

# Financial Aid Summary

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AID YEAR 2021-2022 FOR FALL 2021 STUDENTS



Institutional Research  
[WWW.UCCS.EDU/IR](http://WWW.UCCS.EDU/IR)

## Introduction

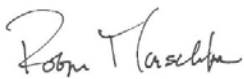
Welcome to our annual report on the distribution of financial aid among UCCS students. The report is intended to satisfy the need for greater transparency and to inform campus decision-makers as well as students and their families about types and amounts of financial aid distributions.

Included in the analysis are financial aid distributions throughout aid year 2021-2022 among students who were enrolled during the Fall 2021 semester. Please note that ***students enrolled only during the Spring 2022 semester may have received financial aid but are not included*** in this report. Information from prior years used to show trends over time follow the same methodology.

The information in this report is drawn from a dataset used to report student-level financial aid to the Colorado Department of Higher Education via the Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS) and to the National Center for Education Statistics via the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS). It is a cross-section of data that does not always match the exact financial transactions that occur throughout the aid year.

For more information about the intricacies of financial aid, contact the Financial Aid Office for direct support. To request further analyses or ask questions about *this* report, please contact the Institutional Research Office.

Thank you,



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## Contents

<a href="#">Undergraduate Financial Aid</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
Undergrad Applicants & Awardees	5
Sources of Aid	6
Types of Aid	6
<a href="#">Student Characteristics</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
Class Level and Dependency	8
College and Residency	9
Undergraduate Athletic Scholarships	10
Aid by Persistence Group (Fall 2020 Undergraduates)	10
Ethnicity, Gender, and Dependency	11
Income Quintiles & Billing Transactions	12
<a href="#">Trends in Undergraduate Aid</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
Federal Aid Decreases	15
State Aid Declines	15
Private Aid Declines	16
Institutional Aid Continues Substantial Growth	16
One-Third of Undergraduates Receive Pell Grants	17
PLUS Loans Calm Down	18
<a href="#">Graduate Student Financial Aid</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
Sources and Types of Aid	19
Average Awards by Type	20
Aid by College and Degree Level	20
Tuition Waivers, Tuition Assistance, and Student Employment	23
<a href="#">Summary Table of Disbursed Aid</a>	<a href="#">24</a>

## Undergraduate Financial Aid

First, a brief primer on Budgets, Need, and Estimated Family Contribution; these are three vital calculations that determine a student's financial aid package. The primer is followed by brief summaries of aid sources and aid types. The Office of Institutional Research is responsible for the methods used in this report. *For the best explanation of financial aid, always refer to the Office of Financial Aid at [www.uccs.edu/finaid](http://www.uccs.edu/finaid).*

While considering the contents of this report, **be aware that the College Opportunity Fund (COF) for residents of Colorado is considered a tuition reduction rather than financial aid.** Likewise, many third parties and military benefit programs fund students' educational costs as tuition assistance but are not managed as financial aid. Education tax credits and deductions also help students cover the cost of their education and are not considered to be financial aid.

## Undergrad Applicants & Awardees

**68%**  
Undergrads Applied

Among 9,470 undergraduate students in Fall 2021, 68% applied for aid by completing the FAFSA. Another 5% received financial aid although they were not required to complete the FAFSA.

**73%**  
Undergrads Aided

The Financial Aid Office determines a **student budget** based upon costs of attendance and student information provided in the application. Each student *who applies for aid* has a budget that includes room and board, textbooks, transportation, and other living expenses in addition to tuition and fees for an entire academic year. At UCCS, the budget assigned to each financial aid applicant is similar to the cost of attendance for one year. In fall 2021, 6446 undergraduates had a student budget and the average student budget was \$26,952. (Average cost of attendance was \$27,559.)

**\$26,952**  
Avg Budget

**\$20,371**  
Avg EFC

The US Department of Education calculates the **expected family contribution** (EFC) based upon information students report in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). EFC incorporates several factors for dependency, family size, and individual and household income. It is used to determine aid eligibility and is not the actual amount of tuition and fees provided by a student's family. In Fall 2018, the average EFC was \$16,117 which represents 60% of the average student budget amount. By Fall 2021, the average EFC increased to \$20,371 representing 76% of the average student budget.

**\$20,850**  
Avg Need

**\$9,992**  
Avg Total Aid

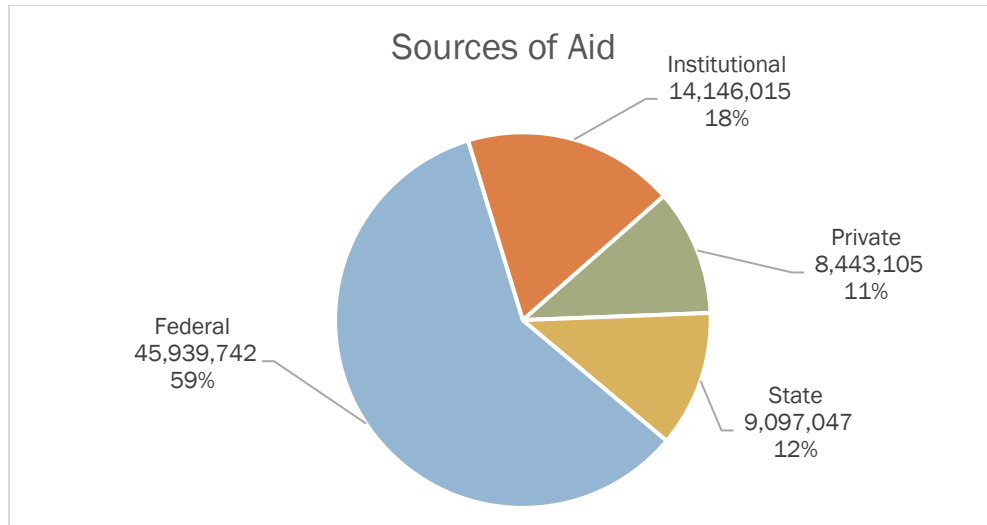
**40%**  
Costs Covered by Aid

**Need** is the cost of attendance minus the EFC. Approximately 23% of students who applied for aid were determined to have no need. The average need among students with need was \$20,850.

The average total amount of aid was \$9,992 (this includes zero values among applicants not awarded aid; the average award among *recipients* was \$11,189). The average total aid among those awarded covered 40% of their cost of attendance. The average total aid includes all forms of financial aid, including parent loans, work study, and private aid.

## Sources of Aid

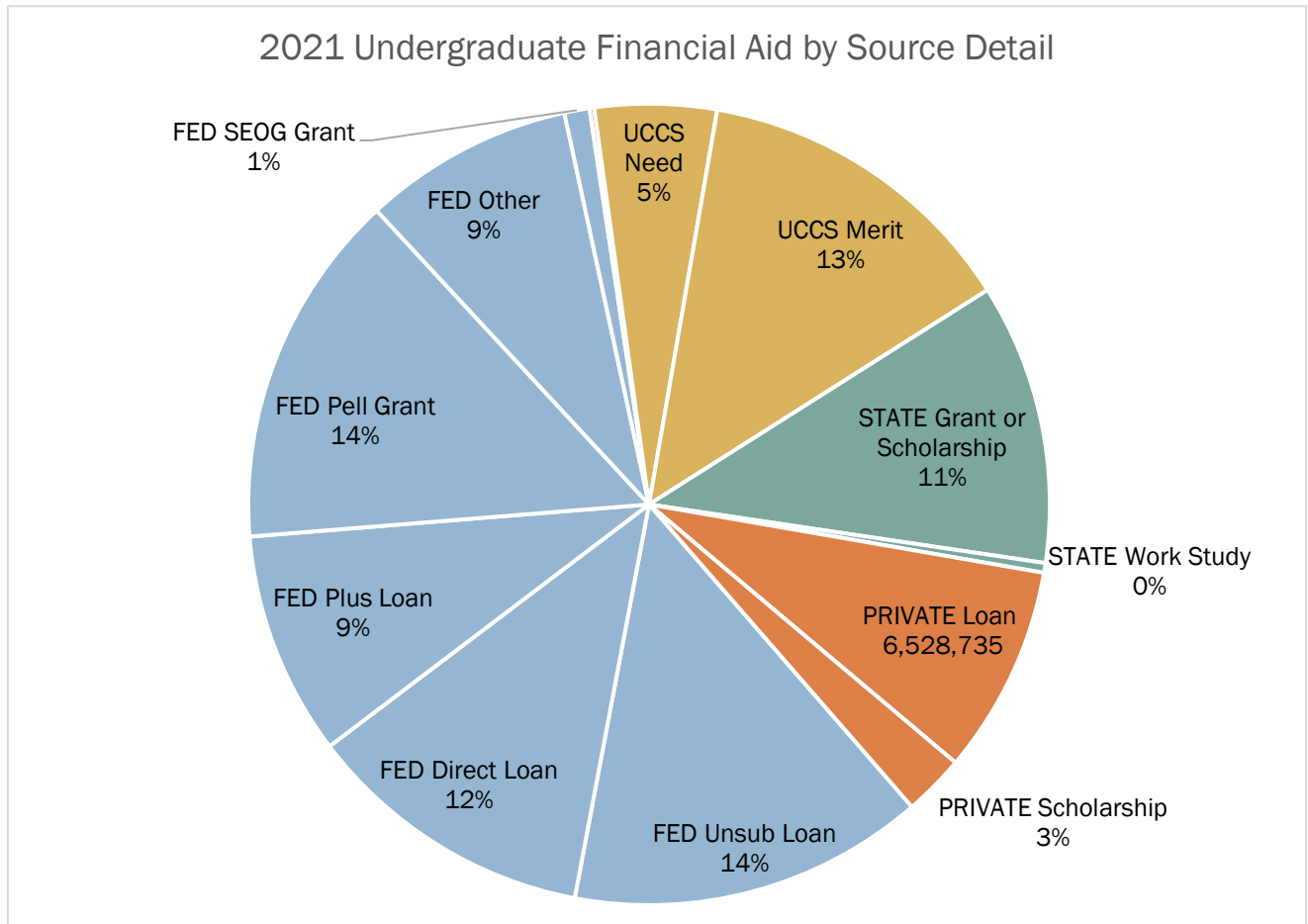
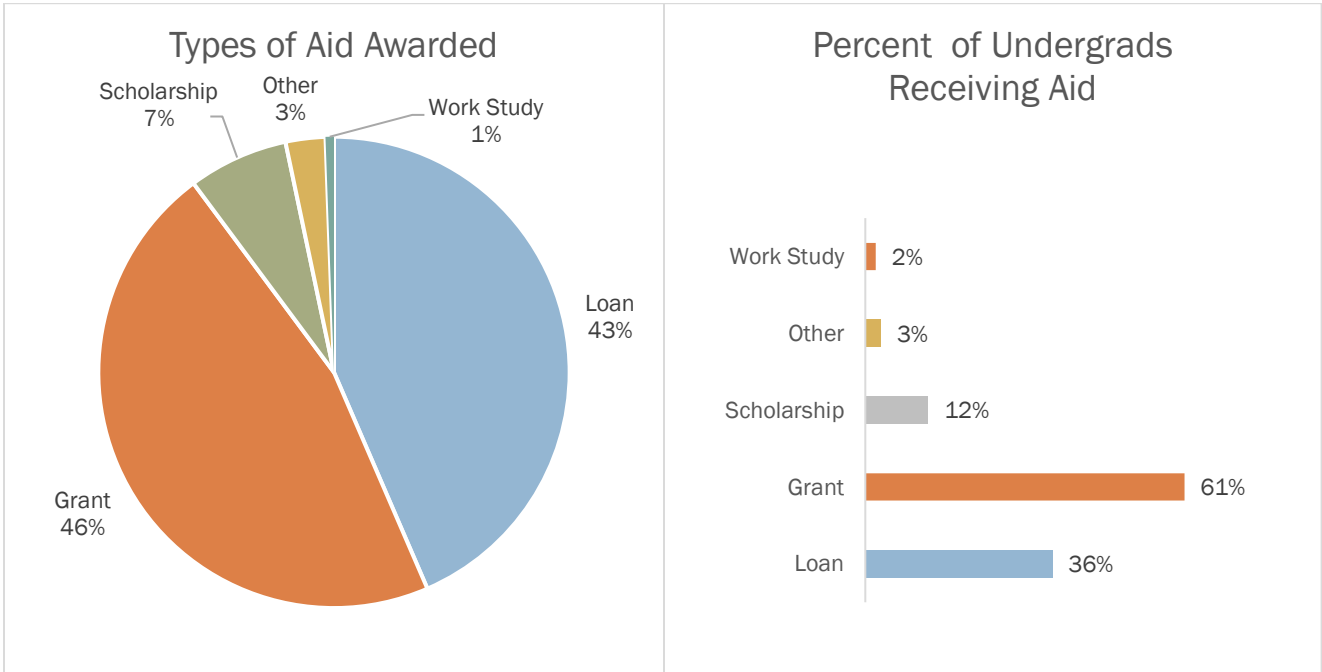
There are four sources of financial aid: federal, state, institutional, and private. The largest source distributed at UCCS is federal aid (59%) followed by institutional aid (18%), state aid (12%), and private (11%). **Federal Aid** includes Federal Direct Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), Federal Parent’s Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Other Federal Grants, and Federal Work Study. **Institutional Aid** includes need-based and merit-based scholarships. Athletic scholarships are an example of merit-based institutional aid. **Private Aid** consists of scholarships and loans from organizations outside the government. **State Aid** is provided via the state government and includes the Colorado State Grant, GearUp Scholarships, and Colorado Work Study.



## Types of Aid

Aid comes in the form of scholarships, grants, work study, and loans. Scholarships and grants do not require repayment and are the most desirable type of aid. Perkins Loans and subsidized Federal Direct Loans are more desirable than other loans because the government subsidizes or pays for the interest while the student is enrolled. The government does not cover the interest for unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans, but they do regulate the interest rate, which is usually better than private loan interest rates. Federal Need-Based Work Study is also subsidized by the government with funds provided to institutions to cover wages earned by students. The majority of aid was in the form of grants (46%), followed by loans (44%), scholarships (7%), other aid (3%), and work study (1%). The other aid was primarily pandemic relief.

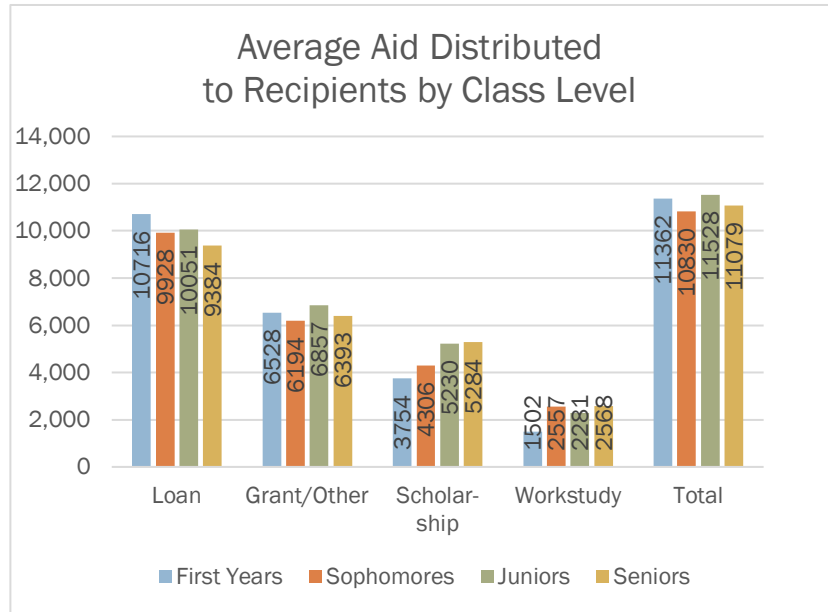
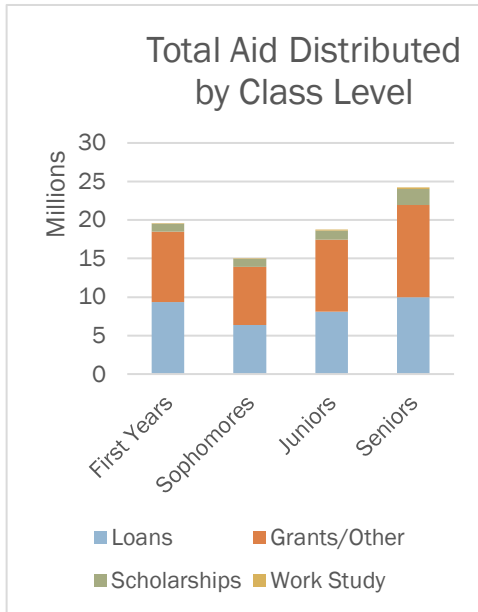
	Total	Percent of Total Aid	Average Award among Recipients	Recipients
TOTAL AID	77,625,909	100%	\$11,189	6938
LOAN	33,776,083	43%	\$9,990	3381
GRANT	35,953,241	46%	\$6,230	5771
SCHOLARSHIP	5,329,877	7%	\$4,692	1136
OTHER	2,119,583	3%	\$7,597	279
WORK STUDY	447,125	1%	\$2,305	194



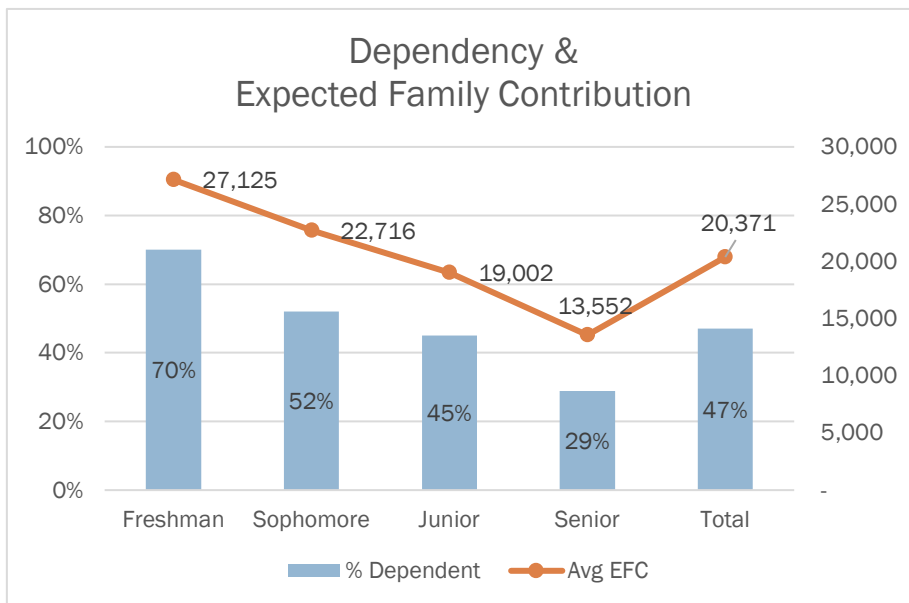
## Student Characteristics

### Class Level and Dependency

More aid was distributed to freshmen and seniors than to sophomores and juniors. Sophomores received the least amount of aid. There were 2343 freshmen, 1871 sophomores, 2092 juniors, and 3115 seniors.



For a better comparison, refer to the average aid distributed to recipient by class level. First-year students have the highest average loan amount while upper level undergraduates average greater amounts of grants/other, scholarships, and workstudy aid.



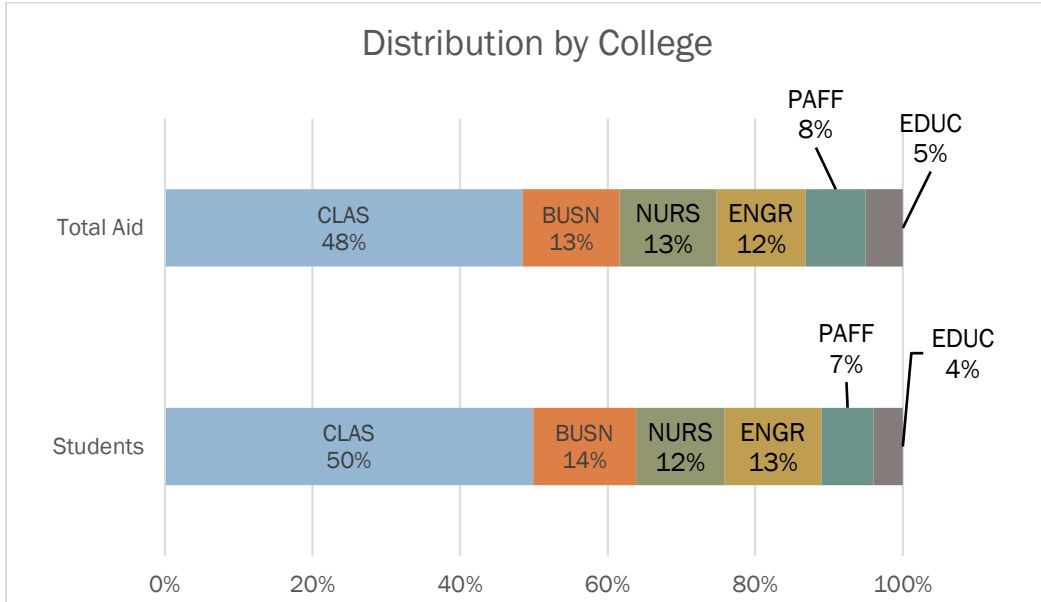
The percentage of students deemed dependent on their parents decreases as student progress through their career. While 70% of first year students are dependent, only 29% of seniors are dependent.

As students become less dependent on their parents, the contribution expected from their parents also declines. First year students have an average EFC of \$27,126 in comparison to seniors at \$13,552.

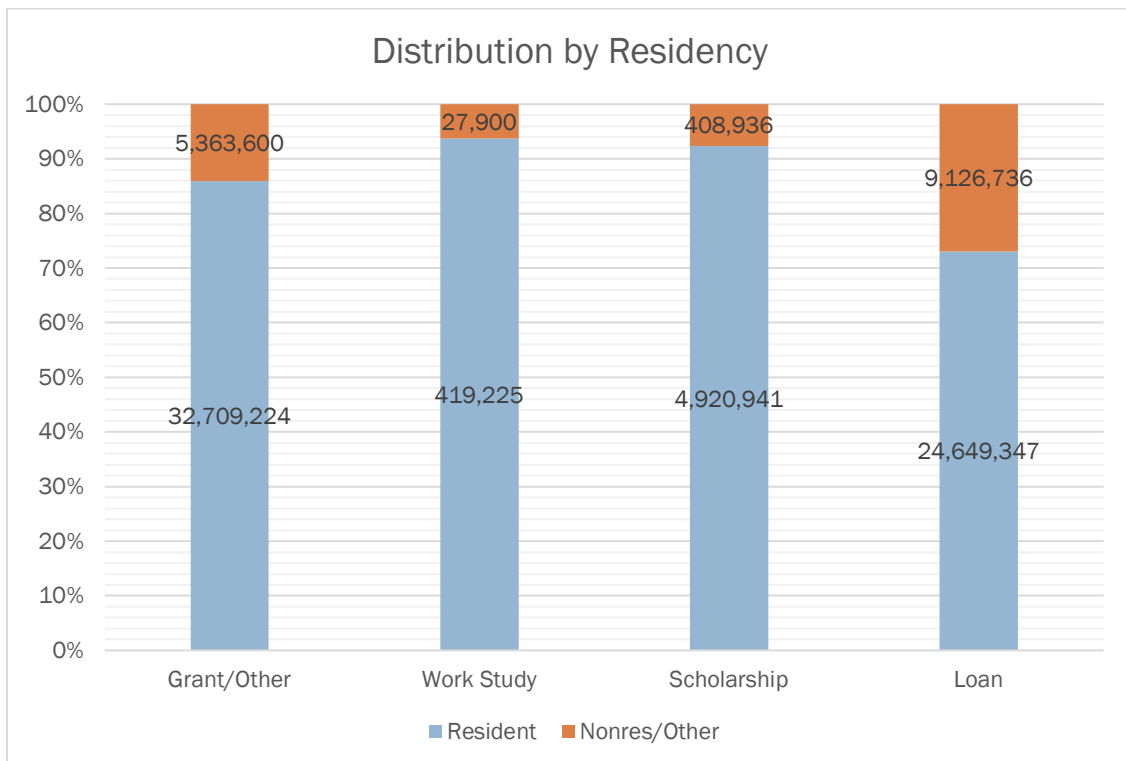


## College and Residency

The distribution of aid among college programs is similar to the distribution of students among college programs, indicating that aid is not disproportionately concentrated in a particular college although tuition rates and scholarship opportunities differ by college.

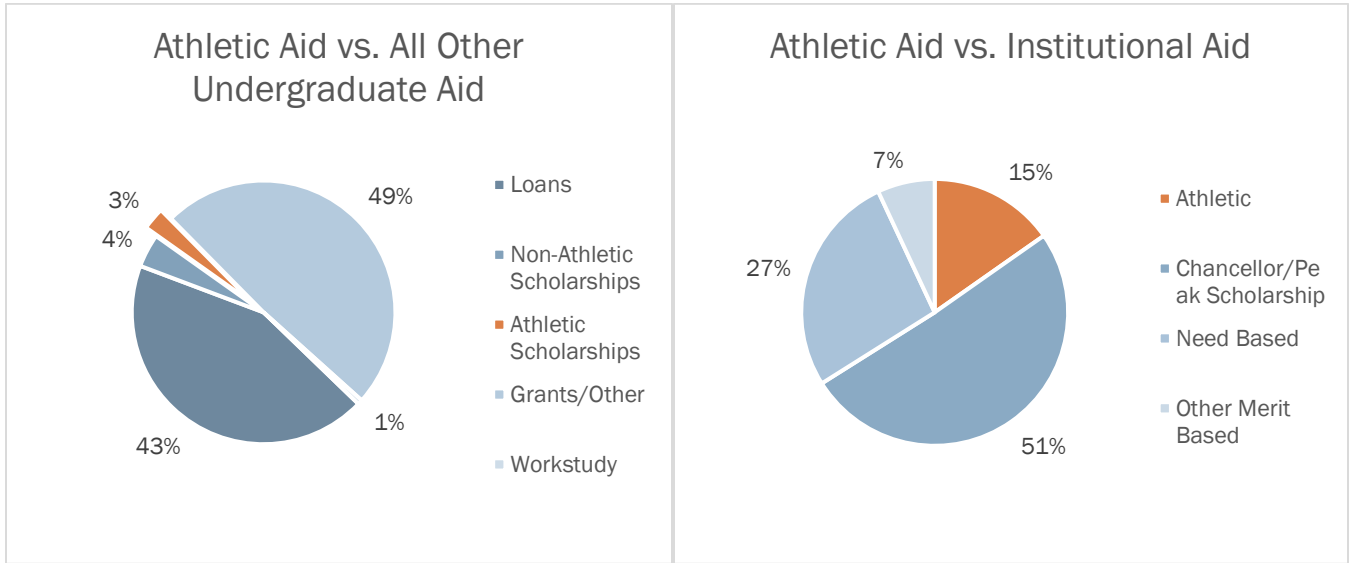


Colorado residents comprise 86% of the undergraduate students. The total aid distribution by residency indicates that resident students receive disproportionately more scholarship (92%) and work study aid (94%) but disproportionately less loan aid (73%).



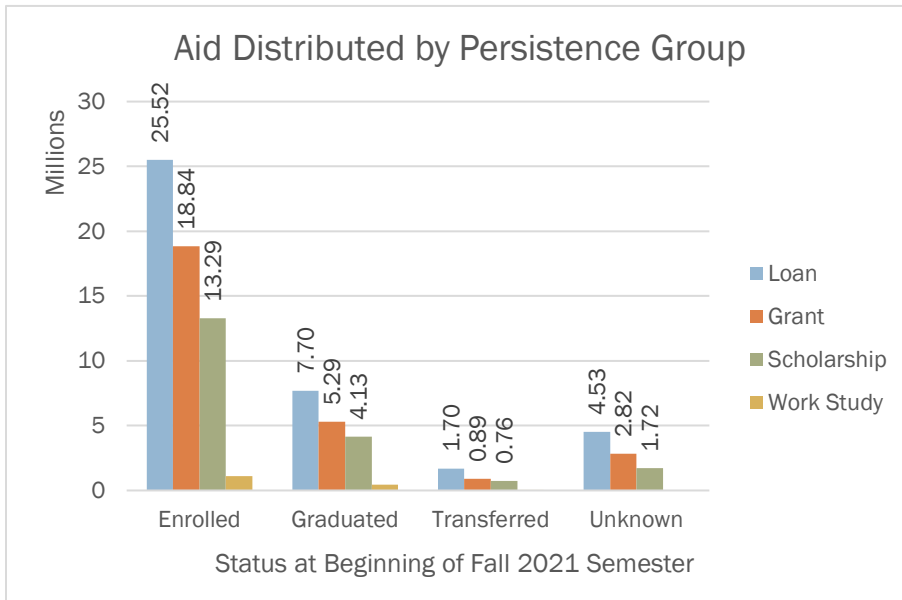
## Undergraduate Athletic Scholarships

A total of 282 undergraduates received institutional athletic aid<sup>1</sup>: \$2,158,583 dollars were disbursed for an average award of \$7,655. The athletic aid comprised 15% of institutional aid but only 2.8% of total undergraduate aid.



## Aid by Persistence Group (Fall 2020 Undergraduates)

In bar chart below, the intention is to show the distribution of aid to students who have or have not persisted at UCCS one year after receiving financial aid. *Note that the data represent the Fall 2020 undergraduates whose whereabouts are known one year later in Fall 2021.*



The aid distribution is concentrated among students who return to UCCS. However, approximately 16% of loan aid, 13% of grant aid, 12% of scholarship aid, and 4% of work study aid was disbursed to students who either transferred to another institution or dropped out of higher education by the beginning of the fall 2021 semester. Overall, nearly \$12.5 million dollars or 14% of total aid was distributed to students who left UCCS.

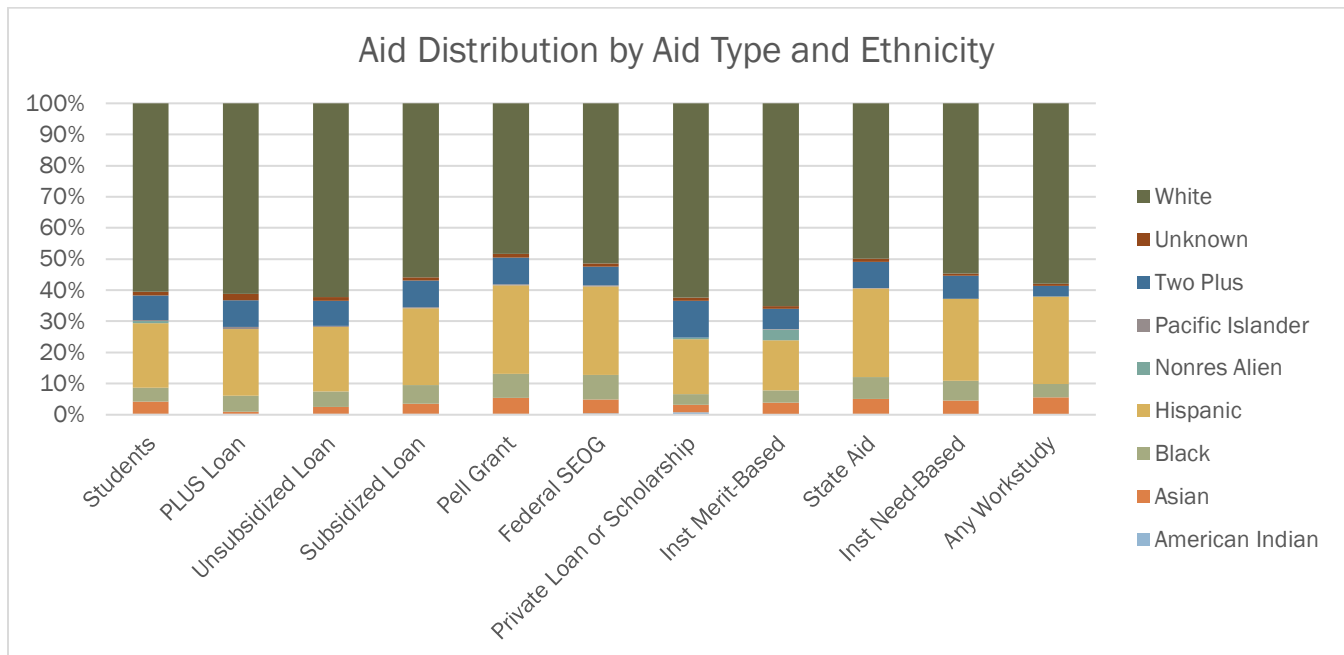
<sup>1</sup> Athletic aid is drawn from a live query rather than the SURDS dataset, using “item type codes” in Campus Solutions. We work with the Financial Aid Office to make sure we have all athletic related item types and then consider the sum to be a subset of the total institutional aid recorded within the SURDS dataset.

Of 503 students who transferred out, 170 or 34% had not received any financial aid. Among the 333 who received aid at UCCS and then transferred to another institution by Fall 2021, the majority transferred to institutions within Colorado, especially to Pikes Peak Community College. UCCS disbursed a total of \$3,372,203 of financial aid to students who transferred to another institution, with an average disbursement of \$10,127 per recipient.

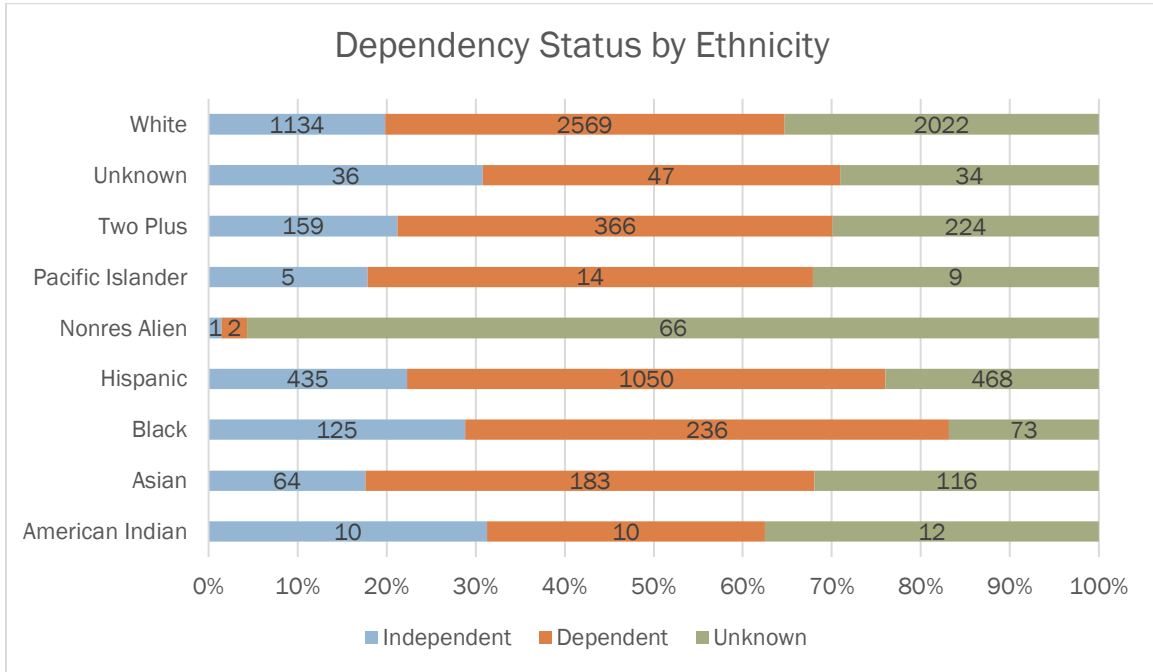
Top 10 Institutions Students Transferred to:	Transferred Out with Aid	Transferred Out Without Aid	Total Aid	Avg Aid
PIKES PEAK COMMUNITY COLLEGE	94	54	858,150	9.129
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER	26	11	311,539	11,982
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY	22	10	239,835	10,902
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER	17	10	199,618	11,742
METRO STATE UNIV OF DENVER	16	4	232,627	14,539

## Ethnicity, Gender, and Dependency

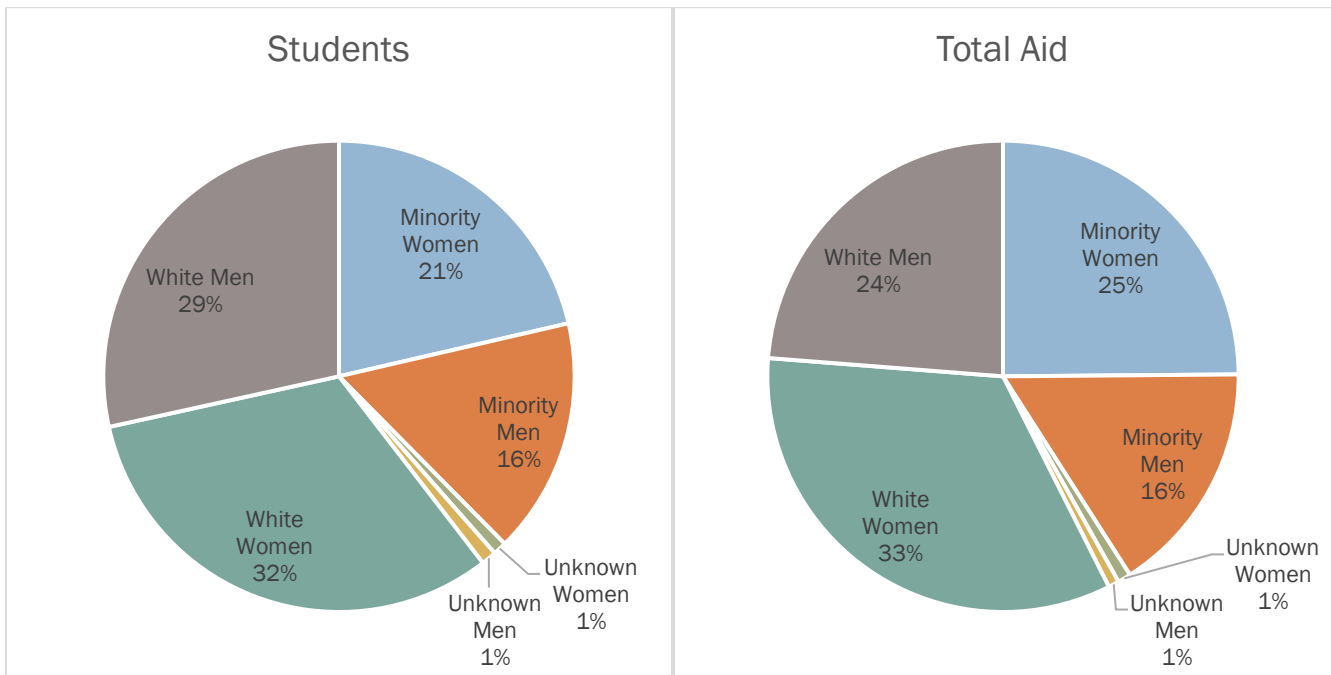
The first column, below, depicts the distribution of undergraduate students among the racial and ethnic groups defined by the federal government. The subsequent columns represent the proportion of aid distributed to students in each racial and ethnic group. There are a few indications of societal inequality in that the students from minority groups are overrepresented among the Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, state aid, subsidized loans, institutional need-based aid, and workstudy aid. White students are overrepresented in the private aid and institutional merit aid categories suggesting the possibility of accumulated advantages.



Dependency status is a financial aid term used to identify students who are emancipated and/or independent of their parents versus those who are dependent. Dependent students' financial aid package takes into account their parent(s) income whereas independent students' income is usually based on the student's own income only. In the bar chart, we see that the percentage of students who are independent varies among the racial and ethnic groups.

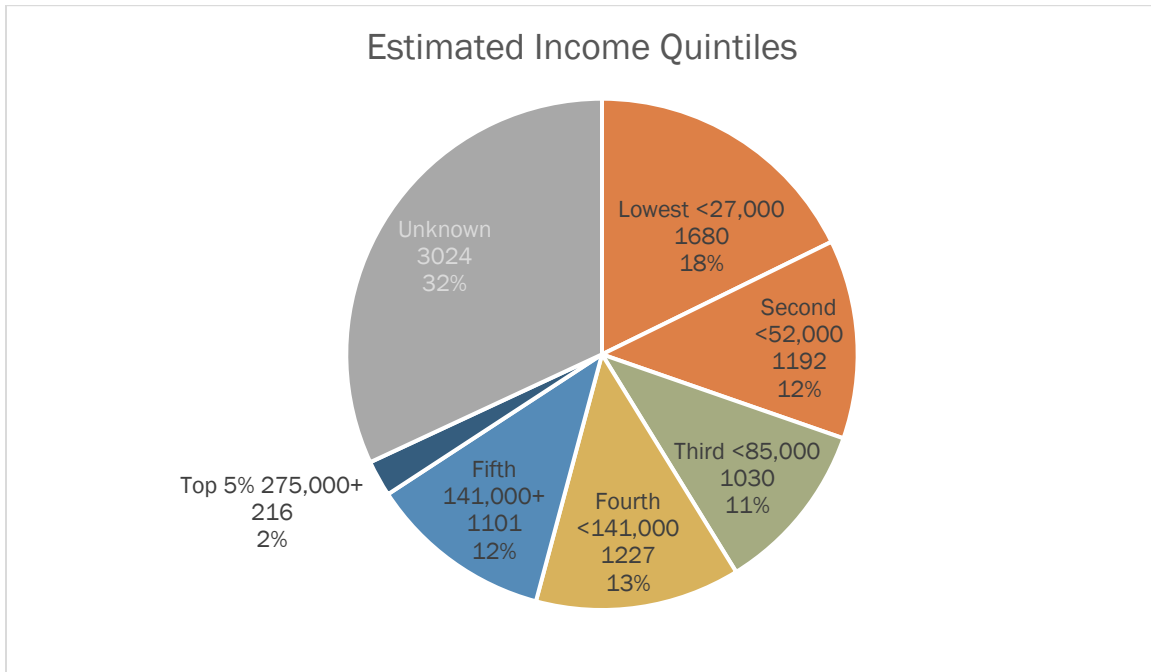


The distribution of students versus the distribution of total aid by general categories of gender and minority status are shown in the pie charts. The unknown group includes international students (or “Non-resident Aliens”) and students who did not disclose their racial or ethnic identity.

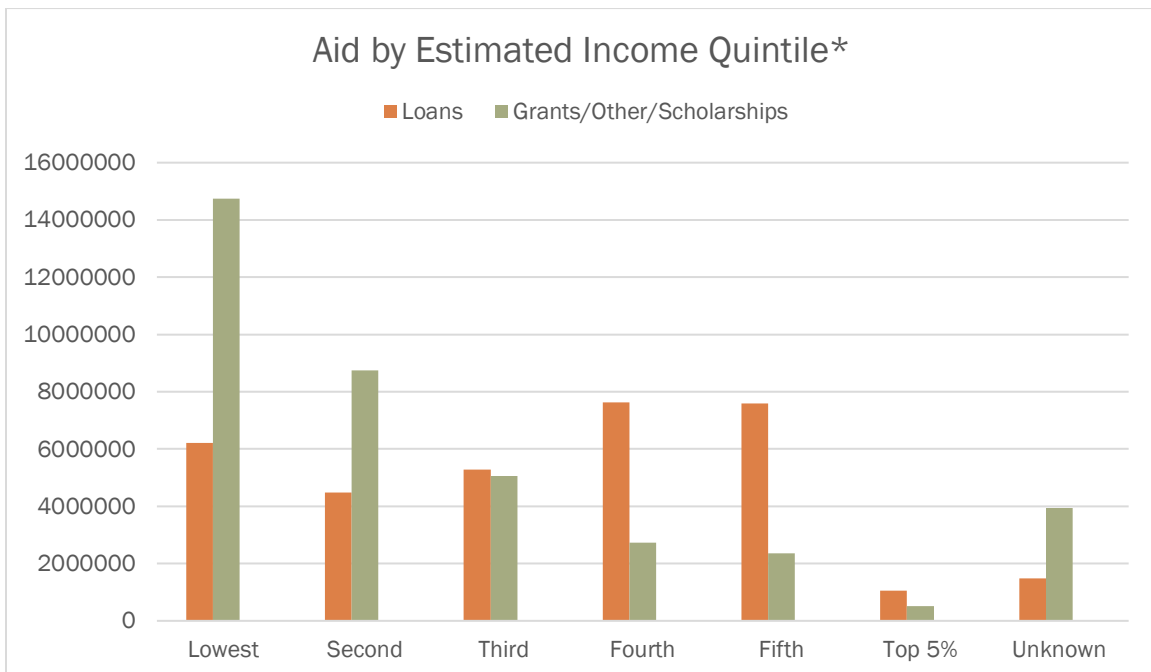


## Income Quintiles & Billing Transactions

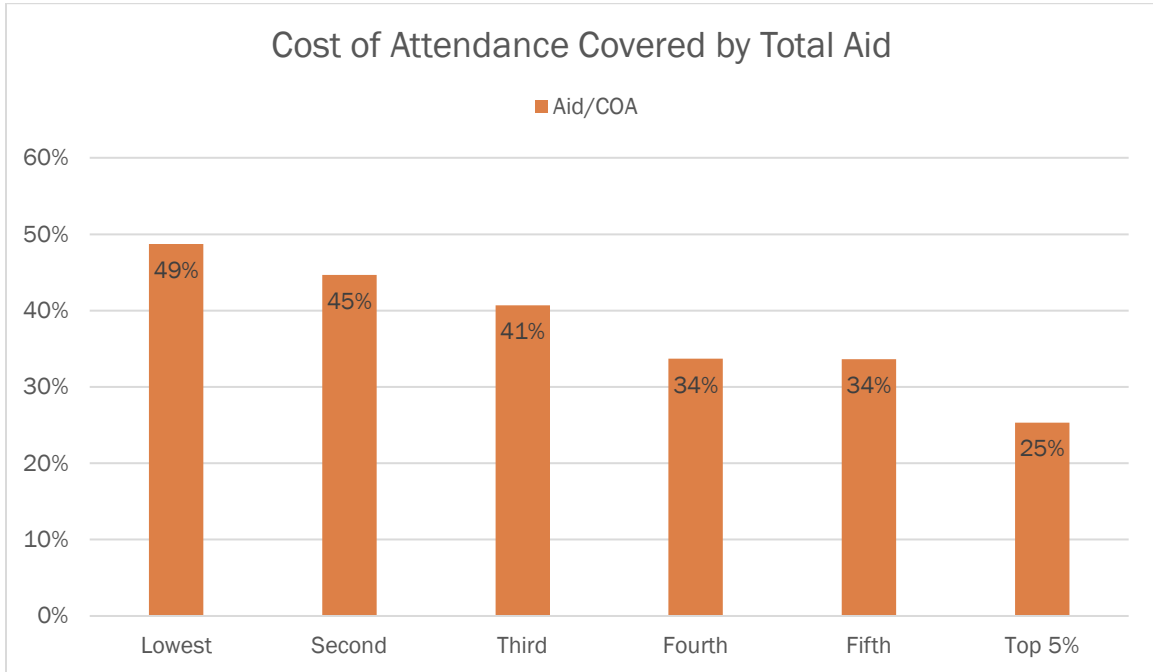
Students’ income quintiles are estimated based on their adjusted gross income from the FAFSA and, in cases of missing data, total income from the ISIR, and placed into the most recent household income quintile ranges published by the U.S. Census Bureau. **At UCCS, the modal income quintile among undergraduates (excluding the unknowns) is the lowest income quintile.** Combining the lowest and second quintiles, 30% of the undergraduates have an adjusted gross income less than \$52,000.



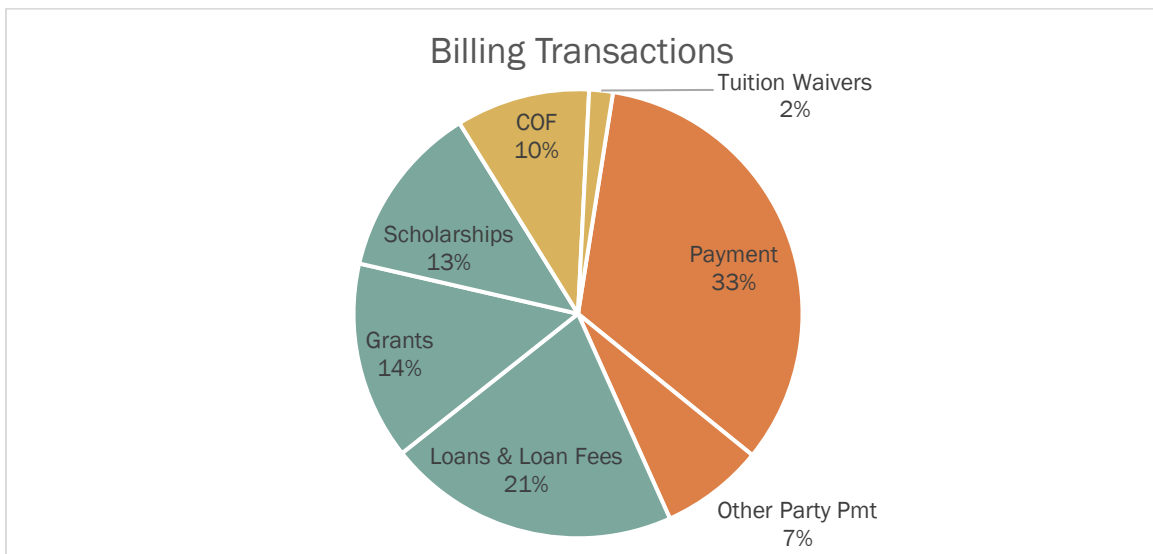
The students' adjusted gross income influences their aid packages and the types of aid they may be eligible to receive. **In the bar chart below, students in the first and second quintiles received more grant and scholarship aid than loan aid. However, the pattern changes and students in the fourth and fifth quintiles received most of their aid in the form of loans.**



The chart (below) illustrates that the sum of total aid covers between 25% and 49% of the sum of the cost of attendance among the Fall 2021 undergraduate students. The average cost of attendance was \$27,559 versus the average total aid of \$9,992. As a group, students in the lowest quintile received financial aid that covered 49% of their estimated cost of attendance.



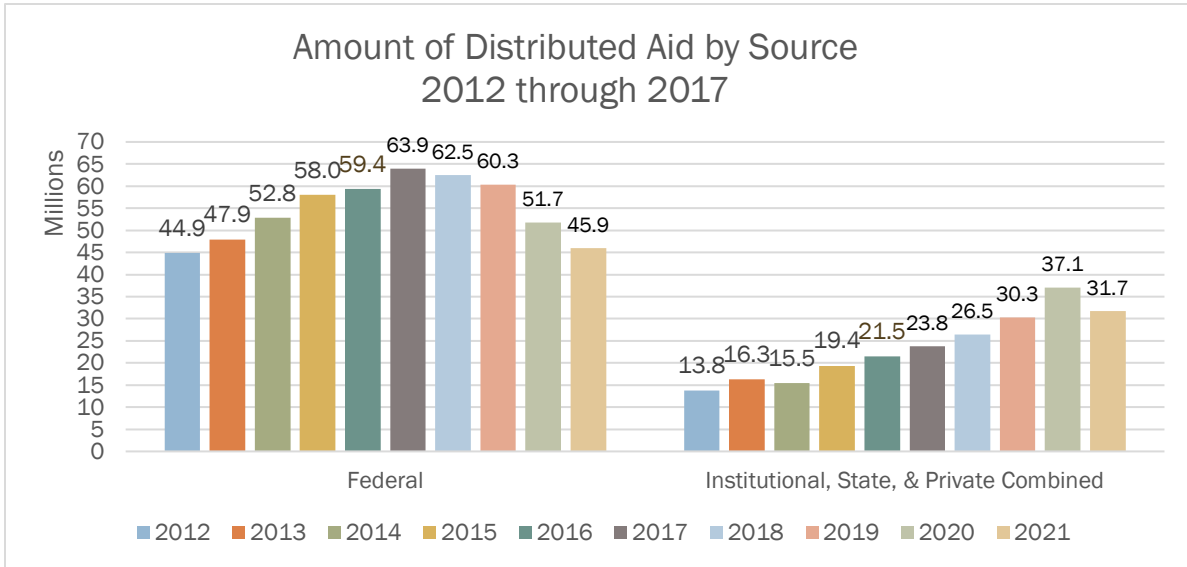
While undergraduate students received a total of \$77,625,910 in financial aid, UCCS processed a total of \$87,441,117 in transactions tied to student billing. When analyzing the billing transactions, and charting the sum of these transactions, we learn that 50% of the transactions worth \$43,431,803 are paid to the university via loans, grants, or scholarships. The Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) accounts for 10%, other party payments (like the GI Bill) account for 8%, and student payments account for 35% of the transactions. Tuition waivers, which are paid via employee benefits, account for \$1,546,585 or 2% of the transactions. The billing transactions are compiled per student and summarized in this report prior to the end of the fiscal year and therefore should be regarded as estimates.



## Trends in Undergraduate Aid

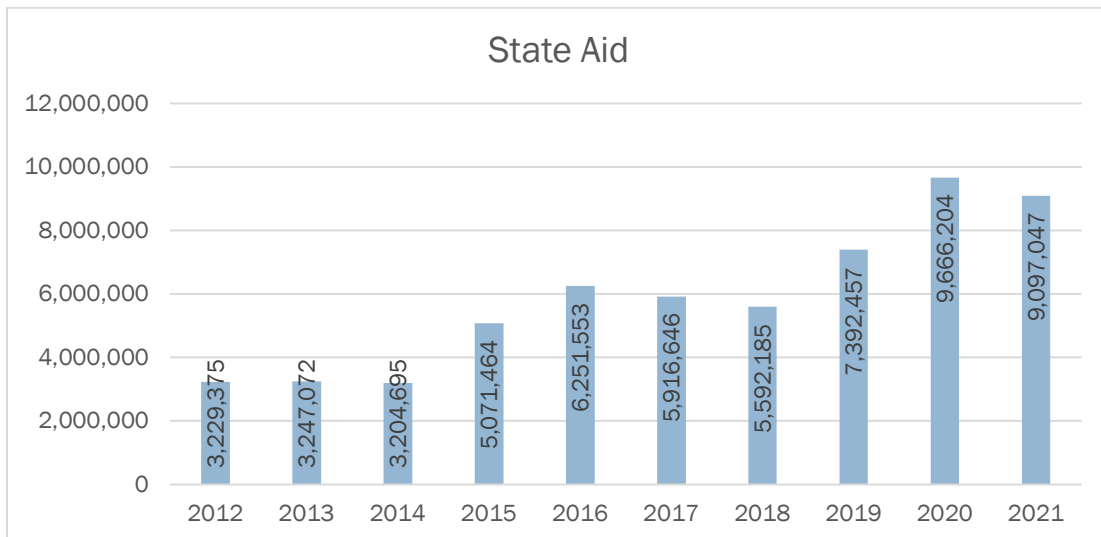
### Federal Aid Decreases

Federal aid continues to be the largest source of aid although the total amount is decreasing.



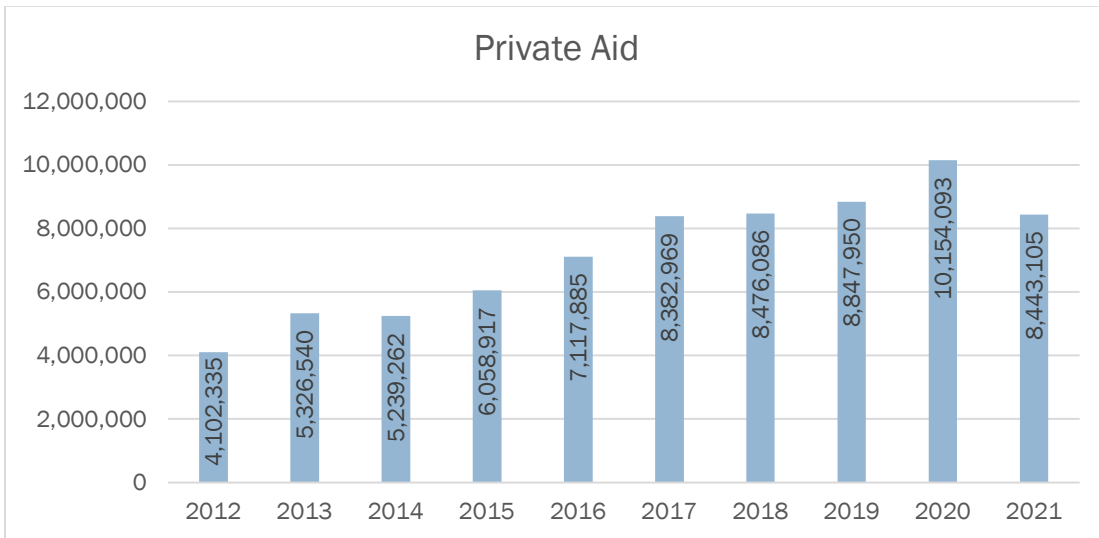
### State Aid Declines

The amount of undergraduate state aid increased dramatically in 2020 and declined in 2021 for a total of \$9,097,047. The Colorado Student Grant accounts for 96% of the state aid.



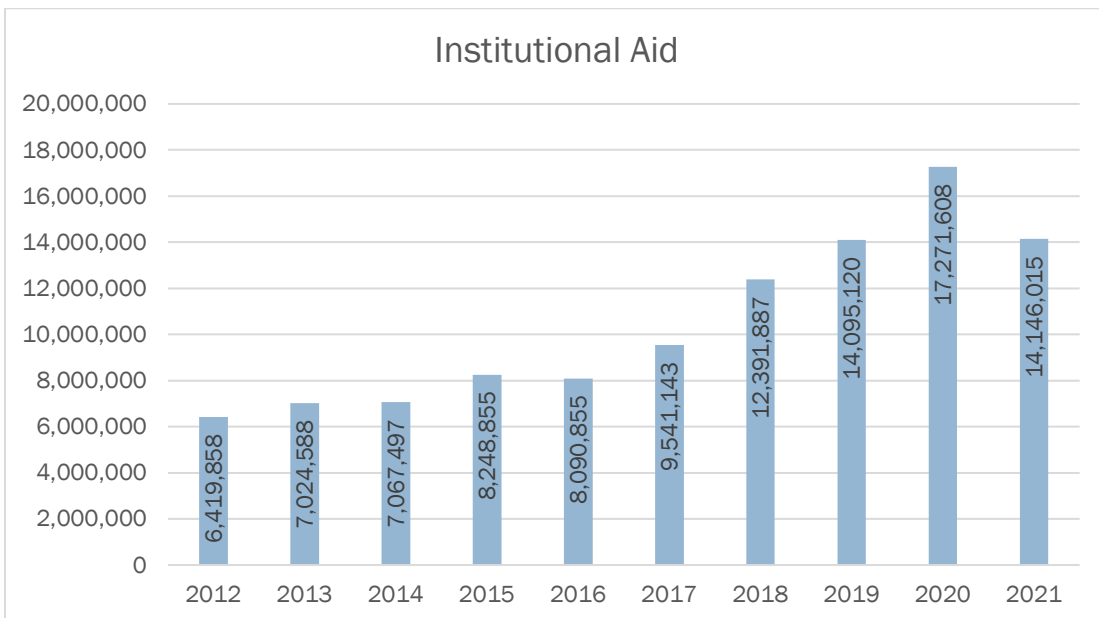
## Private Aid Declines

Private aid decreased by 1,720,988 or 17% and is at its lowest amount since 2017.



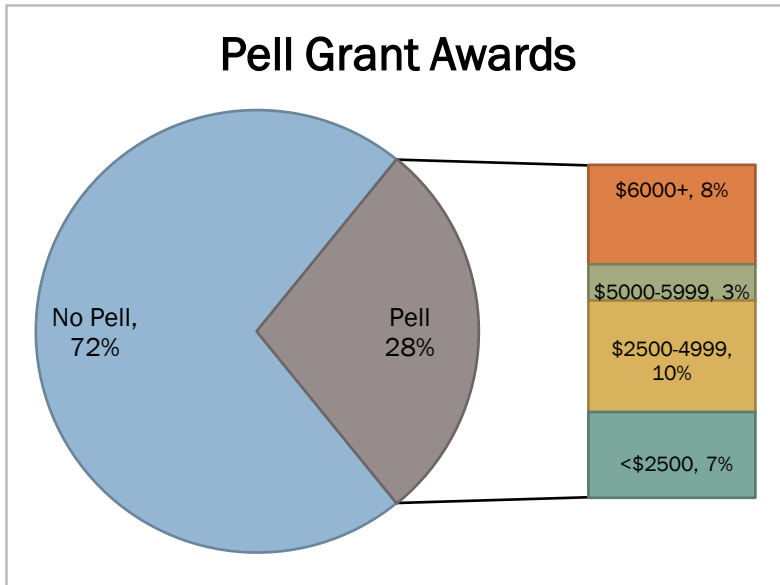
## Institutional Aid Continues Substantial Growth

After a dramatic increase in 2020, institutional aid returned to an amount similar to that in 2019. The growth from 2017 to 2020 can be attributed to intentional efforts to increase institutional aid via merit-based scholarships like the Chancellor's Award. (Note that philanthropic resources directed to financial aid or scholarships coordinated by University Advancement are considered *institutional* aid.)





## One-Third of Undergraduates Receive Pell Grants



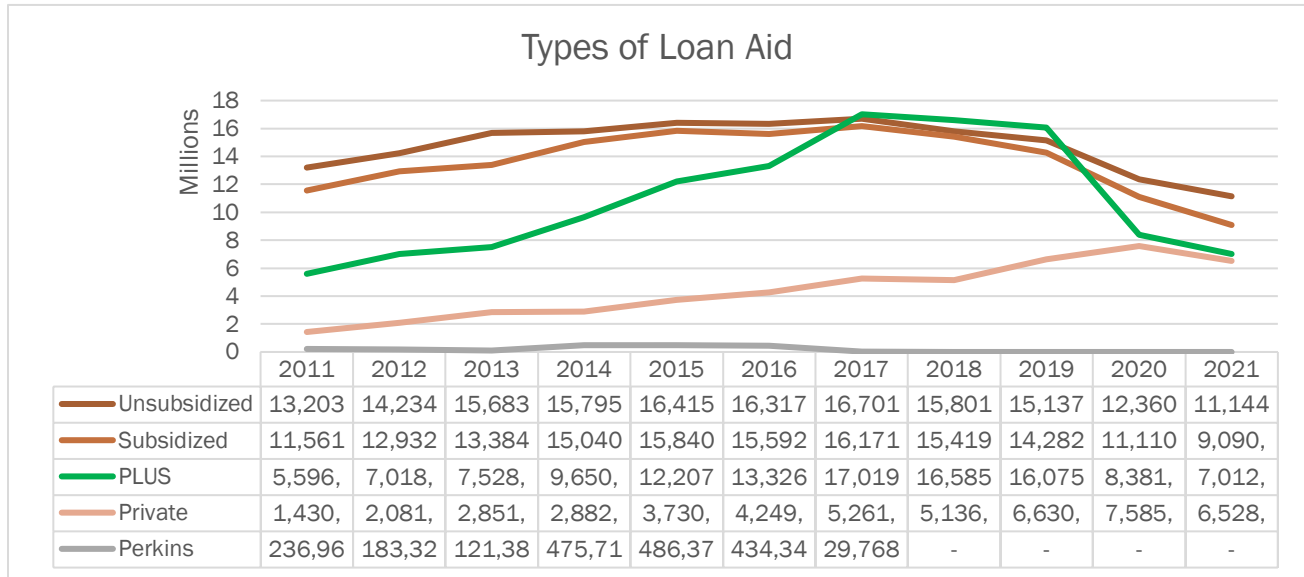
Federal Pell Grants continue to be an important part of undergraduate financial aid packages. Approximately 28% of undergraduates received a Pell Grant with a total disbursement of \$1,161,426.

The average award decreased from \$4406 last year to \$4168 this year. A total of 1,094 undergraduates (12% of undergraduates and 41% of Pell recipients) received a Pell Grant of \$5000 or more.

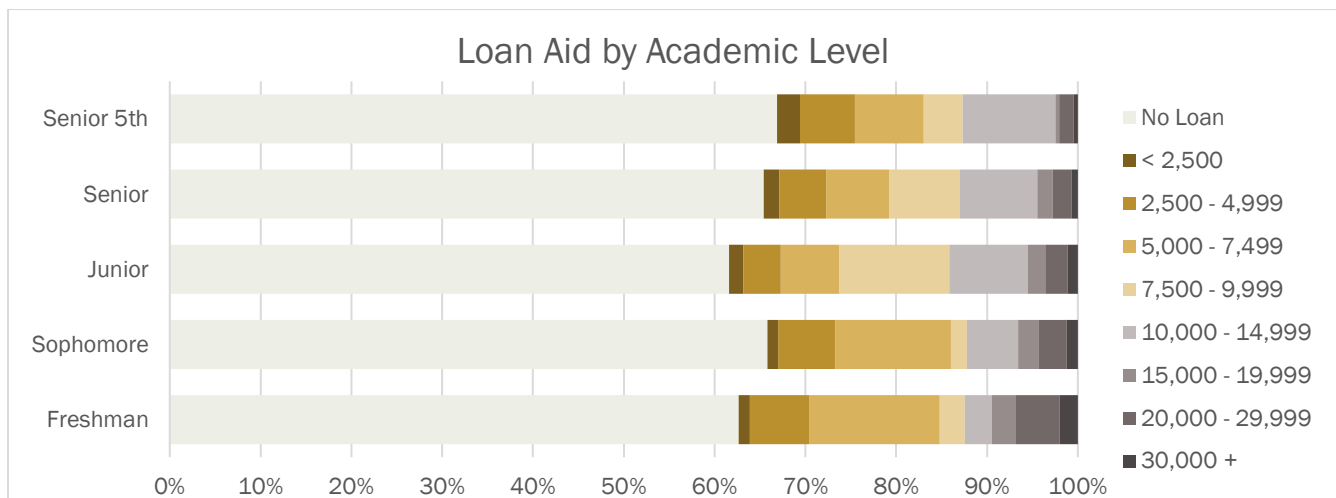
The maximum Federal Pell Grant changes every year. Please see the Office of Financial Aid for recent and upcoming eligibility requirements at [www.uccs.edu/finaid/types/grants.html](http://www.uccs.edu/finaid/types/grants.html).

## PLUS Loans Calm Down

The total disbursement of PLUS<sup>2</sup> loans surpassed unsubsidized and subsidized loans in 2017. In 2011, PLUS loans were 17% of loan aid; the proportion increased to 31% in 2017 and fell to 21% in 2020 and 2021. The dramatic increase in PLUS loans since 2011 reflects the extent to which students rely on their parents to finance their education; we speculate that families learned more about PLUS loans in 2020 and more decided to opt out.



While loan aid still predominates all financial aid, **64% of the undergraduate students *did not have a loan at all***. About 23% had loans under \$10,000 with the remaining 13% of students having loans above \$10,000. About 2% of undergraduates took loans for over \$20,000 for the year.



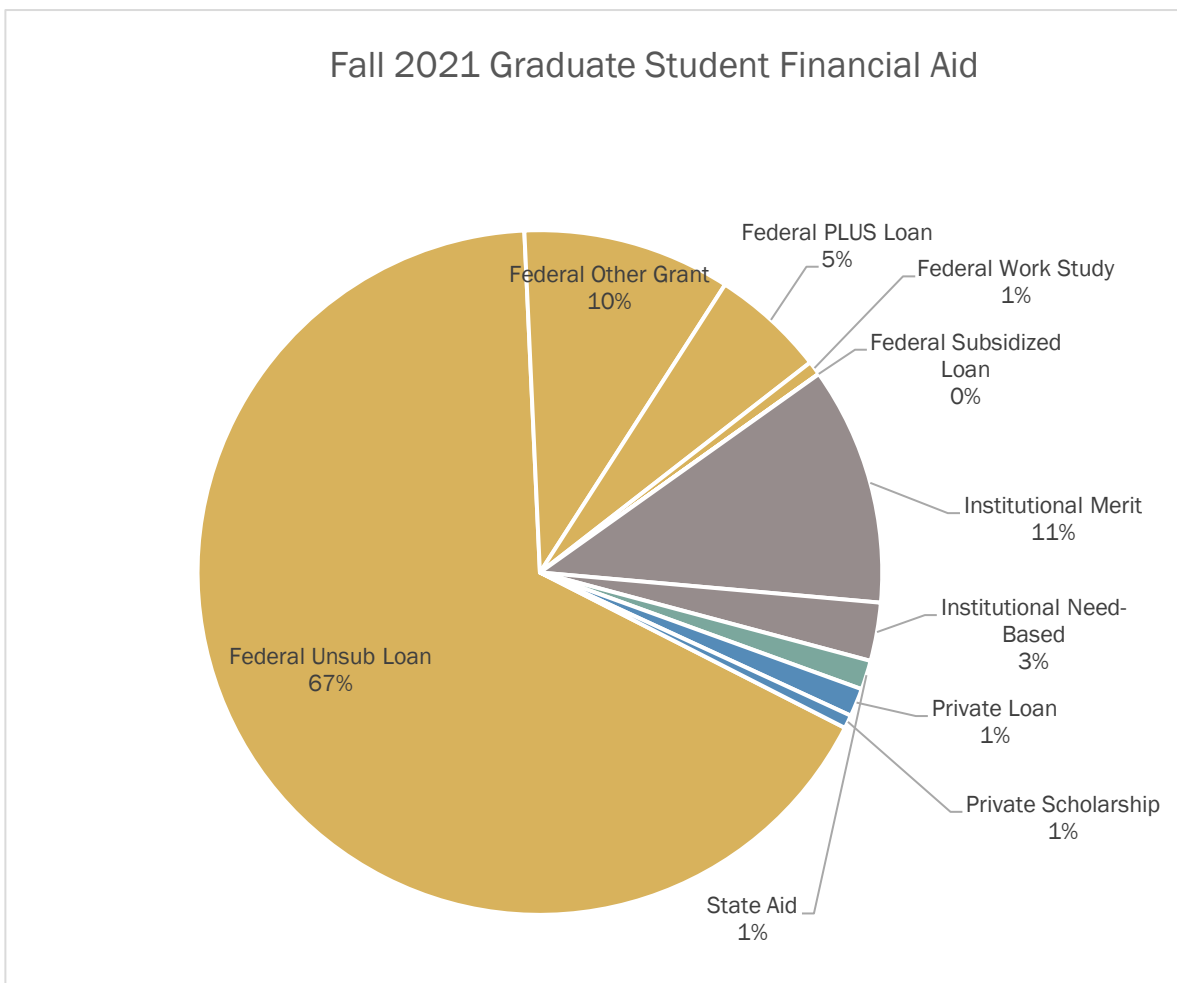
<sup>2</sup> PLUS loans are for parents of dependent students and (a) carry a higher origination fee, (b) carry a higher interest rate, (c) require a credit history check, and (d) are more difficult to defer and repayment usually begins immediately after the last disbursement.

## Graduate Student Financial Aid

Financial aid for graduate students is not as robust as that for undergraduate students. Among 1,924 graduate-level students, 52% applied for aid and 58% received aid. The average disbursement per recipient was \$14,054.

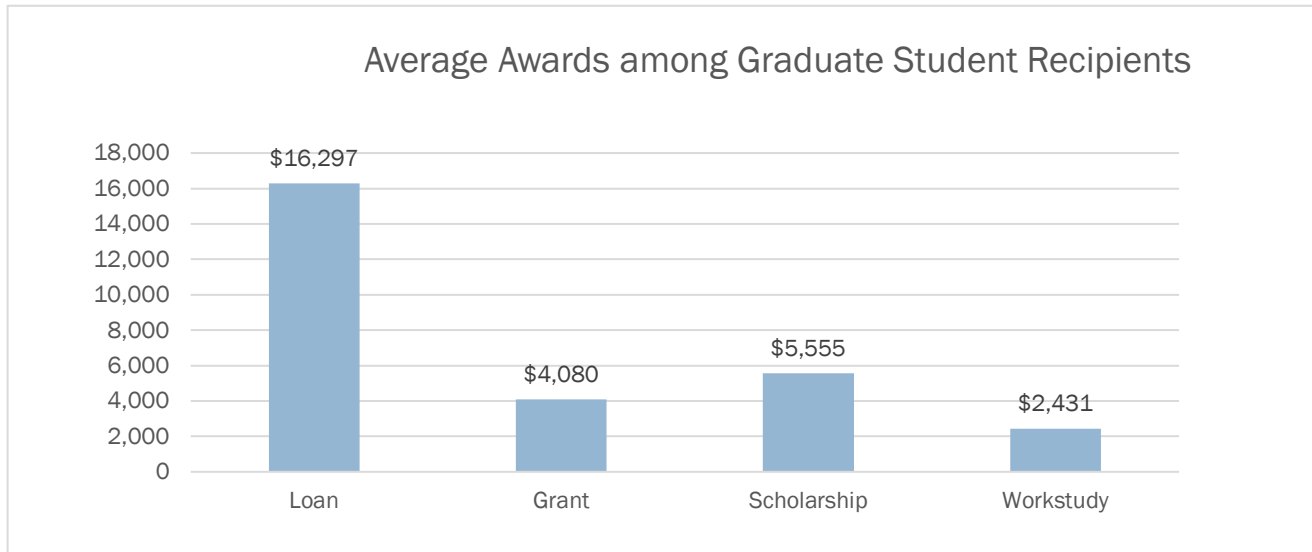
### Sources and Types of Aid

The bulk of aid disbursed to graduate students is in the form of federal student loans (72%) followed by institutional aid (14%), other federal grants (10%), private aid (2%), and state aid (1%). The state provided \$216,917 dollars to 62 graduate students for an average award of \$3499.



## Average Awards by Type

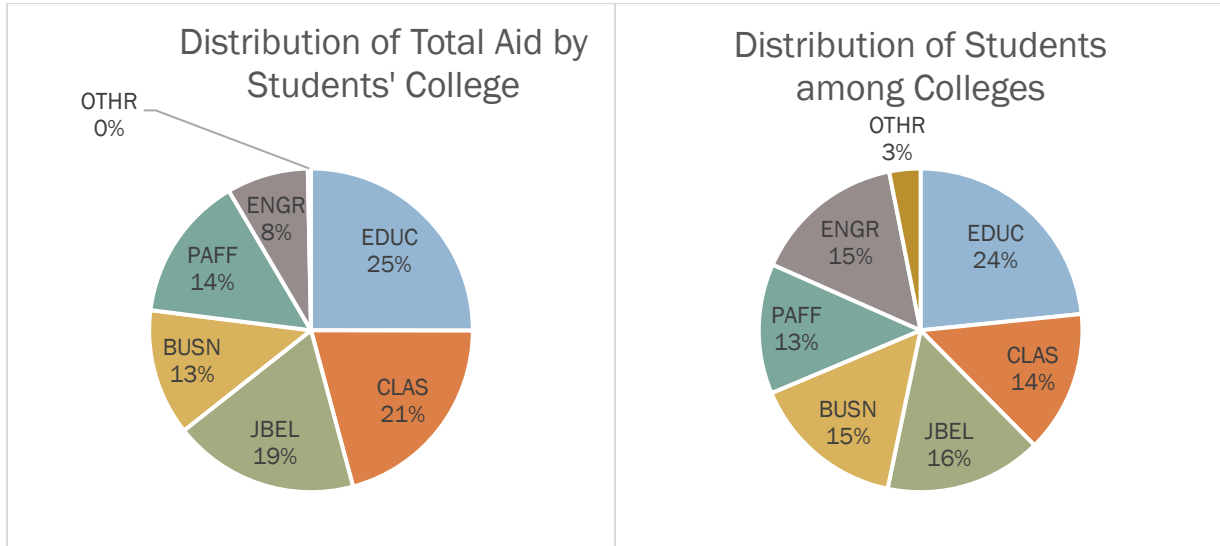
Among graduate students, the average loan amount was \$16,297. Approximately 40% received a grant, 37% of graduate students received a loan, 8% received a scholarship, and 4% received workstudy.



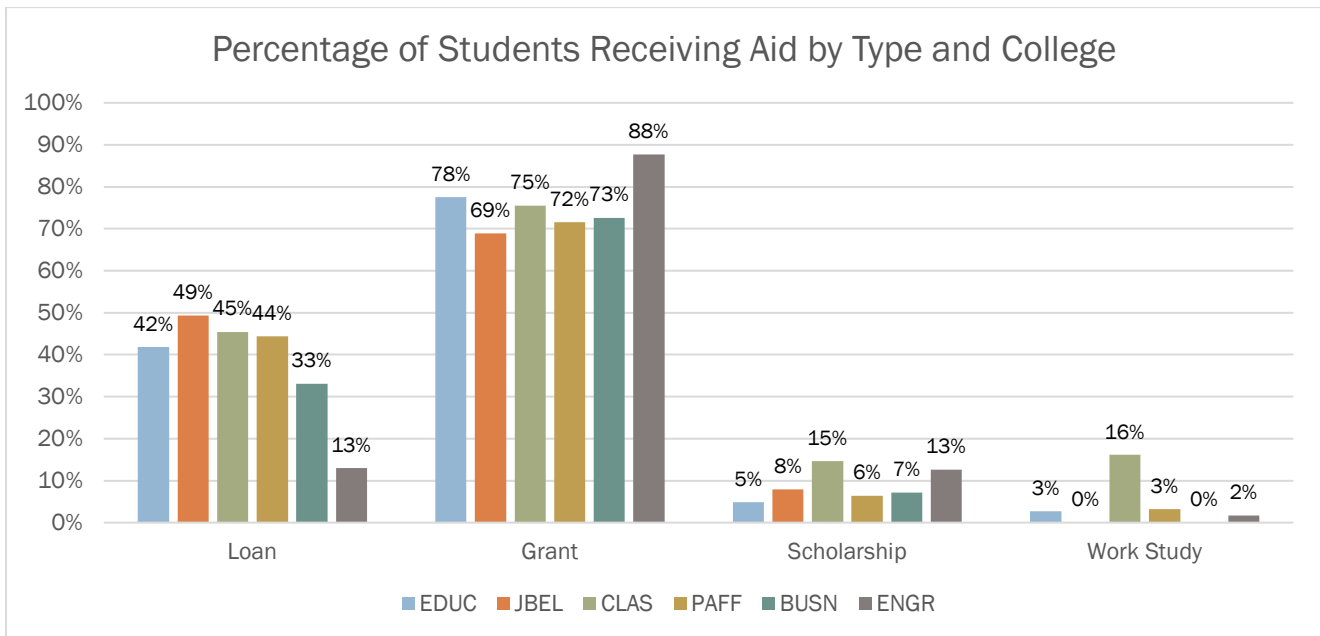
## Aid by College and Degree Level

The pie charts (below) show the distribution of students and disbursed aid among the graduate programs, abbreviated as follows: School of Public Affairs (PAFF), Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-El College of Nursing & Health Sciences (JBEL), College of Engineering & Applied Sciences (ENGR), College of Education (EDUC), College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences (CLAS), College of Business (BUSN), and Non-Degree and Concurrent Students (OTHR). Students seeking gainful employment certificates are categorized in their college.

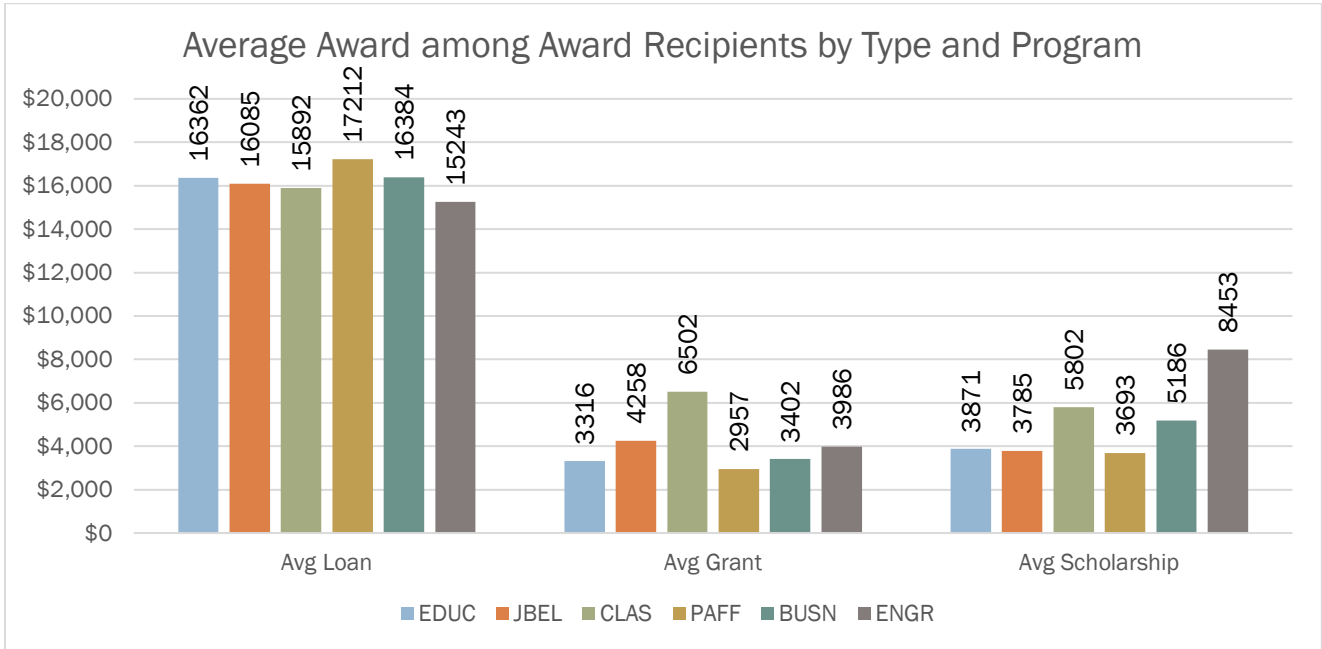
EDUC (Education) students are the largest proportion of graduate students (24%) and receive the largest proportion of aid (25%), mostly in the form of loans. The proportion of aid distributed to CLAS (21%) and JBEL (19%) students is greater than their proportions of the graduate students (14% and 16%, respectively) because CLAS and JBEL students are the primary beneficiaries of the STEM-based Colorado Graduate Grant. The proportion of aid distributed to student in Engineering is less than their proportion of graduate students due to the greater number of aid ineligible international students within Engineering programs.



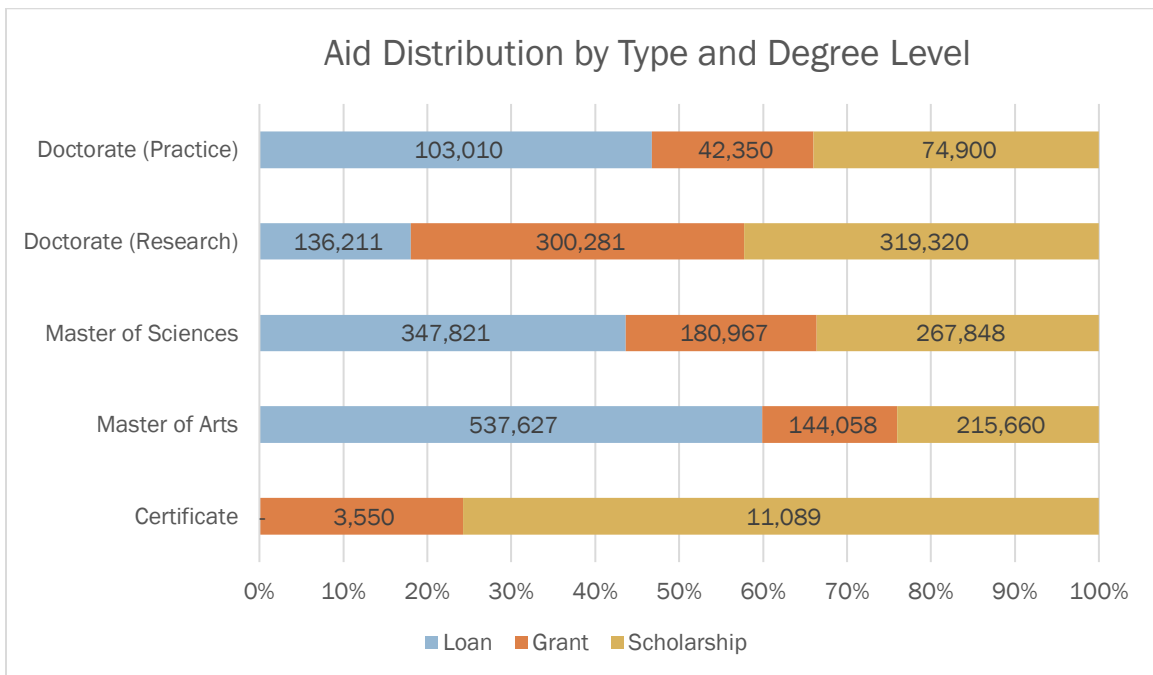
The bar chart (below) illustrates the percent of students in each college who receive loan, grant, scholarship, or work study aid. The other types of non-aid assistance – detailed in the next section – include tuition waivers, student employment, and military affiliated tuition assistance.



The next bar chart (below) illustrates the average award by type among recipients in each academic program.



Aid varies according to the students' degree level. The proportion of aid in the form of loans is smaller for doctoral students (64%) than it is for other graduate students (84% to 94%).



## Tuition Waivers, Tuition Assistance, and Student Employment

Graduate students are eligible for additional forms of assistance that are not categorized as financial aid. Approximately 4% received tuition waivers from the employee benefit pool, 21% were employed at UCCS, and 11% received military affiliated tuition assistance.

Tuition waivers are employee benefits that cover up to 9 credit hours of coursework per year. In the Fall semester, there were 77 employees using this benefit to cover 354 credit hours worth approximately \$258,532 (total). Among the 77 beneficiaries, 60% did not receive financial aid (and 40% did).

About 21% held student, faculty, or staff positions in the fall semester. Most were student faculty (42%) or student workers (39%) and the remaining held other types of employment at UCCS (19%).

Approximately 11% of graduate students benefited from military affiliated tuition assistance from at least one of these sources: (a) Chapter 33 GI Bill, (b) Yellow Ribbon, (c) ROTC, (d) Air Force Institute of Technology or AFIT, (e) VA Rehab, (f) Colorado National Guard, (g) Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, (h) Go Army Ed, or (i) miscellaneous support from regional military bases. Of the 205 graduate students receiving military affiliated tuition assistance, 66% were not receiving any financial aid.

## Summary Table of Disbursed Aid

<b>Academic Career</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Total Aid</b>	<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>Total Scholarships</b>	<b>Total Workstudy</b>
UGRD	9470	77,625,909	33,776,083	38,072,824	5,329,877	447,125
GRAD	1869	15,691,546	11,538,757	3,096,263	888,818	167,709
NDGR	55	49,000	32,200	16,800	0	0
<b>Academic Level</b>						
Unclass	101	54,843	8,800	34,543	11,500	0
Freshman	2343	19,576,845	9,376,502	9,138,624	1,013,665	48,054
Sophomore	1871	15,020,778	6,343,743	7,538,291	1,072,258	66,486
Junior	2092	18,755,778	8,070,870	9,407,239	1,145,356	132,313
Senior	2230	18,454,786	7,387,493	9,262,333	1,646,218	158,743
Senior 5th	885	5,786,180	2,597,475	2,706,295	440,881	41,529
Graduate	1872	15,717,246	11,562,157	3,098,563	888,818	167,709
<b>IPEDS Full Time Status</b>						
UGRD Full time	7441	67,692,544	29,042,228	33,131,520	5,107,096	411,700
UGRD Part time	2029	9,933,365	4,733,855	4,941,304	222,781	35,425
GRAD Full time	492	5,837,694	4,268,988	1,229,451	272,885	66,370
GRAD Part time	1377	9,853,852	7,269,769	1,866,812	615,933	101,339
NDGR Full time	6	4,150	0	4,150	0	0
NDGR Part time	49	44,850	32,200	12,650	0	0
<b>Undergrad Cohort</b>						
Continuing/Returning	6612	52,299,775	22,194,206	25,993,034	3,713,459	399,076
First-time	1427	13,458,328	6,097,724	6,472,453	856,966	31,185
Transfer-in	1382	11,836,263	5,484,153	5,587,294	747,952	16,864
Non-degree	49	31,543	0	20,043	11,500	0
<b>Online Group</b>						
100% Online	1260	8,531,020	6,043,811	2,284,836	198,945	3,428
Some Online	4479	39,676,419	17,827,066	18,912,213	2,679,838	257,303
Not Online	5655	45,159,016	21,476,163	19,988,839	3,339,911	354,103



<b>Tuition Residency</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Total Aid</b>	<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>Total Scholarships</b>	<b>Total Workstudy</b>
UGRD CE/ES Only	5	49,108	31,750	17,358	0	0
UGRD Nonres	1313	14,873,465	9,094,986	5,341,643	408,936	27,900
UGRD Resident	8131	62,698,736	24,649,347	32,709,224	4,920,941	419,225
UGRD Under Rev	21	4,600	0	4,600	0	0
GRAD Nonres	269	2,979,372	1,831,028	748,569	367,875	31,901
GRAD Resident	1597	12,711,024	9,707,729	2,346,544	520,943	135,808
GRAD Under Rev	3	1,150	0	1,150	0	0
NDGR CE/ES Only	1	0	0	0	0	0
NDGR Nonres	11	12,250	8,800	3,450	0	0
NDGR Resident	43	36,750	23,400	13,350	0	0
<b>Campus Housing</b>						
No	9900	76,460,397	36,166,206	34,819,308	4,923,549	551,334
Yes	1494	16,906,058	9,180,834	6,366,579	1,295,146	63,499
<b>Military</b>						
No	9,748	90,414,848	56,685,421	21,030,171	9,039,170	1,488,650
Yes	2,824	16,736,851	9,645,601	5,273,786	1,487,462	243,002
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
AMERINDIAN	37	293,878	135,759	100,485	57,634	0
ASIAN	431	3,075,270	920,324	1,835,472	288,614	30,860
BLACK	536	5,369,494	2,355,944	2,620,120	368,316	25,114
HISPANIC	2191	20,097,192	8,949,188	9,686,729	1,301,586	159,689
NONRESALIEN	155	818,675	39,718	653,857	125,100	0
PACIFIC	31	228,554	137,970	90,284	300	0
TWOPLUS	853	7,269,045	3,635,342	3,156,424	452,058	25,221
UNKNOWN	142	964,368	494,272	395,438	71,224	3,433
WHITE	7018	55,249,980	28,678,523	22,647,078	3,553,863	370,516
<b>Gender</b>						
M	5089	36,616,962	17,591,204	16,738,728	2,071,450	215,580
F	6305	56,749,494	27,755,836	24,447,159	4,147,245	399,254