

Glossary of Terms

Academic Year - The period of time generally extending from September 1 to August 31 and including fall, spring, and summer semesters.

African-American - Ethnic category including those persons having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa except those of Hispanic origin (self-reported).

AI/AN - American Indian/Alaskan Native ethnic category including persons having origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition (self-reported).

AS/PI - Asian/Pacific Islander ethnic category including persons having origins in any of the original people of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or Pacific Islands. This also includes people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, American Samoa, India, and Vietnam (self-reported).

Attrition Rate - Reported as a percentage, the portion of students in a cohort who do not graduate or re-enroll in the fall of the following year. This percentage is the difference between the retention rate and 100.00.

BOA, Basis of Admission - Such as first-time-in-college, transfer, or continuing.

Certification - A formal award certifying the satisfactory completion of a postsecondary education program.

Classification - A categorization of students determined by the number of semester credit hours earned (Freshman: 0-29, Sophomore: 30-59, Junior: 60-89, Senior: 90 or more, Post-baccalaureate: earned baccalaureate degree and taking only undergraduate courses, Master's: earned baccalaureate degree and accepted in a master's level program, Doctoral: earned master's degree or equivalent and accepted in a doctoral degree program).

Cohort - Individuals with similar characteristics who are grouped for research purposes. Once identified for a cohort, individuals remain in the group unless they meet the study design's criteria for exclusion. In the case of the freshman cohort for persistence rates, students remain in the cohort unless they leave school to serve in the armed service of the U.S. government. Other factors, such as withdrawing from school, transfer to another institution, or a change in programs of study, do not take a student out of the cohort.

Continuing - Currently enrolled students who were enrolled at the university during the previous fall or spring semester, or in the case of fall enrollees, students who were enrolled during either the previous summer or spring semester.

Degree-seeking Students - Students enrolled in courses for credit who are recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or formal award.

DOB - Date of birth.

Doctoral - A graduate student possessing a master's degree or its equivalent and who is admitted to an approved doctoral degree program at the institution.

Enrollment - Official census date headcount during each term. The enrollment includes flex entry students from the previous semester (see flex entry).

Ethnicity - Self-reported racial categories used to describe groups to which individuals belong, identify with, or belong in the eyes of the community. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. A person may be counted in only one group. Used for United States citizens and resident aliens who fall into one of five categories (White, African-American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander), and Internationals. Internationals would include those persons who are not citizens of the United States and who are in this country on a temporary basis and do not have the right to remain indefinitely.

Faculty FTE - Full-time equivalent is 100% faculty teaching load which typically equals 12 semester credit hours or 12 work units. For each faculty member, the full-time faculty equivalent equals the sum total of budgeted faculty appointment percentages.

Fiscal Year - The period of time extending from September 1 to August 31. (FY97 represents the fiscal year which begins 1996 and ends 1997).

Flex Entry, Flexible Entry Students - Students who enrolled in classes organized after the official reporting census date and included in the following semester's enrollment.

Freshman - An undergraduate student who has completed 0-29 semester hours.

FTE - Full-time Equivalent. See Faculty FTE or Student FTE for definitions and formulas.

FTIC, First-time-in-college - An entering freshman who has never attended any college. Includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term. Also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school).

Full-time (FT) - For undergraduate students, enrollment of 12 or more semester credit hours during fall/spring; for graduate students, enrollment of 9 or more semester credit hours.

Full-time Equivalent - Denoted as FTE. See Faculty FTE or Student FTE for definitions and formulas.

Graduate Student - A student who holds a bachelor's or first-professional degree, or equivalent, and is taking courses at the postbaccalaureate level. These students may or may not be enrolled in graduate programs.

Graduation Rate - Reported as a percentage, the portion of students in a cohort who graduate within certain periods of time such as after 3 years, after 4 years, after 5 years, etc.

Hispanic - Hispanic, non-white or non-black ethnic category including Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, Cuban, and Puerto Rican. It also includes Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race (self-reported).

Int'l - International ethnic category including persons who are not citizens of the United States and who are in this country on a temporary basis and do not have the right to remain indefinitely.

IPEDS, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System - Conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics. IPEDS began in 1986 and involves annual data collections. Survey questionnaires are sent to all postsecondary institutions eligible for federal student financial aid, as determined by the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

Junior - An undergraduate student who has completed 60-89 semester hours.

Level - The categorization of classifications into one of three areas — undergraduate, master's, or doctoral.

Master's - A graduate student possessing a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent and who is admitted to an approved master's degree program.

New Admits - Graduate students newly admitted into a specific graduate degree program.

Non-degree-seeking Student - A student enrolled in courses for credit and not recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or formal award.

Non-resident Aliens - Internationals or those persons who are not citizens or nationals of the United States and are in this country on a visa or temporary basis, and do not have the right to remain indefinitely.

Official Reporting Date - The date on which an institution must report enrollment data to the state, its board of trustees or governing board, or some other external governing body.

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Other - Ethnic category which includes all persons not defined as International and not included in any of the other five specific ethnic categories.

Part-time (PT) - For undergraduate students, enrollment of less than 12 semester credit hours during fall/spring; for graduate students, enrollment of less than 9 semester credit hours.

Persistence Rate - See retention rate.

Post-baccalaureate - A student possessing a baccalaureate degree but who has not been admitted to a graduate program.

Resident Aliens - Non-United States citizens who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence and are reported in the appropriate racial/ethnic categories along with United States citizens.

Retention (Persistence) Rate - Reported as a percentage, the portion of students in a cohort who re-enroll in the fall of the following year until completion or graduation from an institution within six years.

Semester Credit Hour (SCH) - A unit of measure representing an hour (50 minutes) of instruction over a 15-week period in a semester or trimester system or a 10-week period in a quarter system. It is calculated separately for undergraduate lower, undergraduate upper, master's and doctoral levels. Semester credit hour totals do not include MILS, AERO, or SPEC (non-funded) courses.

Senior - An undergraduate student who has completed 90 or more semester hours but who has not graduated.

Sophomore - An undergraduate student who has completed 30-59 semester hours.

State of Residence - A person's permanent address as determined by such evidence as a driver's license or voter registration. For entering freshmen, residence may be the legal residence of a parent or guardian.

Student/Faculty Ratio - Student FTE divided by faculty FTE.

Student FTE - The student full-time equivalent is used to determine a standard enrollment if all students were enrolled full-time, and is calculated by dividing the student semester credit hours by the appropriate full-time hours (12/9 FTE = UG SCH/12 + GR SCH/9, 15/12 FTE = UG SCH/15 + GR SCH/12, or 15/12/9 FTE = UG SCH/15 + MM SCH/12 + DD SCH/9). Of these FTE formulas, 12/9 is most commonly used.

TASP, Texas Academic Skills Program - Testing to insure that students enrolled in all Texas public colleges and universities possess the academic skills needed to perform effectively in college-level course work. Students who have not earned at least three semester credit hours prior to the Fall 1989 term must be tested if they do not have qualifying ACT, SAT or TAAS scores. Students attempting to acquire teacher certification are not eligible for the three hour exemption.

THECB, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - The state governing board for public higher education in Texas.

Transfer - A student entering the reporting institution for the first time but known to have previously attended a postsecondary institution at the same level and completed 12 or more semester credit hours.

UGL, Undergraduate Lower - Used in reference to 1000 and 2000 level courses when calculating semester credit hour production.

UGU, Undergraduate Upper - Used in reference to 3000 and 4000 level courses when calculating semester credit hour production.

Undergraduate Student - A student enrolled in a 4- or 5-year bachelor's degree program, an associate's degree program, or a vocational or technical program below the baccalaureate.

Unduplicated Count - The sum of students enrolled for credit, with each student counted only once during the reporting period.

White - Non-Hispanic, white ethnic category including persons having origins in any of the original people of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East except those of Hispanic origin (self-reported).