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DATA SOURCES

Photography

A special thanks to Clinton Lewis, University Photographer and Communications Officer, for providing the photographs displayed throughout the Fact Book.

General Information

- Benchmark Universities' Institutional Research websites
- US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools
- Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges (www.princetonreview.com)
- Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (www.cpe.ky.gov)
- Western Kentucky University Communications and Marketing
- Western Kentucky University Office of the Registrar
- Western Kentucky University Graduate School
- Western Kentucky University Office of the President
- Western Kentucky University Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Student Profile

- Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (www.cpe.ky.gov)
- Western Kentucky University Common Data Set Survey
- Western Kentucky University Enrollment Reports
- Western Kentucky University's Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky School Profile and website (www.wku.edu/academy)

Faculty and Staff

- American Association of University Professors Faculty Compensation Survey (AAUP)
- Western Kentucky University Employee Reports
- Western Kentucky University Faculty Reports
- Western Kentucky University Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



Departmental Information

- Western Kentucky University Average Test Score Reports
- Western Kentucky University Degree Summary
- Western Kentucky University Program Enrollment Reports
- Western Kentucky University Program Graduate Reports
- Western Kentucky University Workload Reports

University Resources

- College Board (2024). Trends in College Pricing.
- Western Kentucky University Applications and Programming Services
- Western Kentucky University Department of Student Financial Assistance
- Western Kentucky University Libraries
- Western Kentucky University Office of Accounting & Financial Reporting
- Western Kentucky University Office of Sponsored Programs
- Western Kentucky University Office of Student Billing & Account Services

Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement

- Western Kentucky University Division of Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement

Athletics & Student Life

- Western Kentucky University Division of Enrollment and Student Experience
- Western Kentucky University Intercollegiate Athletics
- Western Kentucky University Department of Housing and Residence Life
- Western Kentucky University Police Department



DATA DICTIONARY

Advanced placement: College-level courses taught in high school. Students may take an examination at the completion of the course and may earn college credit. *Source: College Board*

American Indian or Alaska Native: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community attachment. *Source: IPEDS*

Applicant (first-time, first-year): An individual who has fulfilled the institution's requirements to be considered for admission (including payment or waiving of the application fee, if any) and who has been notified of one of the following actions: admission, non-admission, placement on waiting list, or application withdrawn by applicant (by applicant or institution). *Source: Common Data Set*

Asian: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam. *Source: IPEDS*

Associate degree: An award that normally requires at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Audit: Normally for-credit course taken for zero hours credit. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Baccalaureate degree: an award that normally requires at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent. This includes all bachelor's degrees conferred in a five year cooperative (work study) program and degrees in which the normal four years of work are completed in three years. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Black or African-American: A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. *Source: IPEDS*

Certificate: A formal award certifying the satisfactory completion of a postsecondary education program. *Source: IPEDS*

Degree: An award conferred by a postsecondary education institution as official recognition for the successful completion of an academic program. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Degree-seeking students: Students enrolled in courses for credit who are recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or formal award. *Source: Common Data Set*

Duplicated (enrollments & credentials): Because students may declare more than one major, a duplicated count credits each of the student's major(s). *Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research*

First-time first-year student: A student attending the institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. Also includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term, and students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school). *Source: Common Data Set*

Freshman: An undergraduate student who has graduated from high school and earned fewer than 30 semester credit hours. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Full-time equivalent students (1/3 method): A single value providing a meaningful combination of full-time and part-time students calculated by taking the total of full-time students plus one-third of part-time students. *Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research*



Full-time student: An undergraduate student enrolled for at least 12 credit hours, or a graduate student enrolled for at least nine credit hours. Hours in courses taken for audit are to be included in the calculation of full-time status. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Graduate student: A student who holds at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent and is taking courses at the post-baccalaureate level. *Source: Common Data Set*

Hispanic: A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. *Source: IPEDS*

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE): Coordinates change and improvement in Kentucky's postsecondary education system as directed by the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Junior: An undergraduate student who has earned at least 60, but fewer than 90, semester credit hours. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Master's degree: An award that requires the successful completion of an academic program of at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

National Merit Scholar: Recipient of a prestigious national award given annually to honor academically talented U.S. high school students. *Source: National Merit Scholarship Corporation*

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. *Source: IPEDS*

Non-degree seeking student: A student enrolled in courses for credit who is not seeking a degree or recognized postsecondary credential. *Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research*

Non-traditional student: A distinction made only at the undergraduate level based on the age of the student. Students age 25 or older are categorized as non-traditional. *Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research*

Part-time student: An undergraduate student enrolled in less than 12 credit hours, or a graduate student enrolled in less than nine credit hours. *Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research*

Post-baccalaureate student: A student with a baccalaureate degree who is working toward another baccalaureate degree, an associate degree, or a certificate, or who is taking undergraduate coursework but not pursuing an additional degree. *Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research*

Regional Campuses: WKU campuses located and designed to meet the needs of specific regions within Kentucky. There are three regional campus sites: Glasgow, Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox, and Owensboro. *Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research*

Senior: An undergraduate student who has earned at least 90 semester credit hours. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Sophomore: An undergraduate student who has earned at least 30, but fewer than 60, semester credit hours. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Specialist's degree student: An award that normally requires 60 semester hours of concentrated and approved graduate coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. It is generally offered in the field of education to acknowledge completion of advanced graduate study designed to help individuals meet licensure requirements or develop additional knowledge and skill beyond the master's degree but not at the doctoral level. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

**Student credit hour production (SCHP):**

Calculated by multiplying the number of students enrolled in a course by the credit hours awarded for the course. *Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research*

Student to faculty ratio: Ratio of full-time equivalent students (full-time plus 1/3 part time) to full-time equivalent instructional faculty (full time plus 1/3 part time). *Source: Common Data Set*

Tenure: Status with respect to permanence of a faculty member's position. *Source: IPEDS*

Tenure track: Personnel positions that lead to consideration of tenure. *Source: IPEDS*

Terminal degree: The highest degree you may earn in a particular discipline. Note that not all disciplines are studied at all levels, so a terminal degree in one field may be different than another's. *Source: Princeton Review*

Traditional student: A distinction made only at the undergraduate level based on the age of the student. Students who are less than 25 years of age are categorized as traditional. *Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research*

Transfer student (first-time): A certificate-, diploma-, or degree-seeking student entering the reporting institution for the first time but known to have previously attended a postsecondary institution at the same level (e.g., technical, undergraduate, graduate). The student may transfer with or without credit. *Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education*

Undergraduate: A student enrolled in a four- or five-year bachelor's degree program, an associate degree program, or a vocational or technical program below the baccalaureate. *Source: Common Data Set*

U.S. Nonresident: A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely. *Source: IPEDS*

White: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. *Source: IPEDS*