GRADUATE STUDENT DEBT FACT SHEET

1) How much did borrowing by graduate degree recipients increase?
   - The median cumulative educational borrowing for graduate education by master’s and doctoral degree recipients went up by 23% between 2003-04 and 2011-12.
     - During the same time period, by comparison the increases were:
       - 29% for baccalaureate degree recipients,
       - 53% for law degree recipients, and
       - 31% for medical sciences degree recipients.

2) How much did tuition and fees for graduate students increase?
   - The average tuition and fees charged (i.e. sticker prices) for master’s and doctoral students went up by 19% between 2003-04 and 2011-12.
     - During the same time period, by comparison the increases were:
       - 29% for baccalaureate students,
       - 25% for law students, and
       - 9% for medical sciences students.

3) What percentage of graduate degree recipients borrow for their graduate education?
   - 64% of master’s and doctoral degree recipients in 2011-12 took out loans for their graduate education.
     - In the same year, by comparison:
       - 70% of baccalaureate degree recipients took out loans for undergraduate education,
       - 88% of law degree recipients took out loans, and
       - 88% of medical sciences degree recipients took out loans.

4) How much did graduate degree recipients borrow for graduate education?
   - The median amount borrowed for graduate education by master’s and doctorate degree recipients was $36,000 in 2011-12.
     - In the same year by comparison, the median amount borrowed…
       - by law degree recipients was $122,406, and
       - by medical sciences degree recipients was $135,000.

5) How does the growing undergraduate debt burden affect graduate students?
   - Graduate students have larger debt burdens from their undergraduate education than before. The amount first-year master’s and doctorate students owe in undergraduate educational loans went up by 29% between 2003-04 and 2011-12.