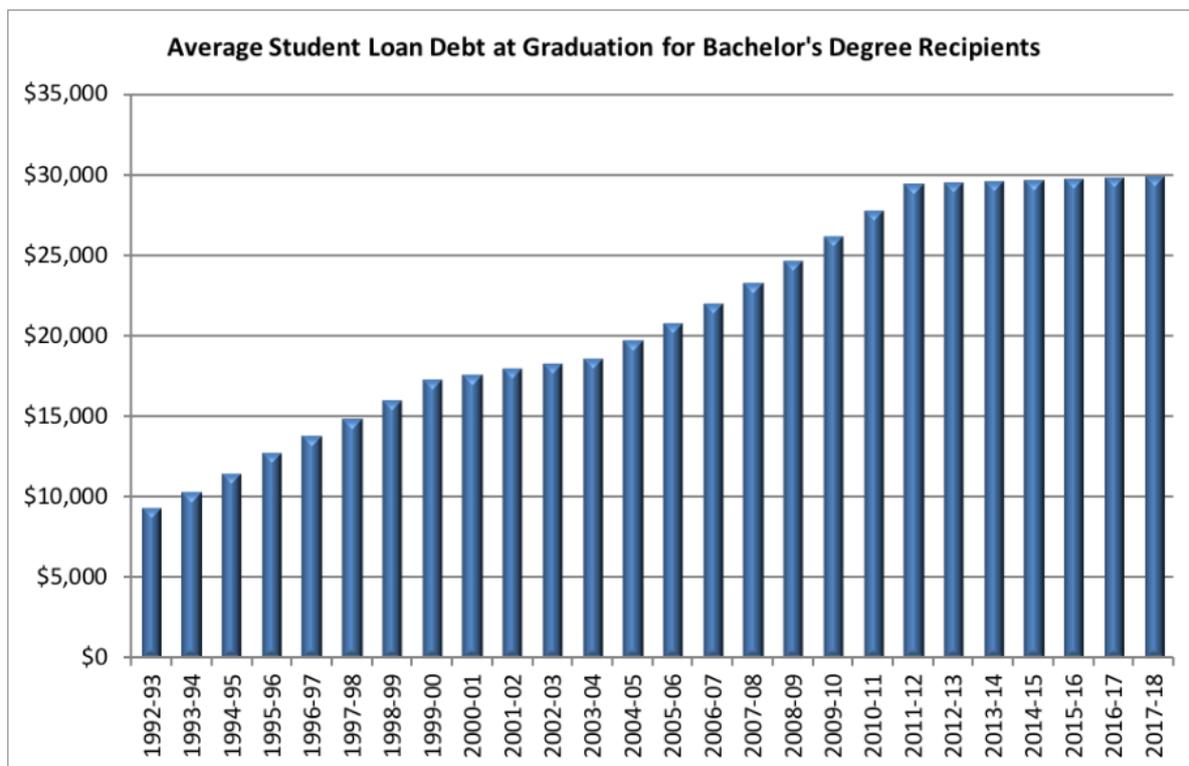


Education affordability and student retention supported with connect2 equipment reservation software

As more students hit maximum limits for federal student loans, the importance of loaner pools of equipment in colleges and universities is growing. Having access to the right equipment and technologies is highly important to academic success and institutions are helping where they can by ensuring students do not miss out amid financial constraints.

This has led to growing adoption of connect2 equipment reservation software which ensures students have best opportunity to borrow and use technologies without cost. The improved efficiencies and communications that come with using the software vastly improve availability of items to students, and also reduce the incidence of fines for late items by **90%** according to a [Cal Poly case study](#). Use of connect2 software is now in place in over 100 higher education institutions – a milestone reached this summer.

Students are increasingly hitting the top limit on federal student loan facilities – over 40% are now at this point. Although average student debt levels over recent years is levelling off (see chart below), the growing incidence of students who are maxed out on student debt means the trend is unlikely to be a positive one.



Source: [Savingforcolleges.com](#) reports the percentage of students reaching their limit on federal student loans increased to 40.3% in 2015-16 – a trend which has helped create a plateau in reported average student debt.

Despite these financial pressures, there is growing need for students to use expensive devices in their studies. This goes way beyond smartphones. Interest in AR and VR technologies is soaring in higher education, yet the vast majority of students (96%) do not have access to AR/VR headsets according to the [ECAR 2018 Students and Technology Research Study](#). As a cutting edge technology, their availability for loan from college media stores is set to increase rapidly.

Meanwhile, 60% of students do not have access to a tablet despite their usefulness in classwork and the advantages they bring in supporting group and collaborative work. [Growing expectation](#) for students to create video as part of assignments is a further significant factor driving the need for institutions to provide equipment lending facilities.

Connect2 makes it easy for students to view and reserve all the resources they need to support their studies and assignments. Anna Crilly, CEO at connect2 software provider Lorensbergs, says:

“It’s important to our higher education customers that they are providing up-to-date technology and equipment – resources that students are able to use for better learning outcomes. Good access and measurement of resource usage is critical, and connect2 ensures it’s always in place with the ability to measure service impact. As well as contributing directly to academic success, it supports student retention in an environment of growing financial pressures on students.”

For further information, visit Lorensbergs on booth 1544 at [EDUCAUSE 2018](#)

About connect2:

Connect2 resource reservation and checkout software is the fastest growing solution for managing equipment lending in Higher Education. As an online application, students use connect2 to view resources provided by their institution, check availability and make reservations. Universities using connect2 report increased equipment ROI and greater student satisfaction.

www.connect2software.com

About Lorensbergs

Lorensbergs, creator of the connect2 software, offers a range of market-leading software solutions with expert advice to match. Our range of intelligent and customisable online booking solutions have been designed to streamline scheduling processes and improve efficiencies in universities, colleges and libraries. Lorensbergs offers consultancy services and training, working closely with our customers to enhance service provision for university, library and public service users and patrons.

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