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DATA SOURCES

Photography

A special thanks to Clinton Lewis and Bryan Lemon in University Publications for providing the photographs displayed throughout the Fact Book.

General Information

- Benchmark Universities’ Institutional Research websites
- US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools
- Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (www.cpe.ky.gov)
- 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
- Western Kentucky University Publications

Students

- 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)
- Western Kentucky University Regional Campus Enrollment Reports

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

Resources

- Western Kentucky University Bursar’s Office
- Western Kentucky University Libraries
- Western Kentucky University Office of Accounting
- Western Kentucky University Office of Sponsored Programs
- Western Kentucky University Office of Student Financial Assistance

Alumni & Development

- Western Kentucky University Office of Enterprise Applications and Programming
- Western Kentucky University Office of Enterprise Systems
- Western Kentucky University Office of Alumni Relations
- Western Kentucky University Office of the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

Athletics & Student Services

- Western Kentucky University Division of Student Affairs
- Western Kentucky University Intramural - Recreational Sports
- Western Kentucky University Office of Athletic Media Relations
- Western Kentucky University Office of Housing and Residence Life
- Western Kentucky University Police Department
POINTS OF CONTACT

Academic Advising and Retention Center ...........................................(270) 745-5065
Academic Affairs ..............................................................(270) 745-2296
Admissions .................................................................(270) 745-2551
Athletics ......................................................................(270) 745-3542
Billings and Receivables (Bursar) ..............................................(270) 745-6381
Campus Operator ..........................................................(270) 745-0111
Center for Career and Professional Development ............(270) 745-3095
College of Arts and Letters ..............................................(270) 745-2344
College of Business .........................................................(270) 745-6311
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences .........(270) 745-4662
College of Health and Human Services ......................(270) 745-7003
College of Science and Engineering ...................................(270) 745-4448
Development and Alumni Relations .........................(270) 745-6208
Division of Extended Learning and Outreach .........(270) 745-1900
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)/AA/ University ADA (270) 745-5121
Financial Affairs ...........................................................(270) 745-2434
Graduate School ...............................................................(270) 745-2446
Housing and Residence Life ...........................................(270) 745-4359
Human Resources ..............................................................(270) 745-5360
Information Technology ....................................................(270) 745-2243
Intercultural Student Engagement Center ...................(270) 745-5066
Mahurin Honors College .................................................(270) 745-2081
Office of Institutional Research ..............................(270) 745-3250
Office of International Programs .................................(270) 745-5334
Office of the President .........................................................(270) 745-4346
Public Affairs .................................................................(270) 745-4586
Registrar’s Office ..............................................................(270) 745-3351
Student Activities ..............................................................(270) 745-2459
Student Affairs .................................................................(270) 745-2791
Student Financial Assistance ..................................................(270) 745-2755
Ticket Office .................................................................(270) 745-5222
University College ..............................................................(270) 745-4092
University Libraries ..........................................................(270) 745-3951
WKU Police Department .....................................................(270) 745-2548

want more?

Visit our website for more information

The Office of Institutional Research is available to provide longitudinal data about Western Kentucky University. Should you need additional information, please visit our website at www.wku.edu/instres
SELECTED WKU WEBSITES

Academic Advising ................................................................. www.wku.edu/advising
Academic Affairs ................................................................. www.wku.edu/academicaffairs
Admissions ........................................................................ www.wku.edu/admissions
Alumni Relations ............................................................... www.wku.alumni.org
Athletics ........................................................................... www.wkusports.com
Center for Career and Professional Development ............ www.wku.edu/career
College of Arts & Letters ................................................... www.wku.edu/pcal
College of Business ......................................................... www.wku.edu/business
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences ................ www.wku.edu/cebs
College of Health and Human Services ............................. www.wku.edu/chhs
College of Science and Engineering ................................. www.wku.edu/ogden
Development & Alumni Relations ...................................... www.wku.edu/dar
Equal Opportunity/AA/University ADA ............................. www.wku.edu/eoo
Financial Affairs ............................................................... www.wku.edu/finadmin
Graduate School ............................................................... www.wku.edu/graduate
Honors College ................................................................ www.wku.edu/honors
Housing and Residence Life .............................................. www.wku.edu/housing
Human Resources ............................................................. www.wku.edu/HR
Information Technology ................................................... www.wku.edu/it
Intercultural Student Engagement Center ........................... www.wku.edu/isec
Institutional Research ......................................................... www.wku.edu/instres
Office of International Programs ....................................... www.wku.edu/oip
Orientation (New Student) ................................................ www.wku.edu/top
Registrar ........................................................................... www.wku.edu/registrar
Student Activities ............................................................. www.wku.edu/sao
Student Affairs ................................................................. www.wku.edu/student_affairs
Student Financial Assistance ........................................... www.wku.edu/financialaid
University College .......................................................... www.wku.edu/uc
University Libraries ......................................................... www.wku.edu/library
WKU Police Dept ............................................................. www.wku.edu/police
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

Doctoral Degree – Research/Scholarship: A Ph.D. or other doctoral 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. Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education

Doctoral Degree – Professional Practice: A doctoral degree that is conferred upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice. The degree is awarded after a period of study such that the total time to the degree, including both pre-professional and professional preparation, equals at least six full-time equivalent academic years. Some of these degrees were formerly classified as “first-professional.” Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education

Doctoral Degree–Other: A doctoral degree that does not meet the definition of a doctoral degree-research/scholarship or a doctoral degree-professional practice. Source: KY Council on Postsecondary Education

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

Governor’s Scholar: A summer residential program for outstanding high school students in Kentucky who are rising seniors. Students who are selected attend the Program without charge. The Program’s mission is to enhance Kentucky’s next generation of civic and economic leaders and has grown to over 1,000 students on three campuses. Source: Governor’s Scholars Program

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 chooses not to pursue a degree or formal award. Source: WKU Office of Institutional Research

Nonresident Alien: 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

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

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