



2015 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 2010 to the 2015 Updates

Note: This report is based on the initial official release of the 2015 Update, released on February 1, 2016. Changes made after that point are included in the Public Data File and Classification Summary Tables but not in this report.

CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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The BASIC Classification - Fewer 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.

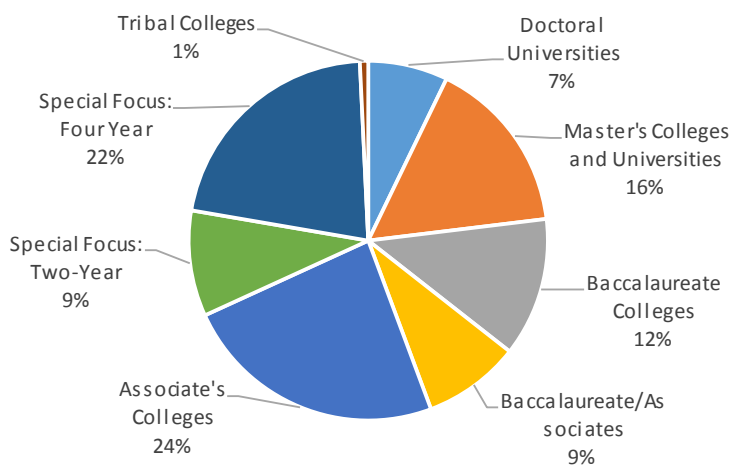
From an enrollment perspective, the two largest basic classification aggregate categories, are Doctoral Universities and Associate’s Colleges, each enrolling almost one-third of all students in degree-granting institutions. However, Associates College’s account for just under one-quarter (24%) of institutions and Doctoral Universities less than one in fourteen (7%).

At the other end of the spectrum, Special Focus institutions, two-year and four-year combined, account for nearly one-third of all institutions (32%) but only 5% of all enrollments.

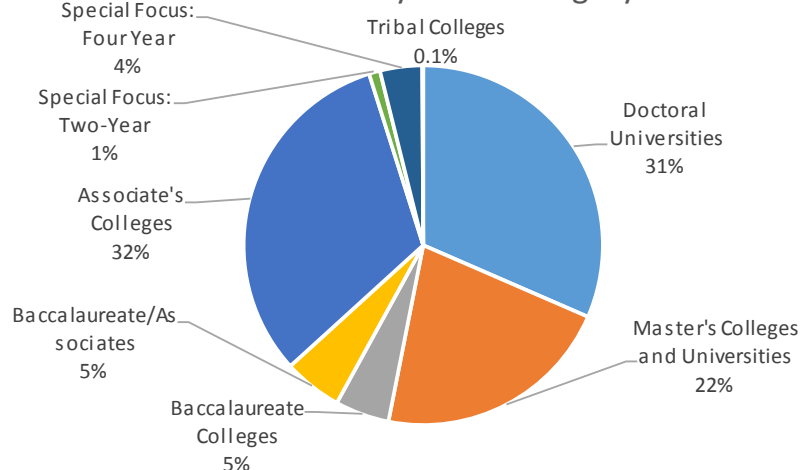
U.S. Postsecondary Institutions by Degree Level and Program Focus

	Institutions		Fall 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Doctoral Universities	335	7%	6,455,622	32%
Master's Colleges and Universities	741	16%	4,422,535	22%
Baccalaureate Colleges	583	13%	999,834	5%
Baccalaureate/Associates	408	9%	1,079,576	5%
Associate's Colleges	1,113	24%	6,524,819	32%
Special Focus: Two-Year	444	10%	204,321	1%
Special Focus: Four Year	1,005	22%	776,979	4%
Tribal Colleges	35	1%	17,929	0.1%
Grand Total	4,664		20,481,615	

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 two-year and four-year institutions that have undergraduate programs, according to the proportion of 2013-14 degrees conferred in majors that lead to specific professional, technical and career trajectories and those in disciplinary domains of the Arts & Sciences. For Associate's colleges, we distinguish career and technical fields that require only an associate's degree, and all others that generally require further education for related employment, which are labeled as a "transfer" focus. These distinctions are then categorized along a continuum. For Associate's Colleges, we use three categories, and for four-year colleges and Universities, we use a continuum of five categories.

Associate's colleges are relatively uniformly distributed in number among the three focuses. 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 to the Professions focus, where at the extreme profession end you find many small "special focus" institutions. Enrollments in the four-year sector, are approximately normally distributed across this spectrum, with a skew toward the professions focus.

Associate's Colleges - Undergraduate Instructional Program Focus

	Institutions		Fall 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
High Transfer	377	34%	3,276,783	50%
Mixed Transfer/Vocational & Technical	342	31%	2,238,359	34%
High Vocational & Technical	394	35%	1,009,677	15%
Grand Total	1,113		6,524,819	

Four-Year Colleges & Universities - Instructional Program Focus

	Institutions		Fall 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Arts & Sciences Focus	195	8%	545,425	4%
Arts & Sciences Plus Professions	218	9%	1,320,321	11%
Balanced Arts & Sciences/Professions	545	23%	5,290,746	42%
Professions Plus Arts & Sciences	590	25%	3,772,730	30%
Professions Focus	829	35%	1,560,450	12%
Grand Total	2,377		12,489,672	

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>.

GRADUATE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

Institutions offering graduate degrees—master’s, professional doctoral, and research/scholarship 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”*) and 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 (68%) of institutions offering any graduate programs are those that offer only master’s and professional doctoral degrees, but they account for just over one-quarter (28%) of graduate degrees conferred in 2013-14. Conversely, the remaining one third of institutions that confer Ph.D.s and other “research/scholarship” doctoral degrees account for nearly three-quarters (72%) of all graduate degrees conferred in 2013-14.

Graduate Instructional Program Focus

	Institutions		2013-14 Degrees	
	N	%	N	%
Confer only Master's and Professional Doctoral Degrees				
Single Program	503	25%	35,243	4%
Professions Focus	332	16%	55,526	6%
Arts & Sciences Focus	438	22%	105,088	11%
Comprehensive	93	5%	62,324	7%
Confer Research/Scholarship Doctoral Degrees				
Single Program	233	12%	88,182	9%
With Focus	247	12%	209,090	22%
Comprehensive	170	8%	392,743	41%
Grand Total	2,016		948,196	

*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://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/?charindex=D>). 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 Associate's degrees from those that award Bachelor's degrees and higher (some of which also confer Associate's degrees).

The exclusively undergraduate two-year institutions, which include Community Colleges and Special Focus career and technical colleges, represent one-third of both the number of institutions and aggregate student enrollment. Among four-year colleges and universities, a proportionately higher number of institutions are exclusively undergraduate and relatively few are majority or exclusively graduate. Also, 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 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Exclusively undergraduate two-year	1,579	34%	6,736,687	33%
Exclusively undergraduate four-year	968	21%	1,535,883	7%
Very high undergraduate	528	11%	1,955,604	10%
High undergraduate	660	14%	6,069,152	30%
Majority undergraduate	434	9%	3,240,588	16%
Majority graduate	198	4%	787,854	4%
Exclusively graduate	297	6%	155,847	1%
Grand Total	4,664		20,481,615	

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 over 40% 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). The vast majority of enrollments are within institutions enrolling more part-time students.

The situation is reversed at four-year institutions, where the vast majority of institutions and students serve primarily full-time students.

Four-year institutions are almost evenly split between those that serve low and high volumes of transfer students, although enrollments are higher among the high transfer-in institutions.

Although the majority of institutions have more inclusive admissions policies, enrollments are very evenly divided across the three levels of selectivity.

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>.

Student Course Load Intensity at Two-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Higher Part-Time (<40% FT)	510	32%	4,270,580	63%
Mixed Full/Part-Time (40-59% FT)	406	26%	1,879,798	28%
Medium Full-Time (61-90% FT)	269	17%	379,051	6%
Higher Full-Time (>90% FT)	394	25%	207,258	3%
Grand Total	1,579		6,736,687	

Student Course Load Intensity at Four-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Higher Part-Time (<60% FT)	449	16%	2,033,554	15%
Medium Full-Time (60-79% FT)	606	22%	2,634,438	19%
Higher Full-Time (80%+ FT)	1,733	62%	8,921,089	66%
Grand Total	2,788		13,589,081	

Transfer Volume at Four-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Low Transfer-In (<20%)	1,319	47%	5,349,991	39%
High Transfer-In (20%+)	1,469	53%	8,239,090	61%
Grand Total	2,788		13,589,081	

Selectivity at Four-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Inclusive (<18)*	1,711	61%	4,806,136	35%
Selective (18-21)*	651	23%	4,484,141	33%
More Selective (21+)*	426	15%	4,298,804	32%
Grand Total	2,788		13,589,081	

*Based on average 25th percentile of composite ACT score or equivalent SAT score

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 16% of institutions in the largest two categories enroll 60% of all students. Within the four-year sector, the largest two categories represent 29% of institutions and 83% of enrolled students.

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

Size Categories* at Two-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Very Small (<500)	531	34%	152,431	2%
Small (500-1,999)	470	30%	768,066	11%
Medium (2,000-4,999)	329	21%	1,811,740	27%
Large (5,000-9,999)	174	11%	2,057,389	31%
Very Large (10,000+)	75	5%	1,947,061	29%
Grand Total	1,579		6,736,687	

Size Categories* at Four-Year Institutions

	Institutions		Fall 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Very Small (<1,000)	1,188	43%	587,166	4%
Small 1,000-2,999)	782	28%	1,731,145	13%
Medium (3,000-9,999)	514	18%	3,548,119	26%
Large (10,000+)	304	11%	7,722,651	57%
Grand Total	2,788		13,589,081	

*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 2014 Enrollment	
	N	%	N	%
Primarily Nonresidential	1,429	51%	6,596,446	49%
Primarily Residential	604	22%	4,727,411	35%
Highly Residential	755	27%	2,265,224	17%
Grand Total	2,788		13,589,081	

**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.

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>.

Overall Changes in Institutions Included in the Classifications

The Carnegie Classifications includes all U.S. degree-granting, Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions. The total number of institutions included in the 2015 classification, 4,664, is only 30 larger than the number appearing in the 2010 Update, less than a one percent increase. However, this difference belies the fact that nearly 10% of the institutions changed, the majority of which are in the For Profit sector. Within that sector, the changes were evenly divided between two- and four-year institutions.

However, the 10% change is also misleading, because a portion of those changes reflect reconfigurations of existing institutions, such as many that changed their structure. This is most notable among for profit universities include campuses distributed across the U.S. For example, in 2010 the University of Phoenix was represented as 74 different entities typically labeled according to the city in which they were based. For 2015, the University of Phoenix includes 38 state-level institutions. Strayer University, on the other hand, went from one institution in 2010 to 18 state-level entities. Conversely, the public, two-year Ivy Tech Community College in Indiana, reported in 2010 as 14 regional entities and, in 2015, as one statewide institution. As another example, Georgia recently implemented a series of mergers among its public institutions. Whereas the 2010 update included 69 Georgia public universities, the 2015 update includes only 55.

Degree-Granting, Title IV Eligible Institutions in the 2010 and 2015 Classifications by Sector

	In the 2015 Update			In the 2010 Update		
	Present in 2010	Not in 2010	Total	Present in 2015	Not in 2015	Total
Public	1,620	24	1,644	1,620	85	1,705
Two-Year	917	11	928	917	67	984
Four-Year	703	13	716	703	18	721
Private, Non-Profit	1,637	93	1,730	1,637	89	1,726
Two-Year	68	15	83	68	13	81
Four-Year	1,569	78	1,647	1,569	76	1,645
Private, For Profit	967	323	1,290	967	236	1,203
Two-Year	433	135	568	433	124	557
Four-Year	534	188	722	534	112	646
Grand Total	4,224	440	4,664	4,224	410	4,634

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 4,224 institutions included in both the 2010 and 2015 Classification updates (grouped according to the broad categories in the 2015 update). Some of these changes are related to slight modifications in the methodology that resulted in an increase in Special Focus institutions.

Changes in Broad Basic Classification Category Among Institutions in both the 2010 and 2015 Classifications

2015 ↓	2010 →	Doctoral	Masters	Baccalaureate	Bacc/Assoc	Associate's	Special Focus: Four Year	Tribal Colleges
Doctoral		286	39	4				
Masters		8	587	94	4	4	1	
Baccalaureate			36	501	16	5		
Baccalaureate/Associates			8	13	173	152		
Associates and Special Focus: Two-Year					5	1393	1	
Special Focus: Four-Year		1	14	22	23	45	757	
Tribal Colleges								32
Total		295	684	634	221	1599	759	32
Doctoral		97%	6%	1%				
Masters		3%	86%	15%	2%	0.3%	0.1%	
Baccalaureate			5%	79%	7%	0.3%		
Baccalaureate/Associates			1%	2%	78%	10%		
Associates and Special Focus: Two-Year					2%	87%	0.1%	
Special Focus: Four-Year		0.3%	2%	3%	10%	3%	100%	
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 depicts the movement of institutions into and out of the doctoral granting categories between 2010 and 2015. Of the 108 institutions that were in the “Research Universities (very high research activity)” category in 2010, 100 of them remained in the corresponding category of the 2015 classifications, “Doctoral Universities – Highest Research Activity” and eight moved into the “Higher Research” category. Fifteen institutions that were in the “High” 2010 category moved into the “Highest” 2015 category, for a net gain of 7 institutions. Seventy-eight other “High” 2010 institutions remained in the corresponding category for 2015 with five institutions moving into the third, “Moderate Research Activity” category. One institution (The Polytechnic Institute of New York) was subsumed into another “Highest Research” university, New York University.

Sixty-four of the 90 “Doctoral/Research Universities remained in the corresponding category for 2015, with 16 others moving into the “Higher” category, eight moving into the master’s realm, and one into special focus. The remaining institution is a University of Phoenix institution, previously reported as the “Online Campus” and now as the “Arizona” campus. Because of the change in reporting status, this University of Phoenix campus is technically a different institution, which also reflects that it now represents the online campus as well as the physical campuses in the state of Arizona. Several previously Master’s level institutions appear in the Doctoral categories in 2015, including 36 in the “Moderate” and three in the “Higher” levels. Finally four 2010 Baccalaureate institutions passed the threshold for entering into the Doctoral realm. Three of these are campuses of the Argosy University system.

2015 Classification	2010 Doctorate-Granting Universities			Other 2010		Total
	Research: Very High	Research: High	Doctoral/Research	Master's	Baccalaureate	
Doctoral: Highest Research	100	15				115
Doctoral: Higher Research	8	78	16	3		105
Doctoral: Moderate Research		5	64	36	4	109
Master's (any size category)			8			329
Special Focus: Four-Year			1			
Changed Institutional Status		1	1			
Total	108	99	90	297		

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>.