



## Graduate Nursing Student Debt by the Numbers

Below is a summary of AACN's 2017 *Graduate Nursing Student Loan Survey*. Within AACN's membership, 32% of nursing students are in graduate nursing programs.

### By the Numbers



69% of graduate nursing students took out federal student loans



73% of graduate nursing students did not receive any institutional scholarships or grants



51% of graduate nursing students have one or more dependents



57% plan to utilize Public Service Loan Forgiveness upon graduation



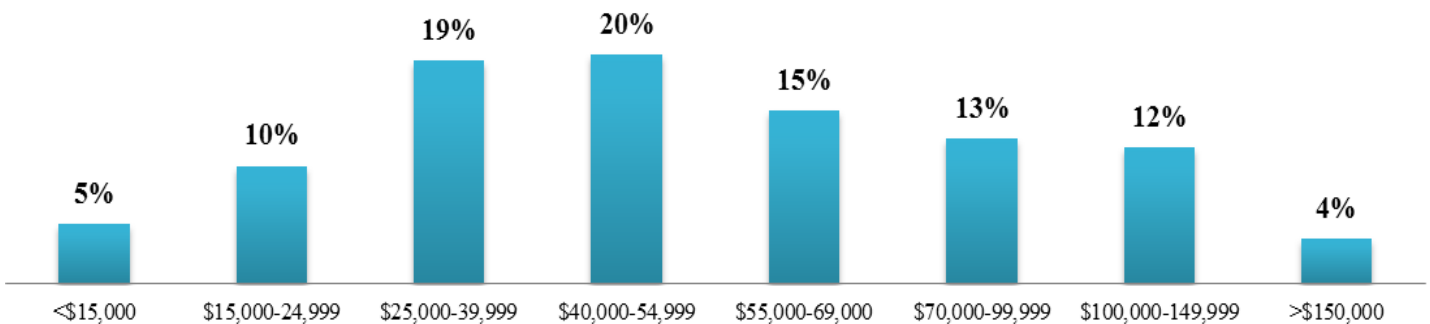
76% took out loans for their undergraduate nursing degree



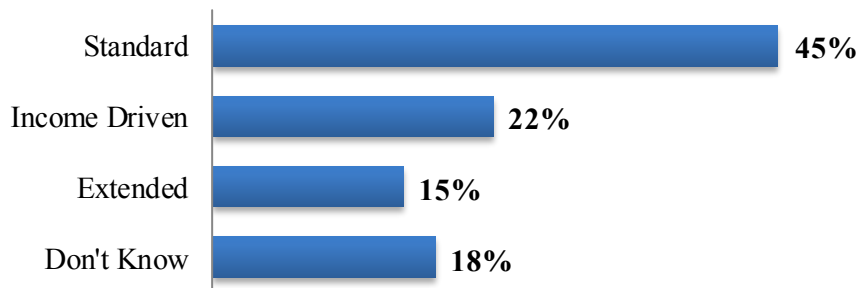
38% plan to utilize HRSA Title VIII loan repayment options

### Anticipated Debt by Graduate Nursing Students

The median amount of student loan debt anticipated by graduate nursing students is between \$40,000 and \$54,999. This range captures all graduate levels (i.e. MSN, DNP, PhD) and covers both advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and non-APRN majors.



**Among borrowers, the biggest concern related to loan repayment was the ability to afford monthly student loan payments once their six month grace period is over.** Fifty percent of all graduate students in this sample that borrowed federal student loans stated that their largest concern will be their ability to repay loans after their program is complete. The data below show which repayment plan graduate nursing students intend to follow.



◆ In the Winter of 2016, AACN conducted a survey on student loan debt acquired by graduate nursing students. With IRB approval, the survey was disseminated through AACN's Graduate Nursing Student Academy listserv and *GNSA Bulletin*, as well as other AACN communications including *Faculty Link* reaching over 12,000 individuals. Survey data were cleaned to account for incomplete responses, missing data, and duplicates resulting in a final sample of 2,235 graduate students. A full results report will be published in Fall 2017.

◆ See additional information about [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) and [Repayment Options](#)