



The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education®

2018 Update Facts & Figures

DESCRIPTIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Part 1 – The Current Landscape of Higher Education as Characterized by the Carnegie Classifications

Part 2 –Changes in the Landscape from the 2015 to the 2018 Updates

Based on Classifications as of March 19, 2021 (Revision 8)

CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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The BASIC Classification - Few Large and Many Small Enrollment Institutions

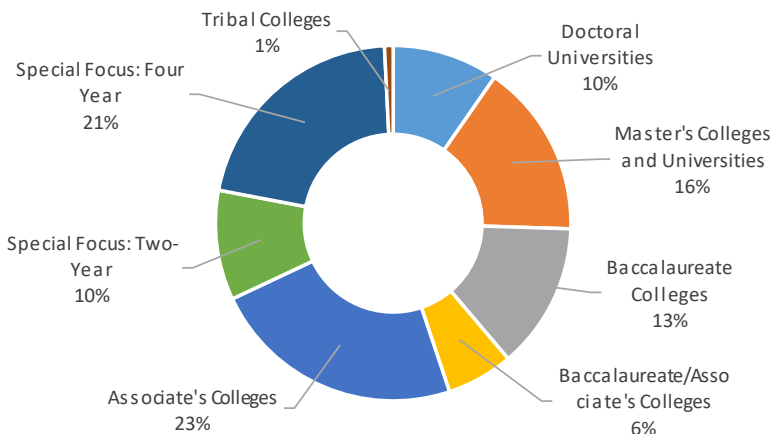
When viewed by broad categories of degree level and focus, the U.S. degree-granting postsecondary institution landscape is characterized by relatively few institutions that enroll many students, and relatively many that enroll few students.

From an enrollment perspective, the two largest basic classification aggregate categories, are Doctoral Universities and Associates Colleges, enrolling slightly over one-third (36%) and under one-third (29%), respectively of all students in degree-granting institutions. Nonetheless, Associates College’s account for just under one-fourth (23%) of institutions and Doctoral Universities just one in ten (10%). Conversely, Special Focus institutions, two-year and four-year combined, account for nearly one-third of all institutions (31%), but only 4% of all enrollments.

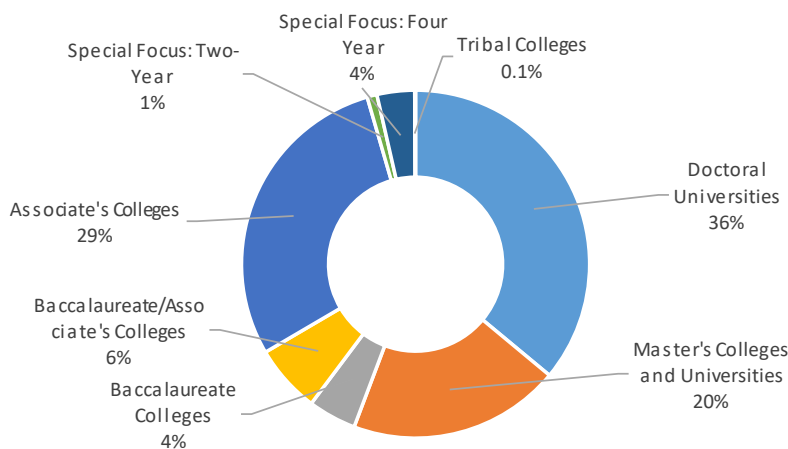
U.S. Postsecondary Institutions by Degree Level and Program Focus

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Doctoral Universities	418	10%	7,229,265	36%
Master's Colleges and Universities	685	16%	3,955,922	20%
Baccalaureate Colleges	575	13%	898,818	4%
Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges	262	6%	1,270,740	6%
Associate's Colleges	1,000	23%	5,808,423	29%
Special Focus: Two-Year	432	10%	183,775	1%
Special Focus: Four Year	918	21%	700,442	3%
Tribal Colleges	34	1%	16,424	0.1%
Grand Total	4,324		20,063,809	

Number of Institutions by Broad Category



Enrollment by Broad Category



Further details on the classifications and their categories can be found in the definitions section of the Classification web site, <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/definitions.php>.

UNDERGRADUATE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Arts & Sciences v. Professional/Vocational/Technical Focus

The Undergraduate Instructional Program classification describes both Associates Colleges and four-year institutions that have undergraduate programs, according to the proportion of the degrees conferred in 2016-17 in majors that lead to specific professional, technical and vocational career trajectories and those in the disciplinary domains of the Arts & Sciences. For Associates colleges, we distinguish between the vocational and technical fields that are related to careers that require only an associate degree, and all others that generally require further education to enter careers directly related to field of study, which are labeled as a “transfer” focus. These distinctions are then categorized along a continuum. For Associates Colleges, we use three categories, and for four-year colleges and Universities, we use a continuum of five categories.

Associates colleges are relatively evenly distributed in number among the three types of focus. However, enrollments are skewed toward the “Transfer” focus end of the continuum, where you find many of the large, public community colleges. (Note that special focus two-year and baccalaureate/associates colleges are included in separate categories not shown in these tables).

Four-Year Colleges & Universities are skewed, in number of institutions toward the Professional Plus Arts and Sciences (31%) and Professions Focus (30%). Enrollments in the four-year sector, are more normally distributed across this spectrum, with a skew toward the Professions Plus Arts and Sciences, and Professions Focus institutions.

Associates Colleges - Undergraduate Instructional Program Focus

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
High Transfer	342	34%	2,935,267	51%
Mixed Transfer/Career Tech	311	31%	1,967,804	34%
High Career Tech	347	35%	905,352	16%
Grand Total	1,000		5,808,423	

Four-Year Colleges & Universities - Undergraduate Instructional Program Focus

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Arts & Sciences Focus	162	7%	454,980	4%
Arts & Sciences Plus Professions	185	9%	1,062,535	9%
Balances Arts & Sciences/Professions	495	23%	4,744,249	38%
Professions Plus Arts & Sciences	664	31%	4,728,528	38%
Professions Focus	656	30%	1,450,962	12%
Grand Total	2,162		12,441,254	

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GRADUATE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Institutions offering graduate degrees—master’s, research/scholarship doctoral, professional doctoral, and other doctoral—are also arrayed based on the disciplinary focus of their programs. Two additional distinctions are made. First, we distinguish between institutions that offer only master’s degrees and professional doctoral degrees (such as the Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Divinity, and others that provide “the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice”*) or “other” doctoral degrees and those that confer research/scholarship doctoral degrees (“A Ph.D. or other doctor’s degree that requires advanced work beyond the master’s level, including the preparation and defense of a dissertation based on original research, or the planning and execution of an original project demonstrating substantial artistic or scholarly achievement.”*). We also pull out within each broad category, institutions that offer degrees in only one broad disciplinary area (most commonly Health, Business, or Education).

Using these distinctions, two-thirds (66%) of institutions are those that offer only master’s and other than research/scholarship doctoral degrees, but they only account for just over one-third (34%) of total enrollments (Fall 2017). Conversely, the remaining one-third of institutions that confer Ph.D.s and other “research/scholarship” doctoral degrees account for nearly two-thirds (66%) of all enrollments.

Graduate Instructional Program Focus

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Do not confer Research/Scholarship Doctorates	1,348	66%	4,131,443	34%
Single Program	354	17%	280,103	2%
Professions Focus	457	22%	866,756	7%
Arts & Sciences Focus	442	22%	1,879,657	15%
Comprehensive	95	5%	1,104,927	9%
Confer Research/Scholarship Doctorates	686	34%	8,082,833	66%
Single Program	234	12%	960,095	8%
With Focus	279	14%	2,694,512	22%
Comprehensive	173	9%	4,428,226	36%
Grand Total	2,034		12,214,276	

*The quoted text is from the IPEDS Glossary definitions of the various types of doctoral degree designations provided for institutions to report their degree conferrals (U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/VisGlossaryAll.aspx>). Note that there is a third type of doctoral degree (“Other”) which, for the Graduate Instructional Program classification is included with the Master’s and Professional Doctoral Degrees counts.

Further details on the classifications and their categories can be found in the definitions section of the Classification web site, <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/definitions.php>.

ENROLLMENT PROFILE – Mix of Undergraduate and Graduate Students

The Enrollment profile classification arrays institutions according to the mix of undergraduate and graduate students. Among exclusively undergraduate institutions, it further distinguishes among those that only award Associates degrees from those that award Bachelor’s degrees and higher (some of which also confer Associates degrees).

The exclusively undergraduate two-year institutions, which include predominantly Community Colleges and Special Focus vocational and technical colleges, represent one-third of both the institutions (34%) and total student enrollment (30%). Among four-year colleges and universities, the distribution of institutions is relatively uniform, with proportionately higher number (18%) of institutions that are exclusively undergraduate and relatively few that are majority (4%) or exclusively graduate (7%). Among the four-year institutions, the highest enrollments are found among those that are “High undergraduate,” that is, where undergraduate comprise 76% to 90% of the total student body.

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Exclusively undergraduate two-year	1,450	34%	5,998,187	30%
Exclusively undergraduate four-year	770	18%	1,723,797	9%
Very high undergraduate	644	15%	2,985,139	15%
High undergraduate	644	15%	5,865,571	29%
Majority undergraduate	327	8%	2,575,401	13%
Majority graduate	193	4%	753,431	4%
Exclusively graduate	296	7%	162,283	1%
Grand Total	4,324		20,063,809	

Further details on the classifications and their categories can be found in the definitions section of the Classification web site, <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/definitions.php>.

UNDERGRADUATE PROFILE – Course Load, Transfer, and Selectivity

Three factors are represented in the Undergraduate Profile classification. Two- and four-Year Institutions are portrayed according to the proportional mix of full- and part-time students (course load). Four-year institutions are further characterized by the proportion of students who enter as transfers, and broad categories of selectivity (inclusive, selective, and more selective).

Within the two-year sector, the majority of institutions enroll large proportions of part-time students, although two out of five (39%) of the institutions have medium or high proportions of full-time students. But, the medium and especially higher full-time institutions are relatively small in size (including many of the special focus, two-year institutions) as evident in the vast majority (93%) of enrollments being affiliated with institutions enrolling more part-time students.

The situation is reversed at four-year institutions, where the majority of institutions serve primarily full-time students, representing about two thirds of both institutions (65%) and Enrollments (66%).

Slightly over two-thirds (70%) of four-year institutions serve high volumes of transfer students and have much higher enrollments than low transfer institutions.

Although the majority of institutions have inclusive admissions selection criteria, they enroll just over one-third of students. Enrollments are distributed evenly across the three categories of selectivity.

Student Course Load Intensity at Two-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Higher Part-Time (<40% FT)	544	38%	4,131,740	69%
Mixed Full/Part-Time (40-59% FT)	332	23%	1,463,911	24%
Medium Full-Time (61-90% FT)	190	13%	231,208	4%
Higher Full-Time (>90% FT)	367	26%	168,325	3%
Grand Total	1,433		5,995,184	

Student Course Load at Four-Year Institutions with Undergraduate Programs

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Higher Part-Time (<60% FT)	439	17%	2,326,545	17%
Medium Full-Time (60-79% FT)	449	18%	2,389,876	17%
Higher Full-Time (80%+ FT)	1,635	65%	9,152,344	66%
Grand Total	2,523		13,868,765	

Transfer Volume at Four-Year Institutions with Undergraduate Programs

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Low Transfer-In (<20%)	765	30%	3,599,405	26%
High Transfer-In (20%+)*	1,758	70%	10,269,360	74%
Grand Total	2,523		13,868,765	

*Includes the "four-year, higher part-time category, which is not divided according to transfer level because all institutions have relatively higher transfer rates.

Selectivity at Four-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Inclusive (<18)*	1,406	56%	5,024,874	36%
Selective (18-21)*	689	27%	4,495,146	32%
More Selective (21+)*	428	17%	4,348,745	31%
Grand Total	2,523		13,868,765	

Based on average 25th percentile of composite ACT score or equivalent SAT score. For test optional institutions, based on percent of applicants admitted.

Further details on the classifications and their categories can be found in the definitions section of the Classification web site, <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/definitions.php>.

SIZE & SETTING – Course Load, Transfer, and Selectivity

This classification considers the combination of two factors that differentiate institutions that include an undergraduate student population (exclusively graduate program institutions are not classified). Size, that is, the number of enrolled students, is separately calibrated into five categories for two-year colleges and into four categories for four-year colleges and universities. Four-year colleges and universities in each size category are further differentiated according to the proportion of students who live in institutionally-owned, -operated, or -affiliated housing.

With respect to size, the more numerous, smaller institutions enroll a relatively small proportion of students, while the fewer large institutions enroll the majority. Within the two-year sector, the 14% of institutions in the largest two categories enroll 56% of all students. Within the four-year sector, the largest two categories represent 33% of institutions and 85% of enrolled students.

Approximately one-half (45 %) of all four-year institutions, enrolling a corresponding proportion of students, are “primarily nonresidential” having fewer than 25% of students living on campus or more than 50% part-time students. Although accounting for over one-third (34%) of all four-year institutions, the “highly residential group” (>50% on campus and >80% full-time), enroll about one in five (19%) students who attend four-year institutions.

Size Categories* at Two-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Very Small (<500)	502	35%	131,708	2%
Small (500-1,999)	436	30%	759,740	13%
Medium (2,000-4,999)	303	21%	1,716,891	29%
Large (5,000-9,999)	144	10%	1,695,284	28%
Very Large (10,000+)	65	4%	1,694,564	28%
Grand Total	1,450		5,998,187	

Size Categories* at Four-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Very Small (<1,000)	1,014	39%	496,674	4%
Small 1,000-2,999)	719	28%	1,614,285	12%
Medium (3,000-9,999)	539	21%	3,845,802	28%
Large (10,000+)	304	12%	7,945,942	57%
Grand Total	2,576		13,902,703	

*Size based on the FTE of Degree-Seeking students, where FTE = Full-Time Headcount plus 1/3 part-time headcount.

Campus Residence** Status at Four-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2017 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Primarily Nonresidential	1,151	45%	6,328,530	46%
Primarily Residential	561	22%	4,863,544	35%
Highly Residential	864	34%	2,710,629	19%
Grand Total	2,576		13,902,703	

**Based on a combination of percent of undergraduate degree-seeking students living on campus and percent full-time. See definitions on web site for further details.

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Overall Changes in Institutions Included in the Classifications

The Carnegie Classifications includes all U.S. degree-granting, Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions that granted at least one degree in the target year (2016-17 for the 2018 Update; 2013-14 for the 2015 Update). The total number of institutions included in the 2018 classification is 4,324, which was fewer than the number in the 2015 update, by 7.3%. Some institutional closures, and a larger number of mergers and reorganizations account for these differences

Degree-Granting, Title IV Eligible Institutions in the 2015 and 2018 Classifications by Sector

	In the 2018 Update			In 2015/ not in 2018	Total in 2015
	in 2015	New	Total		
Public	1,627	27	1,654	23	1,650
Two-Year	873	9	882	16	889
Four-Year	754	18	772	7	761
Private, Non-Profit	1,670	71	1,741	90	1,760
Two-Year	81	20	101	8	89
Four-Year	1589	51	1,640	82	1,671
Private, For Profit	808	121	929	454	1,262
Two-Year	382	87	469	166	548
Four-Year	426	34	460	288	714
Grand Total	4,105	219	4,324	567	4,672

Further details on the classifications and their categories can be found in the definitions section of the Classification web site, <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/definitions.php>.

Movement among the Broad Basic Classification Categories

The following table depicts the change in classification among the 4,105 institutions included in both the 2015 and 2018 Classification updates, grouped according to the broad categories defined by program comprehensiveness and degree level.

Changes in Broad Basic Classification Category Among Institutions in both the 2015 and 2018 Classifications

Basic Classification 2015	Basic Classification 2018							
	Doctoral	Masters	Baccalaureate	Baccalaureate /Associates	Associates	Special Focus: Two Year	Special Focus: Four Year	Tribal Colleges
Doctoral	320	13						
Masters	92	616	28				11	
Baccalaureate	1	42	484	6			7	
Baccalaureate/Associates		3	33	195	4	1	12	
Associates				49	950	34	3	
Special Focus: Two-Year				1	24	296	14	
Special Focus: Four-Year	4	7	15	7		7	792	
Tribal Colleges								34
Total	417	681	560	258	978	338	839	34
Doctoral	77%	3%						
Masters	22%	148%	7%				2.6%	
Baccalaureate	0.2%	10%	116%	1%			2%	
Baccalaureate/Associates		1%	8%	47%	1%	0.2%	2.9%	
Associates and Special Focus: Two-Year				12%	228%	8%	0.7%	
Special Focus: Four-Year				0.2%	6%	71%	3%	
Tribal Colleges								100%

Further details on the classifications and their categories can be found in the definitions section of the Classification web site, <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/definitions.php>.

Changes among Doctoral Research Universities

The final table below shows the movement of institutions into and out of the doctoral granting categories between 2015 and 2018. Of the 131 institutions that were in the “Doctoral Universities – Highest Research Activity” category in 2015, 115 of them stayed in the corresponding category of the 2018 classifications, “Doctoral Universities – Very High Research Activity”. Sixteen institutions that were in the “Higher Research” 2015 category moved into the “Very High” 2018 category. Eighty-seven institutions in the “Higher Research” 2015 category remained in the corresponding category for 2018, with three institutions moving into the third newly created, “Doctoral/Professional Universities” category, to accommodate the professional doctorates*. Thirteen Master’s institutions and one Special Focus Four-Year Institution moved into the Doctoral Universities-High Research.

Sixty-five of the 111 “Doctoral Universities: Moderate Research Activity remained in the corresponding category (the new Doctoral/Professional Universities) for 2018, while 34 moved into the “High Research” 2018 category. Also moving into this new category were eighty Master’s institutions, one Baccalaureate institution and three Special Focus Four-Year institutions. Finally, one 2015 “Higher Research” and 12 “Moderate Research” universities moved into the Master’s Colleges and Universities categories in the 2018 Update.

2018 Doctoral Universities	2015 Doctoral Universities			Other 2015 Institutions			Total
	Highest Research	Higher Research	Moderate Research	Master's	Baccalaureate	Special Focus	
Very High Research	115	16					131
High Research		87	34	13		1	135
Doctoral/Professional		3	65	80	1	3	152
Other 2018 (Master's)		1	12				13
Total	115	107	111	93	1	4	431

*include degrees such as the MD, JD, Pharm.D., D.Div, etc., which were not been considered as part of the Basic Classification methodology in previous updates.

Further details on the classifications and their categories can be found in the definitions section of the Classification web site, <http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/definitions.php>.