycare, books, supplies, and other personal expenses, accounted for 67% of the estimated costs in 2022-23. (Chart 2)
- Of all the aid disbursed in the past 5 years, 60% was in the form of student loans or Federal Work Study, institutional scholarships and waivers 17%, federal grants 13%, state funded scholarships and grants 6%, and private scholarships 4%. (Chart 3)
- In 2021-22, 61% of all NDUS students received some type of financial aid.
 - Of the aid disbursed, 57% was in the form of self-help aid (loans and work), below the 5-year average.
 - Forty-three percent of the aid disbursed was from non-repayable grants, scholarships, and tuition waivers. These non-repayable aid sources increased 3% from the prior year. (Chart 4)
- Federal student loan and grant aid within the NDUS in 2021-22 totaled \$140.16 million. This was a 16.5% decrease from 5 years earlier. (Chart 5 and Table 1)
- All NDUS institution types saw a reduction in total federal loan amount borrowed, number of borrowers, and number of borrowers compared to headcount from 5 and 10 years prior to 2021-22. (Table 3)
- Alternative student loan borrowing has been increasing while federal student loan borrowing has been decreasing. Parent PLUS loan borrowing has also increased, while Perkins Loan volume decreased to \$0 with the expiration of that federal program. (Chart 6 and Table 4)

- Student loan indebtedness for 2022 NDUS graduating undergraduates decreased by 0.6% from 2021, averaging \$28,947. According to The College Board, nationally, the average loan debt among bachelor’s degree recipients is \$29,100. (Chart 7)
- Grants, scholarships, and waivers totaled \$121.4 million in 2021-22, an increase of 3.2% from the prior year. (Chart 8)
 - Institutional scholarships totaled \$40.1 million, a 9% increase from the prior year.
 - Private scholarships totaled \$13.2 million, a 7% increase from the prior year.
 - Federal grants totaled \$33.7 million, a 1% decrease from the prior year.
 - Tuition waivers totaled \$15.9 million, a 7% decrease from the prior year.
 - State grants and scholarships were \$18.5 million, an 8% increase from the prior year.
- In 2021-22 All scholarships, grants, and waivers covered 47% of gross tuition. When housing and food, and mandatory fees are added, the coverage drops to 33%. Self-help aid (student loans and Work Study) helps to fill the gap. Seventy-six percent of gross tuition, fees, housing and food charges are covered by all aid sources (scholarships, grants, waivers, loans, work.)
- On average over a 5-year period, Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits and Department of Defense Tuition Assistance contributed an additional \$7.2 million annually to 1,701 students. (Table 6)
- The lowest income earners (\$0-\$30K) had comparable net price to regional peer institutions at the NDUS 4-year universities and 2-year colleges. Middle income earners (\$48,001-\$75K) paid less net price at the NDUS 4-year universities and similar net price at the 2-year colleges compared to regional peer institutions. Net price for NDUS doctoral universities was above regional peers for both low income and middle-income categories. (Chart 11a and 11b)
- Lower income families require a greater percentage of their income to cover estimated net price at NDUS institutions compared to middle income families. (Table 7)

Tuition, Mandatory Fees, Housing and Food

The average tuition, fees, housing, and food for NDUS doctoral universities, masters universities, and four-year regional universities is less than the regional peer institutions in 2022-23. The two-year college cost trend continues to be 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. The following table details estimated student cost.

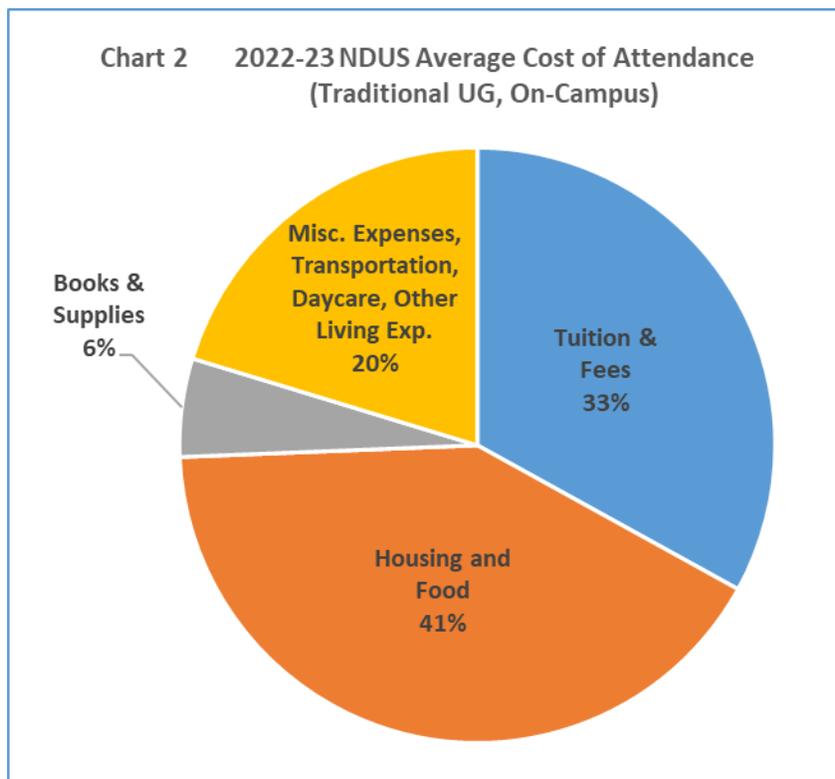


Cost of Attendance

Basic needs impact a student’s ability to afford college. As NCAN noted, *“Although tuition is often at the forefront when “paying for college” comes up, college affordability goes well beyond tuition and fees covered by financial aid. Expenses like purchasing textbooks and other course materials, housing and transportation, childcare, health insurance, and other personal expenses are also relevant.”* [Breen, S. (2021, November 17). *College affordability fast facts: Tuition is not enough* - NCAN. <https://www.ncan.org/news/586889/College-Affordability-Fast-Facts-Tuition-Is-Not-Enough.htm>].

These costs can vary by campus, program, and individual student. A look at the NDUS 2022-23 cost of attendance (COA) components, which are used in awarding financial aid, shows that housing, food, and other living expenses, such as transportation, daycare, and other personal expenses, account for 67% of a traditional undergraduate student’s estimated budget to attend college, as shown in Chart 2. These basic needs have a real impact on affordability.

NDUS institutions have been able to reduce the estimated cost of books and supplies over the years. In 2015-16, the average NDUS financial aid COA component for books and supplies was \$1,084. In 2022-23, the average is \$1,009. The system's use of open educational resources, which offer low-cost/no-cost textbooks, makes a positive impact for students.



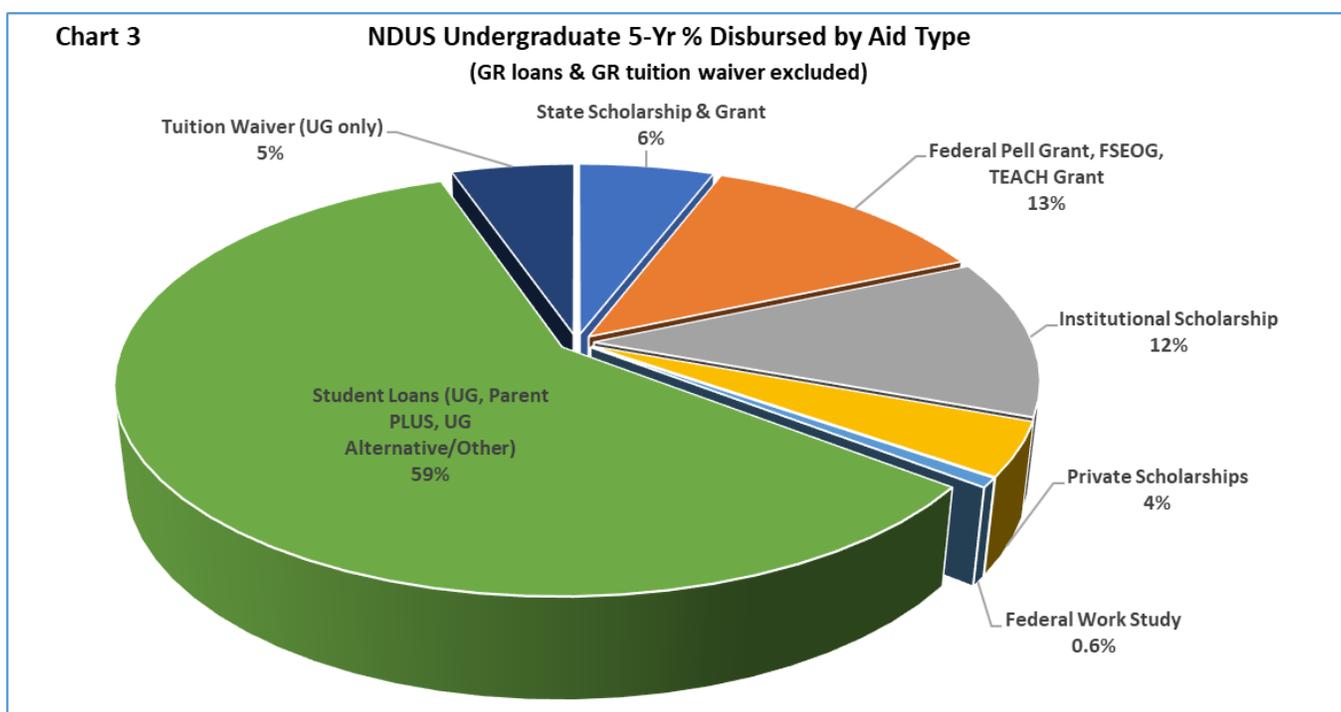
Financial Aid Overview

In addition to costs, college affordability is dependent on the availability of financial aid. Financial aid includes, but is not limited to, federal and state grants, federal work study, and federal and private student loans, institutional assistance, private scholarships, and military benefits. This report focuses on these sources of aid.

In 2021-22, 61% of all NDUS undergraduate students received some form of financial aid from one or more sources. This is on-target with national rates for public institutions (63%). The majority of the NDUS institutions rank below the national average for percentage of undergraduate students receiving scholarships and grants, but above the national average for federal student loans. This may point toward the need for ongoing discussions promoting state, federal and private non-repayable grants, and scholarship resources for students. However, without a deeper review of this data, the cause cannot be fully determined. For example, NDUS 2-year institutions have a high focus on early entry/dual credit enrollment, which may be a factor in the lower percentage of scholarships and grants provided to students. Additionally, Pell Grant eligibility is based on federal formulas and is not reflective of institutional choices, but rather, student eligibility.

During the 5-year period through 2021-22, approximately 60% of all aid received was in the form of self-help aid, which includes federal and private alternative student loans, Parent PLUS Loans, and Federal Work Study. The remainder came from various sources of federal, state, institutional and private grants, scholarships, and waivers. Federal grants (Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), and TEACH Grant) accounted for 13%, NDUS tuition waivers 5%, institutional scholarships 12%, state aid programs 6%, and private scholarships 4%.

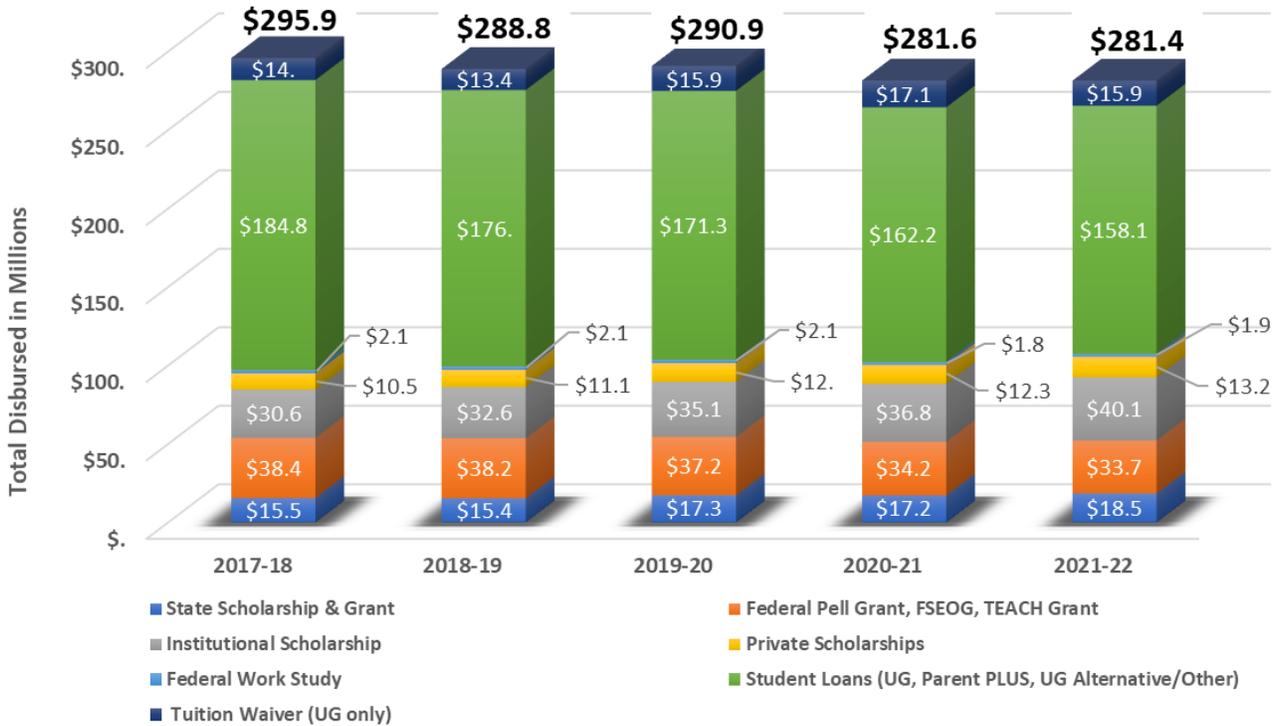
Parent PLUS Loans are loans issued to parents to pay for college expenses for their dependent children. Parent PLUS Loans accounted for 5% of total student loans issued to undergraduate students from 2017-18 through 2021-22. Alternative student loans are issued directly to students, however, often require a qualifying co-signer. Alternative/other student loans accounted for 32% of all student loans disbursed to undergraduate students during this time. The remainder of the student loans, 63%, were issued through federal student loan programs.



In 2021-22 NDUS institutional scholarships and tuition waivers shown in Chart 4 accounted for 20% of all aid disbursed, which is above the 5-year NDUS average of 17%. Self-help aid (student loans and work), accounted for 57% of aid disbursed in 2021-22, below the 5-year average of 60%. Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG and TEACH Grants accounted for 12%, state scholarships and grants 7%, and private scholarships 5%, all similar to the 5-year averages.

Chart 4

NDUS 5-Yr Undergraduate Dollars Disbursed by Aid Type
(GR loans & GR tuition waiver excluded)



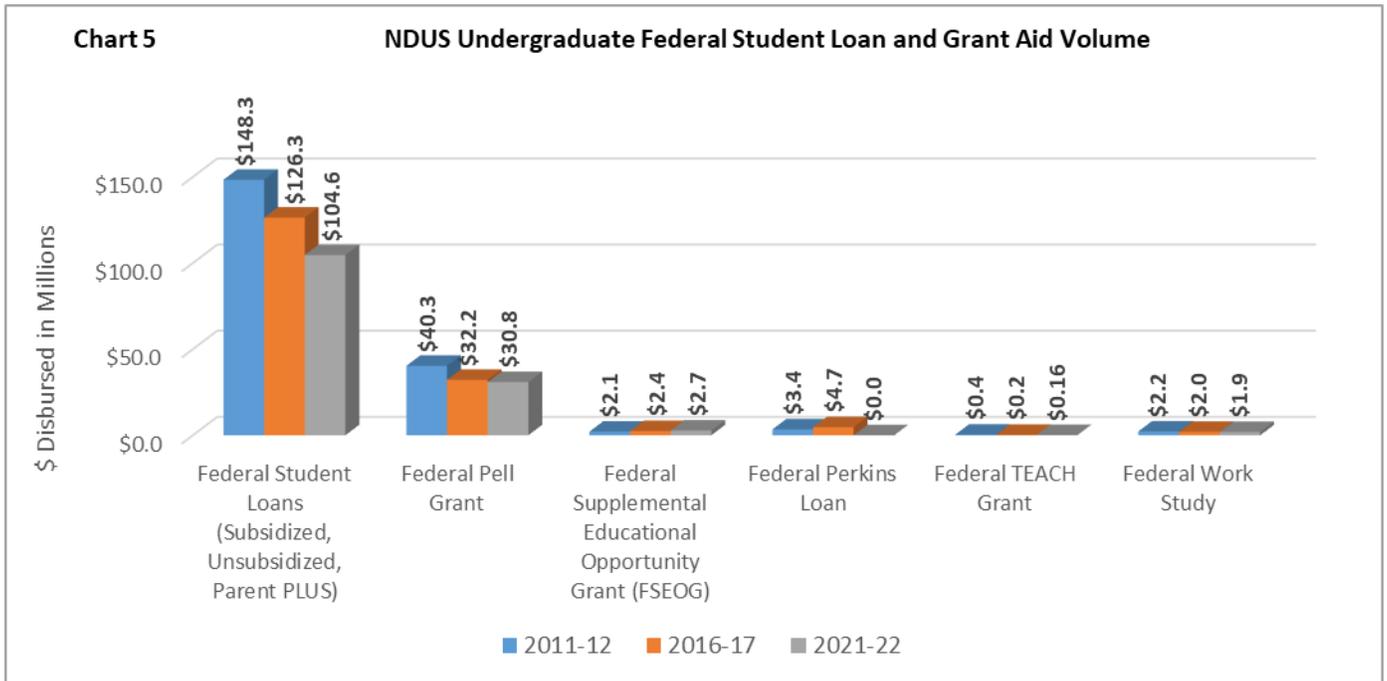
Federal Financial Aid

Federal financial aid plays an important role in affordability for students; however, it has been declining in the past 10 years. This section focuses on the following federal aid sources for undergraduate students. Graduate aid is excluded when possible.

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work Study (FWS)
- TEACH Grant
- Perkins Loan (program expired 9/30/2017)
- Federal Students Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Parent PLUS)

The Pell Grant, FSEOG, FWS, Federal Subsidized Loan, and the Perkins Loan are all based on financial need. Subsidized Loans do not accrue interest while a student is enrolled at least half-time, or during periods of deferment, while Unsubsidized Loan interest begins accruing on the date of disbursement. The federal TEACH Grant is different from other federal grants because it requires students to complete a specific teaching service obligation as a condition of receiving the grant. Students failing to meet the criteria have the grant converted to a loan, that must be repaid with interest. As of March 13, 2020, federal student loan interest accruals and loan payments were suspended under COVID-19 Emergency Relief. Students currently have a 0% interest rate and suspension of loan payments on federal student loans. The pause is in effect until 60 days after June 30, 2023, at which time students will be required to restart loan payments.

System-wide, all federal aid categories declined, or showed no significant increase, compared with 5 and 10 years earlier, as shown in Chart 5. Federal student loan volume decreased by 17% from 2016-17 to 2021-22 and had decreased by 13% in the previous 5-year period. In the 2021-22, NDUS institutions disbursed \$5.8 million less in Pell, FSEOG, Perkins, TEACH Grant and Federal Work Study than 5 years earlier, a 15% drop. The considerable drop in these sources is contributed primarily to Perkins Loan program no longer being federally funded. The last year that Perkins Loans were issued was in 2017-18, leaving a gap for the neediest students. Additionally, headcount has declined over this period. Further, need-based federal aid is dependent upon the student qualifying, not necessarily on institutional award policy.



**Table 1 - History of Undergraduate Federal Loan and Grant Aid Volume
(Millions of Dollars)**

	2011-12	2016-17	2021-22	2011-12 vs 2021-22 (10-year)		2016-17 vs 2021-22 (5-year)	
Doctoral (NDSU, UND)							
Federal Student Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Parent PLUS)	\$95.9	\$84.3	\$70.7	-\$25.1	-26.2%	-\$13.5	-16.0%
Federal Pell Grant	\$20.3	\$17.4	\$16.0	-\$4.3	-21.1%	-\$1.4	-8.1%
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$1.4	\$1.7	\$1.8	\$0.5	34.7%	\$0.2	10.3%
Federal Perkins Loan	\$2.4	\$3.5	\$0.0	-\$2.4	-100.0%	-\$3.5	-100.0%
Federal TEACH Grant	\$0.2	\$0.12	\$0.09	-\$0.1	-46.1%	-\$0.02	-19.9%
Federal Work Study	\$1.5	\$1.4	\$1.3	-\$0.2	-15.6%	-\$0.1	-7.2%
Four-Year (DSU, MaSU, MiSU, VCSU)							
Federal Student Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Parent PLUS)	\$23.9	\$20.3	\$17.7	-\$6.2	-26.0%	-\$2.6	-12.9%
Federal Pell Grant	\$7.9	\$6.4	\$6.9	-\$1.0	-12.2%	\$0.5	8.0%
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.5	\$0.1	24.0%	\$0.1	19.8%
Federal Perkins Loan	\$0.7	\$0.9	\$0.0	-\$0.7	-100.0%	-\$0.9	-100.0%
Federal TEACH Grant	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.1	-\$0.1	-62.8%	-\$0.01	-9.4%
Federal Work Study	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.38	\$0.004	1.1%	-\$0.03	-7.2%
Two-year (BSC, LRSC, WSC, NDSCS, DCB)							
Federal Student Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Parent PLUS)	\$28.6	\$21.8	\$16.2	-\$12.4	-43.2%	-\$5.6	-25.6%
Federal Pell Grant	\$12.2	\$8.4	\$7.9	-\$4.2	-34.9%	-\$0.4	-5.1%
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$0.3	\$0.4	\$0.4	\$0.1	21.0%	\$0.03	8.9%
Federal Perkins Loan	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.0	-\$0.3	-100.0%	-\$0.3	-100.0%
Federal TEACH Grant	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Work Study	\$0.3	\$0.21	\$0.19	-\$0.1	-31.5%	\$0.0	-10.2%
NDUS Total							
Federal Student Loans (Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Parent PLUS)	\$148.3	\$126.3	\$104.6	-\$43.7	-29.4%	-\$21.7	-17.2%
Federal Pell Grant	\$40.3	\$32.2	\$30.8	-\$9.5	-23.5%	-\$1.3	-4.1%
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$2.1	\$2.4	\$2.7	\$0.6	30.6%	\$0.3	11.6%
Federal Perkins Loan	\$3.4	\$4.7	\$0.0	-\$3.4	-100.0%	-\$4.7	-100.0%
Federal TEACH Grant	\$0.4	\$0.2	\$0.16	-\$0.2	-54.6%	-\$0.03	-15.9%
Federal Work Study	\$2.2	\$2.0	\$1.9	-\$0.3	-14.7%	-\$0.2	-7.5%

Graduate and Professional students excluded when possible; Excludes Graduate PLUS, private, institutional loans.
Federal Loans include: FFELP and Direct Subsidized, Unsubsidized and Parent PLUS.

The Federal Pell Grant, while showing an increase to the annual award amount, has not kept pace with increases in inflation. According to The College Board, while the 2022-23 Pell increased by \$400, the largest 1-year gain since 2009-10, after adjusting for inflation, it declined by 2%. Additionally noted was that between 2012-13 and 2022-23 the maximum Pell Grant fell by 3% after adjusting for inflation. Since 2012-13, the maximum Pell Grant award has increased on average only \$134 per year, from \$5,550 in 2012-13 to \$6,895 in 2022-23. The College Board’s annual report stated that in 2022-23, a full Pell Grant covers approximately 63% of published tuition and fees at public four-year institutions nationwide and 30% when adding in food and housing. [The College Board (2022), *Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2022*, <https://research.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/trends-in-college-pricing-student-aid-2022.pdf>] As inflation continues to raise the cost of living, students continue to shoulder more of their basic needs beyond tuition and fees, without sufficient financial aid support.

Table 2 - Maximum Pell Grant as a Percentage of Published Prices in 2022 Dollars (2002-03 to 2022-23, Selected Years)		
	Public Four-Year Institutions - National	
Academic Year	Maximum Pell Grant as a % of Tuition and Fees	Maximum Pell Grant as a % of Tuition, Fees, Housing & Food
2002-03	97%	41%
2007-08	70%	32%
2012-13	64%	31%
2017-18	59%	28%
2022-23	63%	30%

Source: College Board Trends in College Pricing 2022, Figure SA-16

Annual Student Loan Disbursements

Federal student loan borrowing among NDUS students has declined over time. As shown in Table 3, the decline in the number of borrowers has outpaced the decline in headcount at the NDUS institutions. So, while federal loans are declining as is headcount, more students are also electing to not borrow. It is important to note that Perkins Loan borrowing, which went to the neediest students, fell from \$4.2 million in 2010-11 to \$0 beginning in 2018-19 due to the federal program being eliminated, which accounts for some of the reduced borrowing.

Table 3 - Federal Undergraduate Student Loans - Loan Disbursements					
Doctoral Universities (NDSU, UND)					
Year	Federal Loan Amount Borrowed (millions of dollars) ¹	Number of Borrowers ²	% of Borrowers/Total Headcount ³ Enrollment	Avg Annual Loan Per Borrower	Fall Degree-Credit Headcount ³
2011-12	\$98.2	16,142	68.9%	\$6,085	23,433
2016-17	\$87.7	14,535	62.5%	\$6,034	23,265
2021-22	\$70.7	10,458	52.5%	\$6,764	19,917
5-yr change	-19.3%	-28.0%	-10.0%	12.1%	-14.4%
10-yr change	-28.0%	-35.2%	-16.4%	11.2%	-15.0%
4-Year Universities Annual Loan Volume (DSU, MaSU, MiSU, VCSU)					
Year	Federal Loan Amount Borrowed (millions of dollars) ¹	Number of Borrowers ²	% of Borrowers/Total Headcount ³ Enrollment	Avg Annual Loan Per Borrower	Fall Degree-Credit Headcount ³
2011-12	\$24.6	4,373	55.4%	\$5,614	7,888
2016-17	\$21.2	3,666	53.0%	\$5,770	6,920
2021-22	\$17.7	2,841	43.2%	\$6,218	6,583
5-yr change	-16.5%	-22.5%	-9.8%	7.8%	-4.9%
10-yr change	-28.0%	-35.0%	-12.3%	10.8%	-16.5%
2-Year Colleges Annual Loan Volume (BSC, LRSC, DCB, NDSCS, WSC)					
Year	Federal Loan Amount Borrowed (millions of dollars) ¹	Number of Borrowers ²	% of Borrowers/Total Headcount ³ Enrollment	Avg Annual Loan Per Borrower	Fall Degree-Credit Headcount ³
2011-12	\$28.9	5,355	47.1%	\$5,390	11,380
2016-17	\$22.1	4,210	39.1%	\$5,261	10,776
2021-22	\$16.2	2,873	28.6%	\$5,647	10,042
5-yr change	-26.8%	-31.8%	-10.5%	7.3%	-6.8%
10-yr change	-43.8%	-46.3%	-18.4%	4.8%	-11.8%

¹ Undergraduate Federal Loans: Subsidized, Unsubsidized, Perkins and Parent PLUS Loans included; Graduate PLUS, Private/Other loans excluded.

² Borrowers may be duplicated if receiving more than one loan type.

³ Undergraduate fall degree-credit headcount excludes graduate students.

In contrast to federal loan borrowing declining, private educational student loan borrowing has been increasing, while the percentage of borrowers to total headcount for alternative loan borrowing has remained relatively unchanged from 2016-17 to 2021-22. The exception is for 2-year colleges, which show a 7.1% decrease in amount borrowed from 2016-17 to 2021-22. As previously noted, the exit of the Perkins loan has created a gap for students, who may be filling it with alternative loan borrowing. Parent PLUS Loan also have risen but comprise a smaller part of loan volume than alternative loans. This may suggest that families are selecting alternative student loan sources over the federal Parent PLUS Loan. Alternative student loans can be more flexible, as they can be awarded up to total cost of attendance while federal student loans have annual & lifetime caps. The annual maximum level of borrowing for federal loans is \$5,500 for freshmen; \$6,500 for sophomores; and \$7,500 for juniors/seniors. These caps have not been increased since 2008. Federal student loan borrowing is often viewed and encouraged to be the first source of loan borrowing. The percentage of NDUS students seeking federal loans reflects this. In 2021-22, 60% of loan borrowing was from the federal programs, 34% from alternative loans and 6% from Parent PLUS. Additionally, the percentage of federal loan borrowers to total headcount far-exceeded the percentage of alternative loan borrowers to total headcount. Alternative loans continue to be an important source of funding to fill the gap that some

students may have to pay for their education. Chart 6 shows the undergraduate borrowing trend of the various loan programs. Table 4 presents a historical view of alternative undergraduate student loan borrowing.

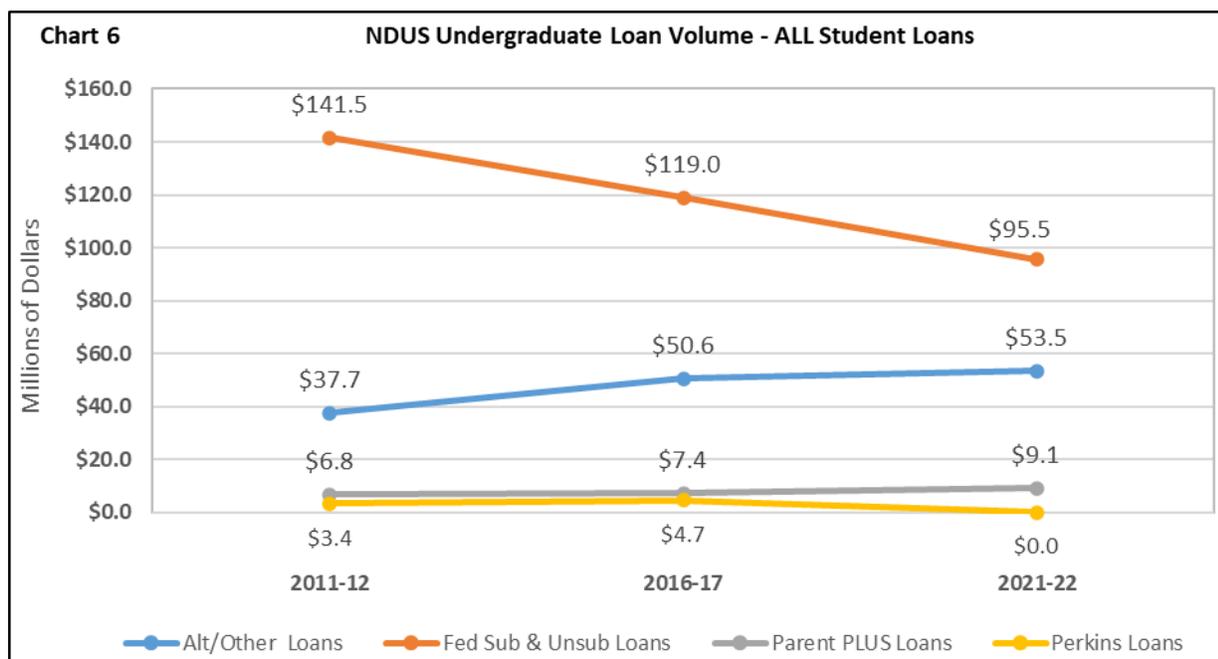


Table 4 - Alternative/Other Undergraduate Student Loans - Loan Disbursements

Doctoral Universities (NDSU, UND)					
Year	Alt Loan Amount Borrowed (millions of dollars) ¹	Number of Borrowers ²	% of Borrowers/Total Headcount ³ Enrollment	Avg Annual Loan Per Borrower	Fall Degree-Credit Headcount ³
2011-12	\$32.6	3,972	17.0%	\$8,196	23,433
2016-17	\$42.6	4,586	19.7%	\$9,297	23,265
2021-22	\$45.7	3,824	19.2%	\$11,963	19,917
5-yr change	7.3%	-16.6%	-0.5%	28.7%	-14.4%
10-yr change	40.5%	-3.7%	2.2%	46.0%	-15.0%
4-Year Universities Annual Loan Volume (DSU, MaSU, MiSU, VCSU)					
Year	Alt Loan Amount Borrowed (millions of dollars) ¹	Number of Borrowers ²	% of Borrowers/Total Headcount ³ Enrollment	Avg Annual Loan Per Borrower	Fall Degree-Credit Headcount ³
2011-12	\$2.2	442	5.6%	\$4,924	7,888
2016-17	\$3.2	507	7.3%	\$6,270	6,920
2021-22	\$3.3	464	7.0%	\$7,093	6,583
5-yr change	3.5%	-8.5%	-0.3%	13.1%	-4.9%
10-yr change	51.2%	5.0%	1.4%	44.0%	-16.5%
2-Year Colleges Annual Loan Volume (BSC, LRSC, DCB, NDSCS, WSC)					
Year	Alt Loan Amount Borrowed (millions of dollars) ¹	Number of Borrowers ²	% of Borrowers/Total Headcount ³ Enrollment	Avg Annual Loan Per Borrower	Fall Degree-Credit Headcount ³
2011-12	\$2.9	532	4.7%	\$5,519	11,380
2016-17	\$4.8	691	6.4%	\$6,905	10,776
2021-22	\$4.4	552	5.5%	\$8,028	10,042
5-yr change	-7.1%	-20.1%	-0.9%	16.3%	-6.8%
10-yr change	50.9%	3.8%	0.8%	45.5%	-11.8%

¹ Undergraduate alternative private student loans/other student loans only; excludes federal loans.

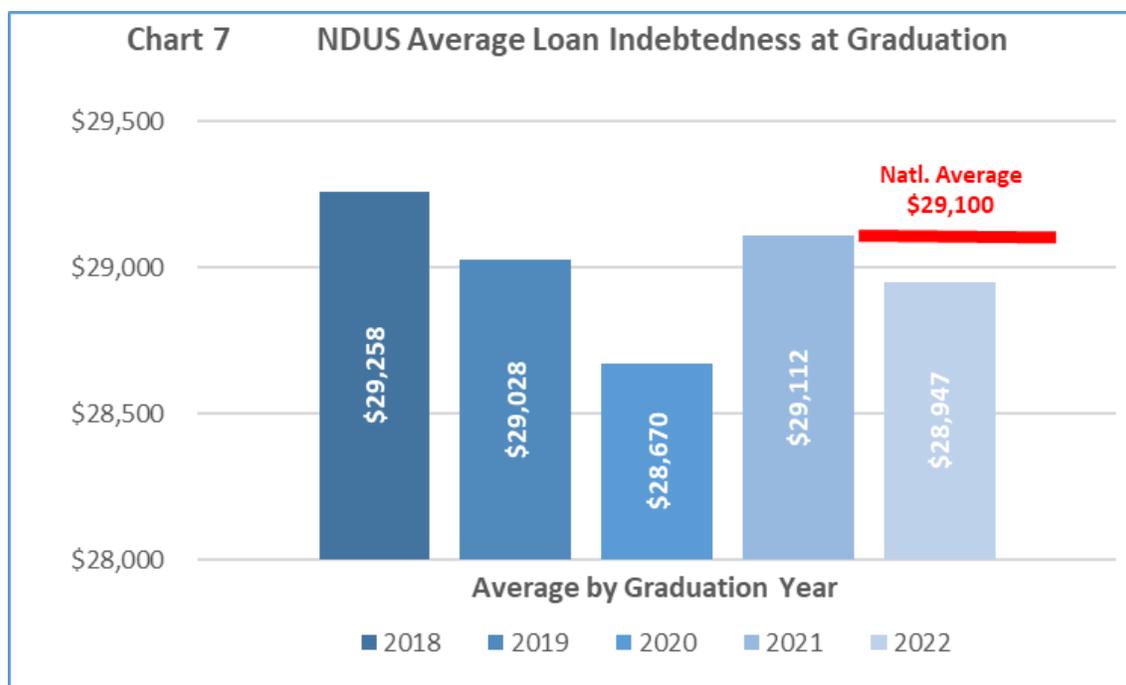
² Borrowers may be duplicated.

³ Undergraduate fall degree-credit headcount excludes graduate students.

Indebtedness at Graduation

Student loans, when borrowed conservatively and for real educational expenses, can assist students in their degree attainment goals. For some, borrowing helps to reduce the stress of working long hours while attending classes and doing homework, but it can also impact life decisions once graduates transition into the workforce. For this reason, loan indebtedness at graduation is an important topic to consider when discussing affordability.

Tracking and collection of graduate loan indebtedness is not mandated by federal regulation. To formulate a complete and consistent picture of indebtedness among NDUS graduates, NDUS data is obtained from system reports based on specific graduating cohorts of borrowing students and, the data includes all loan types (federal, alternative, and institutional loans). Parent PLUS loans are excluded as this debt is the responsibility of the parent who borrows a federal loan for their dependent student. The College Board noted in its *Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2022* report that 54% of bachelor's degree recipients in the U.S. graduated with student debt at an average of \$29,100. Chart 7 provides the average loan debt for non-transfer, first-time undergraduate students who started at an NDUS institution and who completed their program during the specified year. The NDUS average indebtedness is currently below the national average and has remained relatively constant in the past 5 years. The average indebtedness is only reflective of the graduates who borrowed and graduated within the specified year. The average loan indebtedness within the NDUS for all graduates, both those with and without student loans, was \$15,678 in 2022.

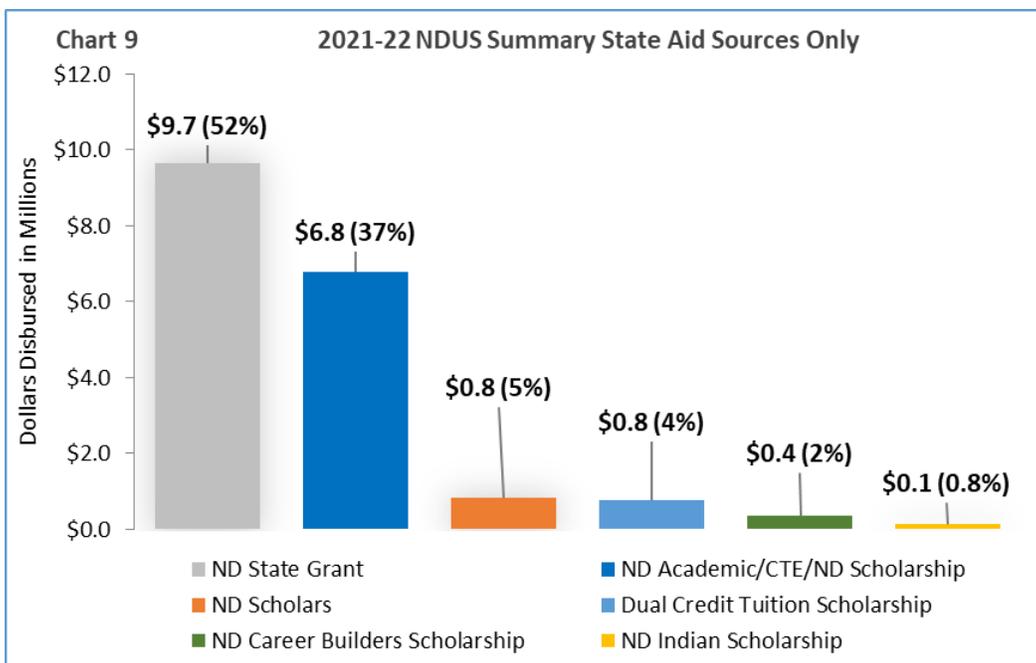
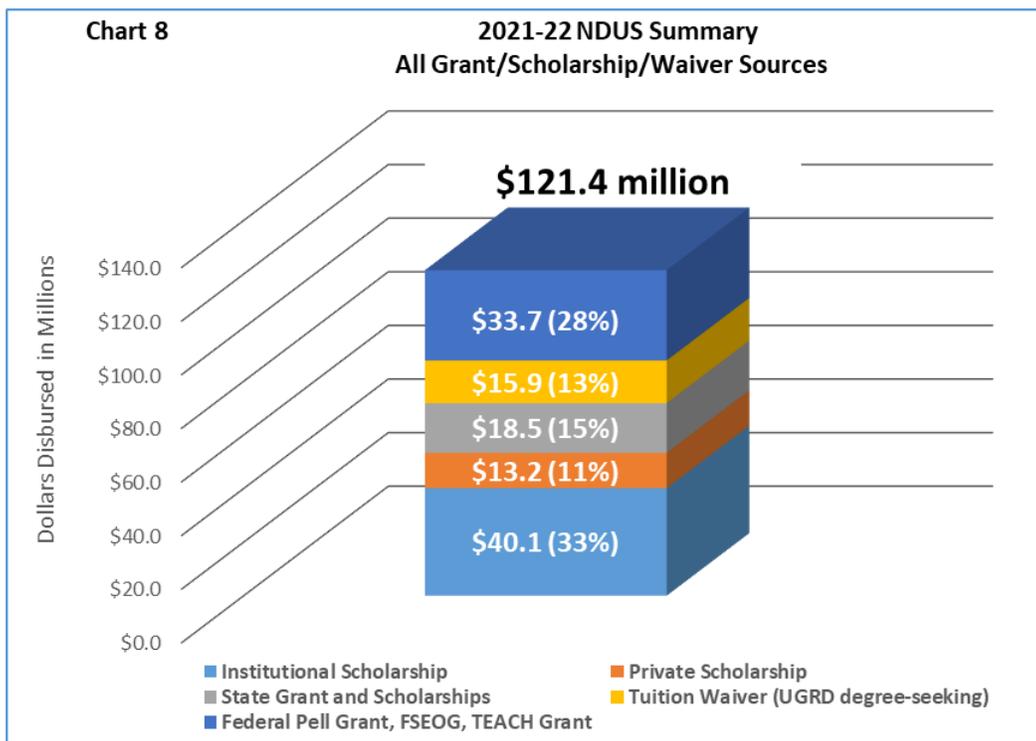


2021-22 Grants, Scholarships and Waivers

Federal financial aid is only one source of funding for students. Further contributing to affordability are state-funded grants and scholarships, tuition waivers, institutional scholarships, privately funded scholarships, among others.

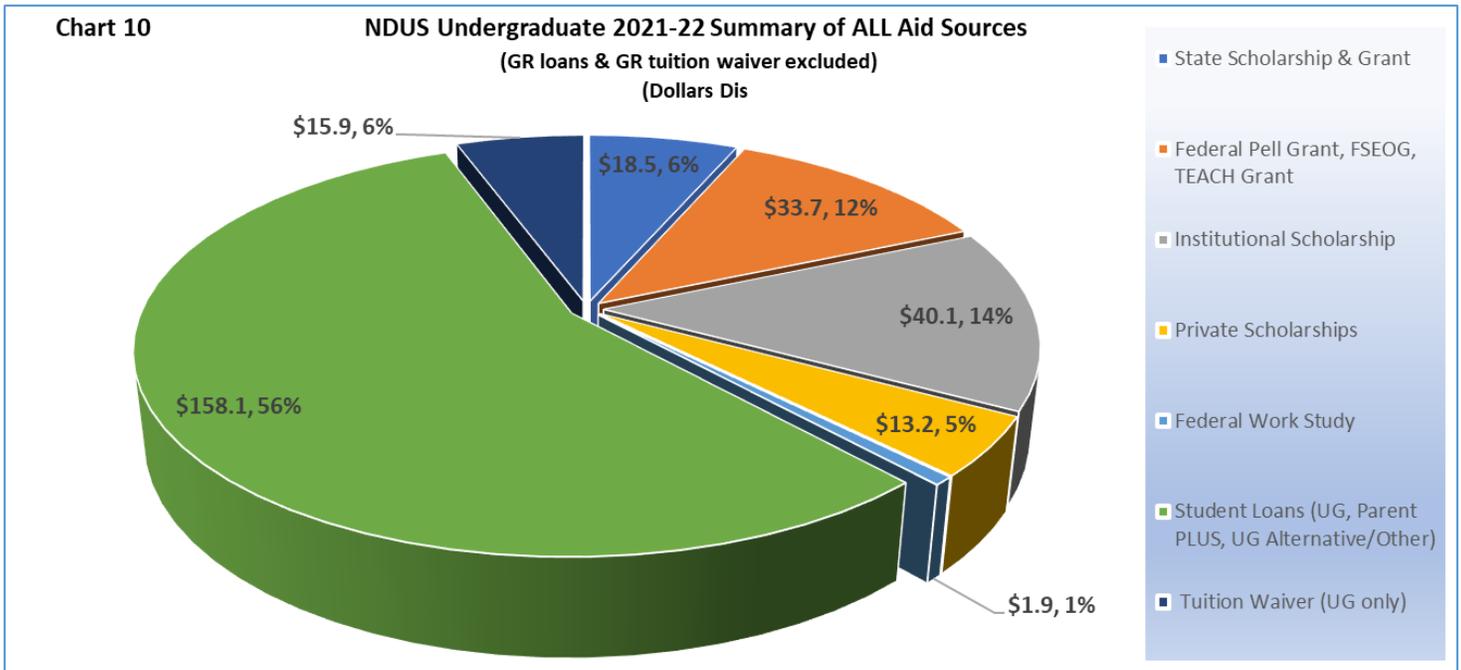
In 2021-22 federal grants (Pell, FSEOG & Teach) totaled \$33.7 million, a slight drop of \$.4 million from the prior year. Non-federal grants and scholarships, which include state funded programs, institutional scholarships, and privately funded scholarships, accounted for \$71.8 million, a \$5.4 million increase from

the prior year. Most of this increase came from institutional scholarships, which increased from \$36.9 million to \$40.1 million. Institutional scholarships are often funded through endowments and gifts to institutions for the benefit of students meeting specific requirements. Private scholarships increased by \$0.9 million and state aid by \$1.3 million. The largest state aid programs are the need-based ND State Grant and the ND Academic/CTE/ND scholarships. NDUS undergraduate tuition waivers further contributed to affordability at \$15.9 million, which was a 7% decrease from the prior year. Total grant, scholarship, and waiver sources in 2021-22 were \$121.4 million, an overall \$3.8 million increase from 2020-21.



2021-22 Total Financial Aid Disbursements and % of Cost Covered

Total disbursements of all undergraduate student financial aid in 2021-22, including loans, was \$281.4 million. Non-repayable scholarships, grants and waivers totaled \$121.4 million, while student loans and Federal Work Study totaled \$160 million. In 2021-22, scholarships, grants and tuition waivers covered 46% of gross tuition. When adding in housing, food, and mandatory fees, the coverage of gross charges was 32%. Self-help aid in the form of student loans and the Federal Work Study contributed to affordability by assisting students in meeting the gap.



State Financial Aid Programs and Appropriation

The various state-funded scholarships and grants for ND resident students have unique purposes but provide additional access to an affordable education. In 2021-22, the NDUS issued \$18.5 million in state-funded scholarships and grants to 11,728 resident students.

- The ND State Grant is need-based and assists the neediest resident students. Students must complete the FAFSA application annually to be considered. The state grant is the largest state-funded program. An average of 6,100 students are awarded per year.
- The ND Academic, CTE, and ND Scholarships are based on performance in high school and are awarded for achievement by the Dept. of Public Instruction following high school graduation. On average, 5,230 students are awarded each year.
- The ND Scholars program is the premier merit-based award in the state. Scholars are awarded based on their national testing scores on the ACT or SAT. Approximately 30 new students, plus returning upper classmen, are funded each year.
- The ND Indian Scholarship is based on ethnicity, awarded to resident American Indian students. Recipients can qualify for either a merit-based scholarship or a need-based scholarship. The 5-year average number of awardees is 274 per year.

- The Dual Credit Tuition Scholarship has a special purpose to provide an additional incentive. It provides a post-secondary scholarship of up to \$750 for students who completed dual credit coursework in high school. Dual credit classes provide a cost-effective way to take college classes while advancing degree completion while in high school. In the first biennium of this program (2021-23), 2,784 students have benefited from this scholarship.
- ND Career Builders is a workforce development program that encourages students to enroll in programs that lead to a certificate or degree that fills an in-demand occupation in the state. Students agree to live and work within North Dakota for a minimum of three years following program completion as a condition of the award. Scholarships funds from the private sector are matched with state funds to double the award, up to a maximum of \$17,000 per recipient. Since inception, over 206 students have benefited from this program, earning matched scholarships of \$1.6 million.

North Dakota’s investment in financial aid has grown significantly since 2007. The 2009 Legislative Assembly established the ND Academic & CTE Scholarship and added nearly \$14 million to the need-based State Grant and ND Scholars program. Since that time, the state has continued to expand financial aid programs to assist ND resident students in accessing an affordable education. Table 5 shows the state-funded programs over the past 4 biennia. The ND Career Builders program and the Dual Credit Tuition Scholarship are funded through the Bank of ND, while the other programs are funded through the general fund. The state scholarships and grants were reduced as part of the 2015-17 allotment process, and the ND State Grant carry-over was further reduced by \$5 million by the 2017 Legislative Assembly. Additionally, \$2.5 million was transferred from the ND State Grant to the ND Academic and CTE Scholarship in the 2019-21 biennium to cover the shortfall of commitments in that program due to growth.

Table 5	Biennial Appropriations (in millions)							
	2007-09	2009-11	2011-13	2013-15	¹ 2015-17	2017-19	² 2019-21	² 2021-23
ND State Grant (Need-Based)	\$5.82	\$19.03	\$19.03	\$21.25	\$23.89	\$21.92	\$23.92	\$23.92
ND Academic/CTE/ND Scholarship (Merit-Based)	-	\$3.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$13.13	\$12.02	\$12.02	\$16.22
ND Scholars Program (Merit-Based)	\$1.48	\$2.11	\$2.11	\$2.11	\$2.11	\$1.81	\$1.81	\$1.81
ND Indian Scholarship (Merit or Need-Based)	\$0.38	\$0.38	\$0.57	\$0.65	\$0.65	\$0.56	\$0.56	\$0.56
ND Career Builders Scholarship (Workforce Development)	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$6.00	\$4.50
Dual Credit Tuition Scholarship (Special Incentive)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1.50
TOTAL	\$7.68	\$24.52	\$31.71	\$34.01	\$39.78	\$36.30	\$44.30	\$48.50

¹Post-allotment amounts

²ND Career Builders and Dual Credit Tuition Scholarship funded through BND profits

Other Sources

Federal, state, institutional and private sources of financial aid make up most of the financial aid for students, however, there may be other sources. A source of funding not previously mentioned is military benefits. The Post 9/11 GI Bill and the Dept. of Defense Tuition Assistance (DOD TA) are a significant source of financial aid for NDUS students. In 2020-21, IPEDS reported that these benefits were provided to 1,330 undergraduate NDUS students in an amount of \$6.8 million. Over a 5-year period through 2020-21, the average benefit provided was \$7.2 million to 1,701 students. IPEDS data lags by one year and therefore, the 2021-22 data was not yet available at the time of this report and therefore is not incorporated into the other charts in this report.

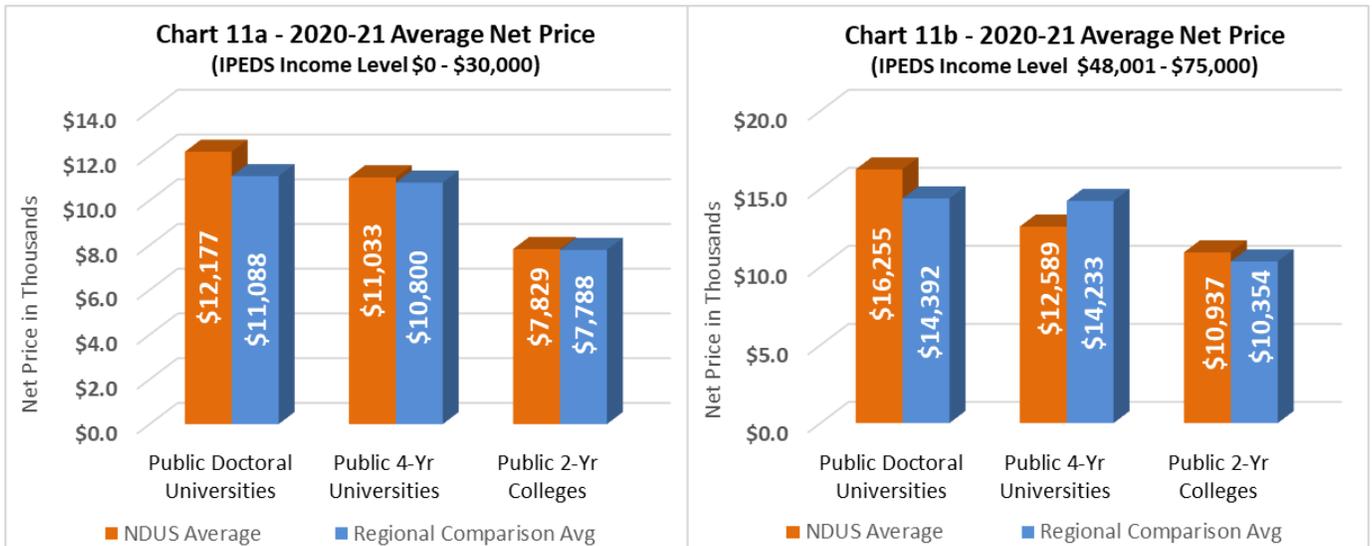
Institution	Table 6 - IPEDS Reported Undergraduate 9/11 GI Bill Benefits & DOD Tuition Assistance									
	2020-21		2019-20		2018-19		2017-18		2016-17	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
BSC	143	\$ 402,499	186	\$ 506,504	193	\$ 526,241	224	\$ 733,174	242	\$ 702,001
DSU	32	\$ 167,892	22	\$ 129,371	35	\$ 146,234	34	\$ 144,660	32	\$ 145,404
LRSC	95	\$ 164,153	111	\$ 165,717	176	\$ 297,743	253	\$ 383,240	232	\$ 341,944
MASU	15	\$ 57,668	25	\$ 70,796	34	\$ 149,406	24	\$ 59,598	26	\$ 66,770
MISU	263	\$ 818,276	429	\$1,224,748	526	\$1,427,500	568	\$1,529,144	717	\$1,705,127
MISUB	33	\$ 65,512	43	\$ 75,095	52	\$ 77,755	50	\$ 70,353	85	\$ 106,756
NDSCS	36	\$ 145,584	37	\$ 149,000	45	\$ 169,661	66	\$ 184,450	60	\$ 173,717
NDSU	206	\$1,288,286	190	\$1,272,945	201	\$1,304,361	226	\$1,332,554	231	\$1,374,304
UND	479	\$3,601,906	427	\$3,064,045	413	\$2,732,450	397	\$3,097,892	432	\$3,171,375
VCSU	20	\$ 94,172	23	\$ 73,034	26	\$ 93,308	24	\$ 99,226	21	\$ 76,310
WSC	8	\$ 38,426	10	\$ 37,664	12	\$ 43,302	7	\$ 13,756	9	\$ 22,128
TOTAL	1,330	\$6,844,374	1,503	\$6,768,919	1,713	\$6,967,961	1,873	\$7,648,047	2,087	\$7,885,836
5-Yr Avg	1,701	\$7,223,027								

Counts may be duplicated if receiving both GI benefits and TA.

Net Price

Net price is a tool to help families pull projections together in order to determine estimated out-of-pocket cost after all scholarships and grants are applied to full cost of attendance. The full cost of attendance is the average tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing and food, transportation, and miscellaneous living expenses. Net price helps families estimate what they might owe, either through savings, work, or students loans, to attend their institution of choice. The net price data in this report represents the average for a full-time, first-time, degree-seeking undergraduate student paying in-state tuition rates, and who was awarded grant or scholarship aid.

In 2020-21, income earners below \$30,000 had a comparable average net price to the regional comparisons at the NDUS 4-year universities and 2-year colleges. For middle income earners between \$48,001-\$75,000, net price at NDUS 4-year universities was below the regional comparisons and comparable at 2-year colleges. At the doctoral institutions, the net price was slightly above the regional comparisons for both income categories. These results were similar to the 2019-20 data for the doctoral and 2-year institutions. In 2019-20, however, the 4-year universities were below their regional counterparts in both income categories. The IPEDS dollar ranges used in this report are similar to the 2021 bottom two income quintiles in ND, and to the median income level. The goal in conducting this comparison is to compare a lower income family to a middle-income family's ability to pay the net price. 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 is a tool for cost comparison, it is also important to look at family income levels when discussing net price. A family’s ability to pay may be better reflected by the percentage of income required to cover net price as shown in Table 7. Lower income families earning around \$30,000 require a greater percentage of their income to cover estimated net price at NDUS institutions compared to families earning an income of \$75,000. By focusing on need-based aid sources to lower income families, this gap can be narrowed.

% Of \$30,000 Income Required to Cover Net Price			% Of \$75,000 Income Required to Cover Net Price		
Institution Category	2020-21 Avg Net Price	% Of Income	Institution Category	2020-21 Avg Net Price	% Of Income
NDUS Doctoral Universities	\$12,177	41%	NDUS Doctoral Universities	\$16,255	22%
NDUS 4-Year Universities	\$11,033	37%	NDUS 4-Year Universities	\$12,589	17%
NDUS 2-Year Colleges	\$7,829	26%	NDUS 2-Year Colleges	\$10,937	15%