

Enrollment Definitions

The Oregon University System (OUS), like all other higher education institutions, employs several different definitions in counting enrollment. The various definitions serve different purposes: budget preparation, workload evaluation, federal reporting, single-point snapshots, and description of OUS' provision of educational services.

Headcount Enrollment

Headcount enrollment reflects the number of individual students enrolled in credit courses, regardless of course load. Historical enrollment has generally been expressed in terms of fall headcount. National comparisons of enrollment are most often made on the basis of fall headcount.

Including extended enrollment

In summer of 1999, OUS began including extended enrollment in its reports, including enrollment in continuing education courses, web-based courses, contract courses, and other off-campus courses. For historical purposes in this Fact Book, we have gone back to 1991 to have comparable enrollment headcounts that include extended enrollment.

Historical

For long-term historical comparisons, however, we have continued to identify headcounts that are in regular, or in-load, courses only, that exclude extended enrollments in the singular report of over thirty years of historical enrollment. The historical Base Enrollment reports were updated only through Fall 1998.

Total unduplicated headcount

Total unduplicated headcount enrollment provides a more comprehensive picture of students served in credit courses by the Oregon University System. This number reflects the total of all students, counted only once, enrolled in an OUS institution during any of the four terms of the year, regardless of course load. Both regular and extended campus enrollments are included in this number.

Full-time Equivalence (FTE)

Full-time equivalence (FTE) measures the total credit-bearing activity of a campus, including extended enrollment. The definition varies depending on the level of the student. The full-time equivalent for an undergraduate is assumed to be 15 term credit hours (or 45 annual credit hours). For a master's and professional level students, the number is 12 credit hours (36 annual credit hours), and for a doctoral student, the number is 9 term credit hours (27 annual credit hours).

OSU Cascades

OSU Cascades opened in Fall 2001 offering programs administered by Oregon State University (OSU), Eastern Oregon University (EOU), University of Oregon (UO), Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), and Linfield College. Fact Book reports include only students registered in credit courses taught through the OUS institutions: EOU, OSU, and UO.