

A photograph of the University of Northern Iowa campus. In the center is a tall brick clock tower with a red-tiled roof and a clock face. A banner on the tower reads "150 Proud past Bold future". To the right is a modern glass-walled building. The background shows a hillside with trees in autumn colors. A purple diagonal banner is on the left side of the image.

FINANCIAL AID

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

UNI

**University of
Northern Iowa®**

Office of Financial
Aid & Scholarships

DEDICATED SERVICE TO ENSURE
ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY.



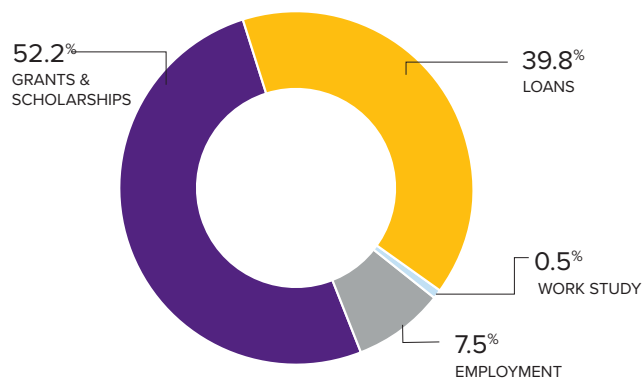
Tim Bakula, Director
Office of Financial Aid
and Scholarships

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

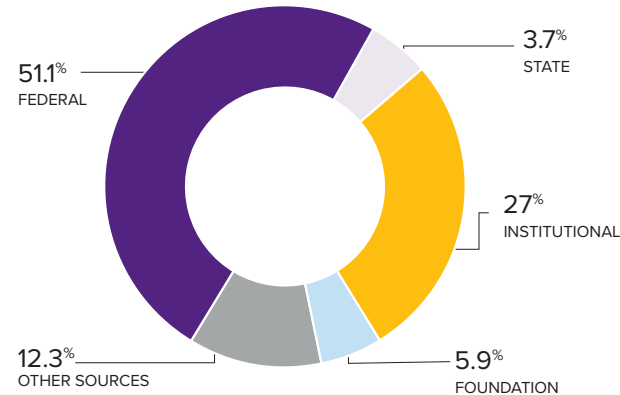
The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is pleased to share the 2025 Annual Report on Student Aid. The information contained within this report includes financial aid data that spans the 2024-2025 academic year, (fall 2024, spring 2025, and summer 2025 semesters). The financial aid programs at UNI are dedicated to preserving student access to the university through need-based financial aid, recruiting academically talented students through merit aid, and supporting the institution’s recruitment and retention efforts. Our financial aid office currently employs 12 staff members, two graduate assistants, and 12 student employees. The financial aid staff offers personalized counseling to all of our students to assist in navigating the financial aid process. It is our goal to ensure that every student we encounter has a greater understanding of their available financial aid options, thereby allowing them to complete their degree. More than \$102 million in aid was awarded to over 8,800 students. We are especially proud of our low student indebtedness figures, which are the lowest of any public, 4-year college in Iowa. The average indebtedness of UNI students upon graduation is \$23,410, which is a decrease of 4.8% from 2020-21. The annual report is available online at finaid.uni.edu. Feel free to contact me regarding any information within this report. Thanks!

\$102.5 MILLION IN AID

Categories of Funds

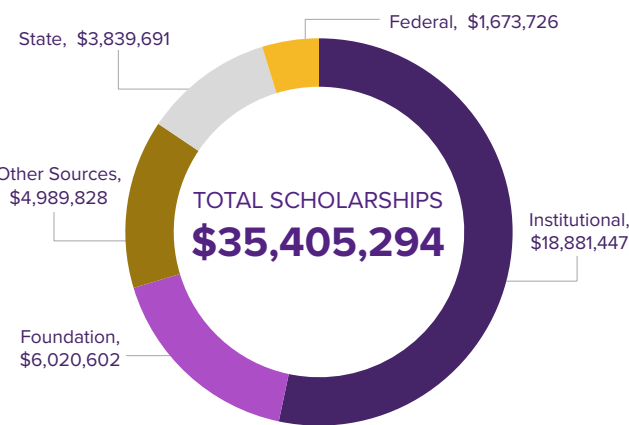


Sources of Funds



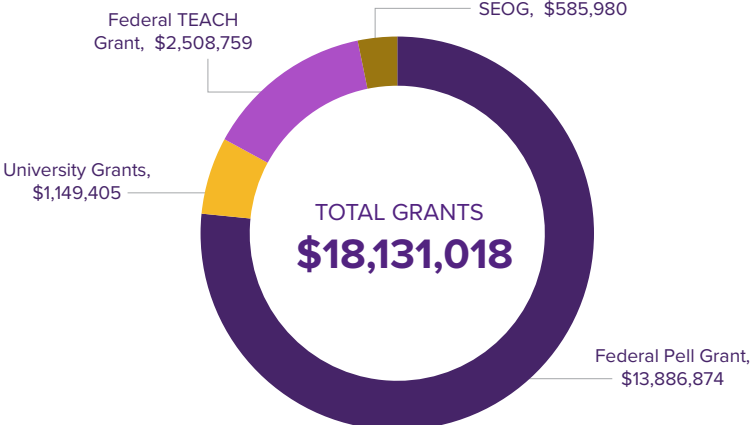
SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are coordinated by several offices, including the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Admissions, and individual departments and colleges. The University Scholarship Application is the application used by students to apply for all undergraduate scholarships.



GRANTS

Grants are gift aid (no repayment required) generally awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need based on filing the FAFSA.



TEACH GRANT

- The University of Northern Iowa has actively participated in the Federal Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant since its inception in 2008.
- The program is designed for students planning to teach in a high-need field in a low-income school, and provides up to \$4,000 per year, for four years as an undergraduate student and two years as a graduate student. The maximum TEACH Grant amount for 2024-25 was \$3,772.
- During the 2024-25 academic year UNI ranked #2 nationally in terms of TEACH Grant dollars disbursed to students.** This past year 761 UNI students received TEACH Grant funding, totaling over \$2.5 million in aid. There was a significant increase in eligible students due to the addition of Elementary Education as a high need field beginning in FY25. Since the inception of the program, 3,703 students have received TEACH Grant funding.

Data as of 10-03-2025	Head Count	Percentage of Total
Currently with Grant (either in school or working on teaching obligation)	1927	52.0%
Completed Teaching Obligation	691	18.7%
Converted to Loan	555	15.0%
Paid Loan in Full	528	14.3%
Defaulted Loan	2	0.1%
Total Head Count	3703	100%

**Data based on most recent status of any TEACH Grants received by student.*

FEDERAL
WORK-STUDY

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is funded 75% by the federal government and 25% by the institution. Awards are based on financial need. FWS includes the Federal Community Service Learning (CSL) component. CSL allows students to work at various community nonprofit agencies dedicated to improving community living. Students are paid through UNI. The nonprofit organizations handle 25% of the earnings. The program is available in the fall and spring semesters only.

Student Employment Types

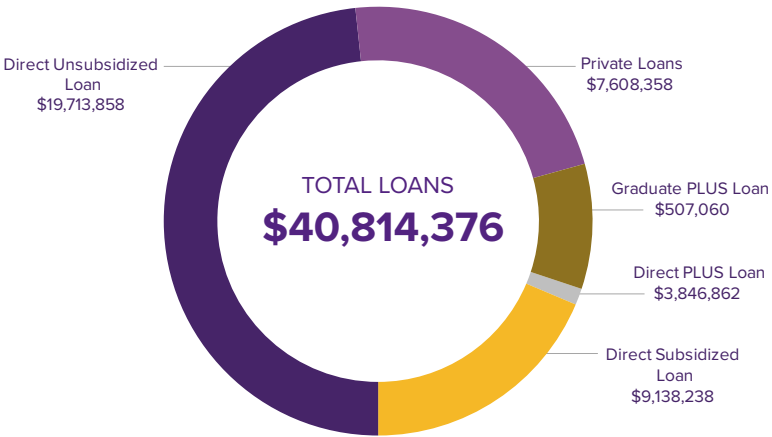
Departmental Employment*	\$5,946,377
Graduate Assistantships	\$1,684,787
Federal Work-Study	\$537,646

*Departmental Employment is available to students regardless of financial need and paid entirely by the hiring department.

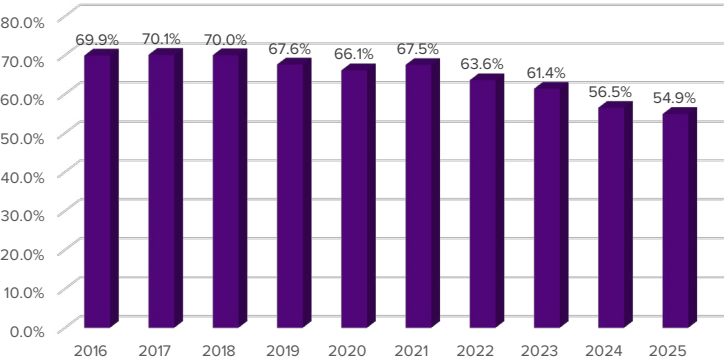
2,392 students

\$8.2 million earned by

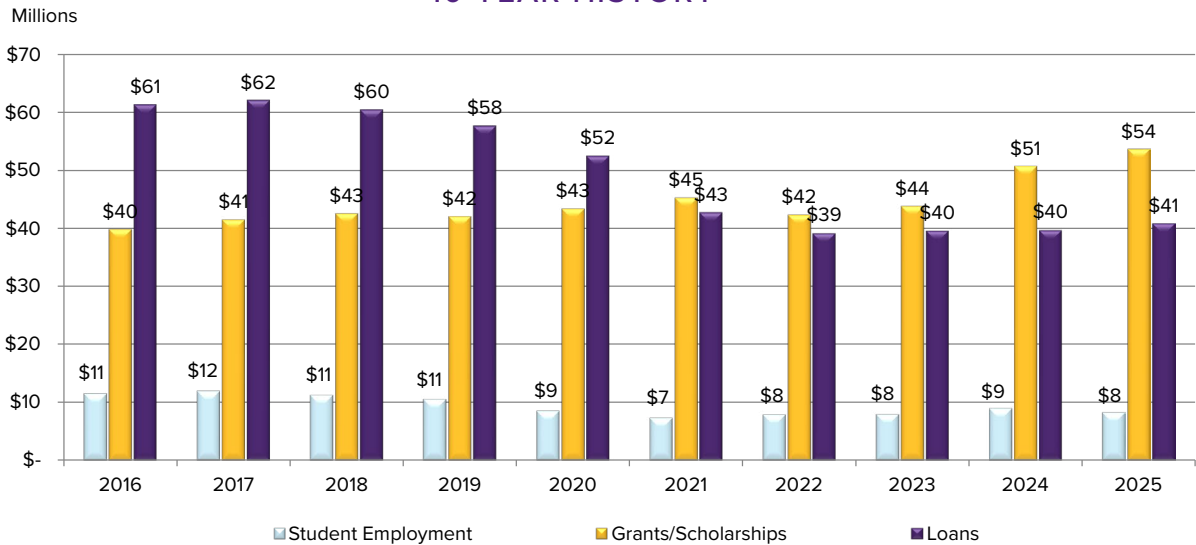
LOANS



STUDENTS GRADUATING WITH DEBT



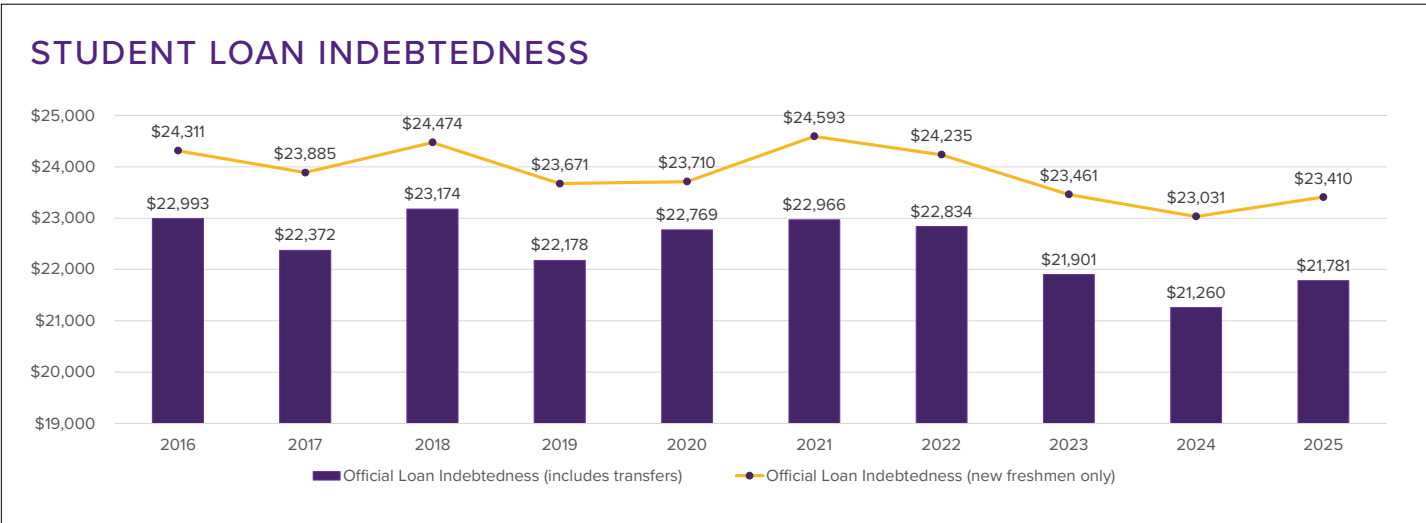
10 YEAR HISTORY



Undergraduate Indebtedness Remains Low

Breaking away from national trends in student borrowing, the University of Northern Iowa has seen student indebtedness remain well below state and national averages. The average student indebtedness at UNI is \$23,410, which is a decrease of 4.8% from 2020-21. When including transfer students, the average indebtedness is \$21,781.

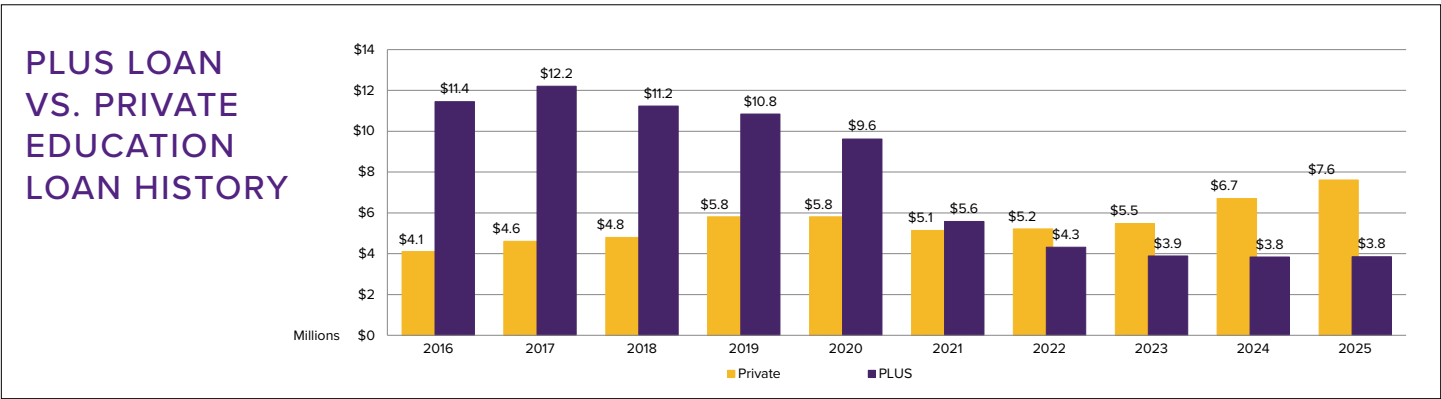
The overall steadiness in borrowing can be attributed to personalized counseling for students borrowing a private loan, a strong TEACH Grant program, robust financial literacy efforts and an increasing number of students graduating sooner than in previous years.



Private Loan Counseling

In 2007-08 the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships started one-on-one counseling for students seeking private loans. Private education loan borrowing has decreased from \$15.3 million in 2007-08 to \$7.6 million today (50% decrease). In addition, the 2020-21 academic year, students financial aid offers were populated with “Other Financing Options,” thus providing more considerations for students/families to utilize savings or payment plans. The net effect has been that both UNI students and their families are considering all of their financial options prior to turning to loans. This small change in awarding philosophy has contributed to a dramatic impact on borrower actions.

The private loan market is as competitive as ever, with private lenders not only competing against themselves, but also with the Parent PLUS Loan market. The influx in private loans as compared to Parent PLUS Loans is a result of having competitive interest rates that are often less than the Parent PLUS Loan. The private loan counseling offered by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships has assisted hundreds of students in making a more educated decision regarding how much of a private loan is needed.



AID PROCESSING

Once a student completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), results are transmitted electronically to the university. Verification is completed on files identified by the federal processor and any applicant with special situations. Typically, 90% of initial awards are made by the first day of the fall semester. Revisions and aid adjustments continue throughout the academic year.

- **11,815** FAFSA applicants
- **42,146** FAFSA transactions
- **4,473** UNI Scholarship Applications
- **8,826** students offered aid
- **8,876** students with paid aid
- **5,768** award revisions (e.g. additional aid, loan adjustments)
- **69** requests for aid adjustments due to unusual circumstances. Primary situation:
 - **42** with loss of income
- **1,631** students awarded summer aid
- **439** student records reviewed for Return of Title IV (344) or repeated coursework (95)
- **73** students completing consortium agreements for aid eligibility

STUDENT SUCCESS EFFORTS

Student employees handle the majority of the telephone calls, reception visits, and emails. Our office also partners with Business Operations and Student Success & Retention to proactively communicate with students who haven't paid their U-Bills one month into each semester and provide them with financial options to increase retention rates.

- **6,975** telephone calls to the general office
- Roughly **2,454** reception visits
- Approximately **7,138** emails answered on published email address
- **1,996** scheduled counseling appointments (does not include walk-ins)
- **2,992** students contacted with past due U-Bills
- **880** students suspended from aid
- **212** appeals reviewed

FINANCIAL LITERACY INITIATIVES

All incoming freshmen were required to complete either Live Like a Student or Panther CashCourse (online) prior to the beginning of the fall 2018 semester.

56% completion rate for the Financial Literacy Requirement.



**University of
Northern Iowa®**

Office of Financial
Aid & Scholarships

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Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

The University of Northern Iowa does not discriminate in employment or education. Visit policies.uni.edu/1303 for additional information.