

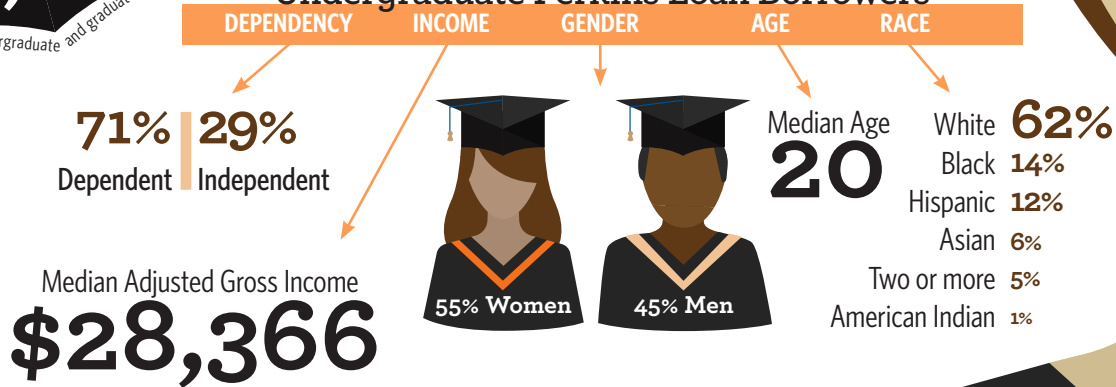
Higher Ed Spotlight

The Federal Perkins Loan Program

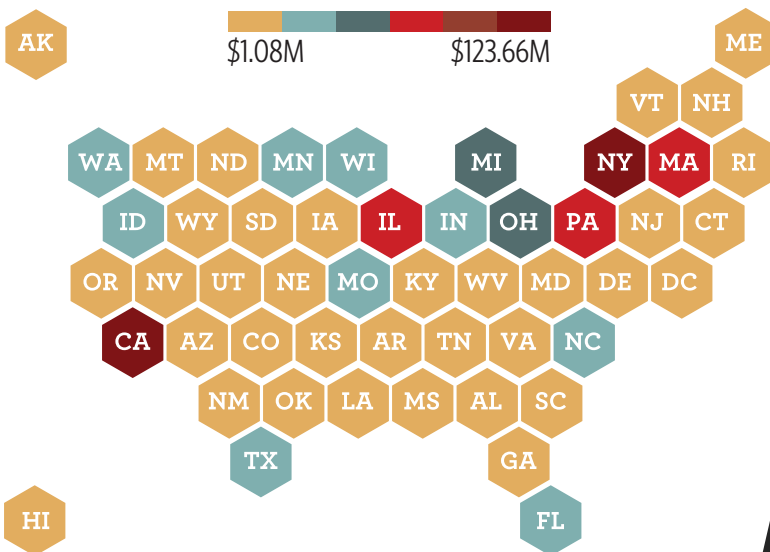
The Federal Perkins Loan Program, established in 1958, is a low-interest federal loan program for students with financial need that is funded through a partnership with the federal government and participating higher education institutions. In September 2015, the loan program expired. In December 2015, however, Congress passed a two-year extension of the program with revised terms. Under these adjusted terms, new borrowers must first exhaust all of their direct loan eligibility before they can be offered Perkins dollars. In addition, new graduate students are no longer eligible for the program. Despite limiting the pool of eligible students, the new terms maintain the low interest rate of 5 percent as well as the in-school interest subsidy. Without further legislative action, no new Perkins loans may be awarded after September 30, 2017.

Average total disbursement 2014-15*
\$2,199
*including undergraduate and graduate students

Undergraduate Perkins Loan Borrowers



Total Disbursement by State, in millions



528,008
 students received
 a Perkins Loan
 in 2014-15

Sources: [1] Federal Student Aid Data Center. 2016. *2014-2015 Award Year Campus-Based Program Data by School*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education. [2] National Center for Education Statistics. 2013. *2011-2012 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12)*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education. (All results are weighted (WTA000).)