

Fall Headcount Enrollment

Definition of Variables

Last Update: April 2020

This document provides definitions of the variables displayed in the Fall Headcount Enrollment reports. Headcount enrollment is defined as the sum of the institutional counts of students taken on a census date after the end of the drop/add period.

In this report, institutions are grouped by sector: research universities, comprehensive universities, state universities, and state colleges. Sectors differ by mission, complexity, degree offerings (in both breadth and depth), and admissions standards. Institutions within a sector, while sharing a common core mission, may still vary considerably.

Many of the variables used in this report are defined in detail at https://www.usg.edu/research/reporting_resources in the ADC Functional and Technical Definitions of Derived Variables document.

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Special Cohorts

All

All currently enrolled students are counted within institutions. The System's enrollment is the sum of institutions' enrollments.

First-Time Freshmen (IPEDS)

A degree-seeking undergraduate student who enrolls in college for the first time in a fall term, or the preceding summer term. To be IPEDS FTF, the student must meet one of the following conditions:

- i. Does not have any valid transfer college records
- ii. Does have valid transfer college records but graduated from high school in the calendar year preceding the enrollment fiscal year. E.g. Student graduated high school in 2015 and enrolled in Summer 15 or Fall 2015 (which equates to an enrollment fiscal year and term of 20161 or 20162).
- iii. Does have valid transfer college records but all records occurred in the years prior to (and including) the high school graduation year. E.g. Student graduated from high school in 2015 and all transfer records occurred in 2015 or prior years.

Notes:

- 1) This definition is set forth by the National Center for Education Statistics, which maintains the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
- 2) Conditions (ii) and (iii) allow for former dual enrollment students to be counted as FTF.
- 3) The Fall Headcount Enrollment report and the Semester Enrollment Report (SER) use different definitions for FTF. [See](#) the ADC Functional and Technical Definitions of Derived Variables for further clarification on these definitions.

First-Time Freshmen – 25 or Over at Matriculation

This is a subset of IPEDS FTF and includes only those first-time freshmen who are 25 years and older at matriculation. Although there are many definitions of non-traditional students, this definition is used for this report. Age at matriculation is calculated for a fall term based on a fixed date of October 15th. For more information, see the Derived Variables document.

First-Time Freshmen – Recent High School Graduates

This is a subset of IPEDS FTF and includes only those first-time freshmen who are same-year high school graduates. For example, in Fall 2014 this cohort includes those students who graduated from high school in Spring 2014. This cohort is the largest subset of FTF.

First-Time Transfers

Students who enroll in college for the first time in a given term of a given year with transfer credit who have a student level of 10, 20, 30, or 40. For this report, this group excludes those freshmen with some transfer credit who are in the cohort of IPEDS First-Time Freshmen (e.g. excludes students with dual enrollment credit). First-Time Transfers include transfer students who are admitted under freshmen admission policies, as well as those admitted under transfer admissions policies.

Undergraduates

Undergraduates include students with student levels of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors (student level = 10, 20, 30, 40). The undergraduate headcount also includes dual enrollment students (student level = 11).

Graduate Students

Graduate students are those with student levels of 72, 74, or 76.

Professional Students

Professional students are those enrolled in First Professional degree programs: veterinary medicine, law, medicine, dentistry, or doctor of pharmacy. This group also includes students who are medical, dental, or veterinary medicine interns and residents (student level = 80, 81).

Residents and Interns

Medical, dental, and veterinary medicine interns and residents are a subset of First Professional level students (student level = 90).

Other Student Levels

Other student levels are those not classified into one of the previous categories, including:

- i. Transient students: students who are enrolled at one institution who may or may not be taking courses this term at the home institution, but who are taking courses at another institution with permission to transfer those hours back to the home institution (student level = 50)
- ii. Unclassified undergraduates: students who have a bachelor's degree and are enrolled for credit at the undergraduate level but not pursuing another degree (student level = 51)
- iii. Auditors: students admitted to audit one or more courses (student level = 52)
- iv. Post-baccalaureate: students who have a bachelor's degree and are taking graduate or first professional coursework (student level = 53, 56)
- v. Post-baccalaureate students (student level = 60).

Full-time and Part-time Enrollment

An undergraduate student enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in a given term is a full-time student. An undergraduate student enrolled in less than 12 hours is a part-time student. A graduate student enrolled in 9 or more credit hours in a given term at the graduate level is a full-time student. A graduate student enrolled in less than 9 hours is a part-time student.

Race/Ethnicity

Race/ethnicity is categorized into one of the following groups. Ethnicity, whether Hispanic or non-Hispanic, is considered like a race for purposes of reporting. Race/Ethnicity is self-reported by the student at the time of application; however, it is not required information on the application. The category of "Race and Ethnicity Unknown" is used to report students whose racial/ethnic category is undeclared. *Note: This enrollment report does not use the IPEDS category of 'Non-resident alien.'*

American Indian/Alaskan Native

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Asian

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent.

Black or African American (Non-Hispanic)

A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa, except those of Hispanic origin.

Hispanic or Latino

A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific islands.

Race and Ethnicity Unknown

A category used to classify students whose race/ethnicity is not known and whom institutions are unable to place in one of the specified racial/ethnic categories.

Two or More Races

A person in more than one of the above categories.

White (Non-Hispanic)

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa or the Middle East, except those of Hispanic origin.

Gender

Gender is either male or female. Gender information is self-reported by the student at the time of application; however, it is not required information on the application.

Institutions collect the information at registration if there is no information on the application.

The category "unknown" is not allowed in USG reporting. If a student refuses to indicate gender, the institution makes a judgment.