



SPRING INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE CENTER

How to Search for Colleges or Universities

**THERE ARE MANY
UNIVERSITIES TO CHOOSE
FROM**

**YOU WILL PROBABLY FIND
ONE THAT FITS YOU!**

How many universities should
I choose?

~6

How many universities are
there in the USA?

>3000

General advice

- A 'college' offers Bachelor's (Baccalaureate) level degrees
- A 'university' offers Master's and Doctorate level degrees too
- This will be a lot of work, but it affects many years of your life! It is worth the effort
- Paper materials can be sent by mail but may take 6+ weeks to arrive. Websites are instant!
- Graduate students - choose your major very carefully. Changing programs or concentrations is difficult
- Some academic areas are 'concentrations' or 'specializations' within a general field, eg highway engineering within civil engineering

Types of degrees include:

***PhD** (Doctor of Philosophy)

***Ed D** (Doctor of Education)

MS (Masters of Science)

MA (Masters of Arts)

MEd (Masters of Education)

***MFA** (Masters of Fine Arts)

****MBA** (Masters of Business Administration)

****MPA** (Masters of Public Administration)

BS (Bachelors of Science)

BA (Bachelors of Arts)

BFA (Bachelors of Fine Arts)

***Terminal degrees** – usually the highest level you can study in a subject

****Professional degrees**

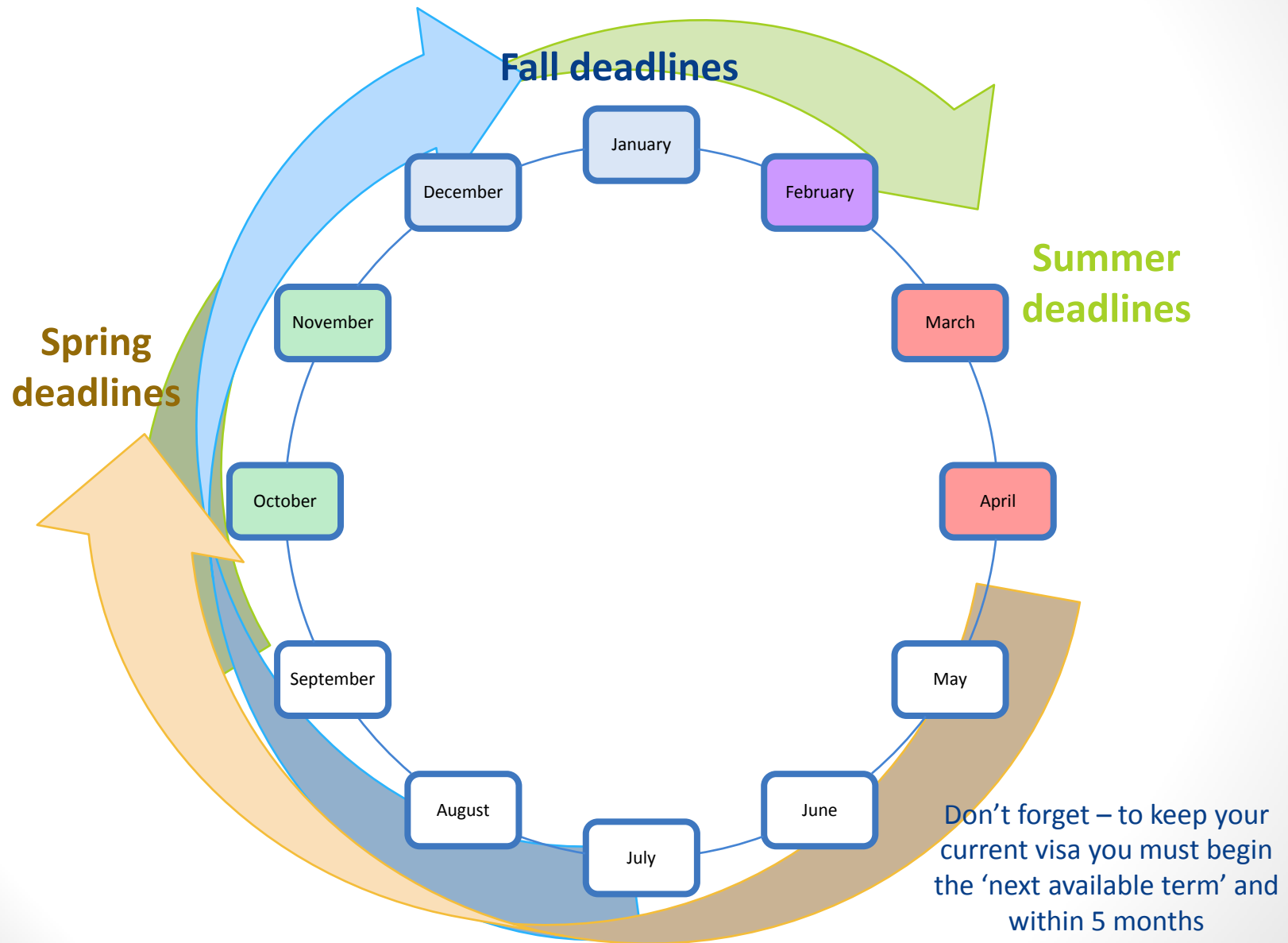
AS (Associates of Science)

AA (Associates of Arts)

Steps in the application process



When to begin searching



Choosing programs - decide

- **What** do you really want to study for 4 (or 2) years of your life?
- **Why** do you want to study it?
- **How** do you like to study
 - Large classes?
 - Small groups?
 - Research?
 - Practical trainings?
- Will you find **money for the program**, through a sponsor or scholarship or through family funds?

Choosing programs - decide

- **Where** would like to live?
 - City, small town or countryside?
 - What type of weather?
 - Community?
 - Travel access for trips home?
- What **type** of college or university would you like?
 - Class size
 - Faculty relationship
 - Teaching methods
- How will you **use the degree** after graduating?
 - Further studies?
 - Work?

Set your priorities

Think of 5 things that are very important to you

Examples:

- Affordability
- Transportation
- Safety
- International airports
- Campus community
- Culture
- Sports
- Weather
- Outdoors
- Job connections
- School's reputation
- Faculty relationships
- Degree curriculum
- Legacy (family connections)
- "Study abroad" classes
- School size (<5,000, 5,000-10,000, 10,000-15,000, 15,000-25,000, 25,000+)
- Faith based school
- PhD department

Priorities

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Create a score sheet

Decide how you will rank the programs:

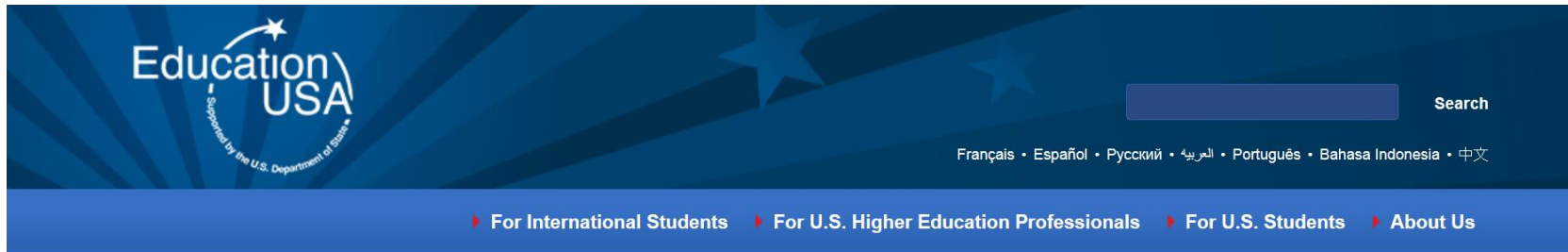
Example:

School & Program	Curriculum /10	Safety /8	Faculty relations /7	Cost /5	School Size /5	Wildcard /15	Total /50	+	-

Wildcard = an unknown or surprise point

Begin to search

Start with EducationUSA –
available in many languages



The header features the EducationUSA logo on the left, which includes the text "Education USA" and "Supported by the U.S. Department of State" around a star. To the right is a search bar and the word "Search". Below these are language options: Français • Español • Русский • العربية • Português • Bahasa Indonesia • 中文. At the bottom of the header are four navigation links: For International Students, For U.S. Higher Education Professionals, For U.S. Students, and About Us.



Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study

With thousands of accredited U.S. colleges and universities in the United States, where do you begin to find the one that is right for you? Whether you plan to pursue an undergraduate, graduate, English language, or short-term program, EducationUSA's "Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study" helps you fulfill your goal through the following steps: 1) Research Your Options, 2) Complete Your Application, 3) Finance Your Studies, 4) Apply for Your Student Visa, and 5) Prepare for Your Departure. Your journey to study in the United States begins today!



The graphic features a large white star with a red outline. Below it is the title "Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study" and the question "What Do You Want to Study?". There are four columns, each with a header and a list of options:

- Undergraduate**
 - Do you want to:
 - Study for an associate degree?
 - Study for a bachelor's degree?
 - Learn more >>
- Graduate**
 - Do you want to:
 - Study for a master's or doctoral degree?
 - Study for a degree in a professional field such as law or medicine?
 - Learn more >>
- English Language**
 - Do you want to:
 - Study in an English language program?
 - Learn more >>
- Short-Term Programs**
 - Do you want to:
 - Participate in an exchange program or internship?
 - Earn a professional certificate?
 - Learn more >>

Get Started

Search Resources

Good websites include:

- petersons.com
- princetonreview.com (login *spring@spring.edu* password *spring*)
- [US News & World Report](http://USNews.com)
- gradschools.com

Be careful of the “small print”

1. Which terms are open to international students?
2. Is the program approved by your scholarship?
3. Does the school or program close their applications very early?
4. Watch for online or hybrid programs – sometimes they cannot give you an F1 student visa
5. Do your transcripts have to be sent through an evaluation agency? **This can add \$500 and 6 weeks to your application process**
6. How many spaces are available for international students? **State schools often have a limit for non-state students (eg 12% in Colorado). A program might close earlier than the published deadline.**

Examine the schools

What is your first impression?

How does it score on your worksheet?

Other questions to ask yourself :

- What is the retention rate? (% of first-time bachelors degree-seeking undergraduates from the previous fall who enroll the next fall). See NCES site
- What is the graduation rate? (% of students who graduate their degree within 150% of normal time - eg, within 6 years for undergraduates). See NCES site
- What is the admission rate? (% of applicants that are admitted) See NCES site
- What is the student : faculty ratio? (Full time students divided by full-time faculty) See NCES site
- What is the average class size? See school's profile on their website

Detailed university information

- Spring International university materials library – search by region
- University websites and materials
 - “Fast Facts” - standard information often on the school’s homepage
 - **Don’t email the university with questions unless you are sure the website does not give the answers**
- University tour or chat
- Discussion boards, student groups
- zinch.com
- collegeconfidential.com
- Rankings and surveys
 - Forbes College rankings
 - US News & World Report
 - National Council on Teacher Quality
 - QS World University Rankings
 - US National Research Council Rankings
 - Times Higher Education World University Rankings
- **NCES (National Center for Education Statistics)**
 - US government website showing university data

nces.ed.gov – federal statistics

Welcome to NCES

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education.

What's New

Public School Graduates and Dropouts from the Common Core of Data: School Year 2009–10 (Jan 22)
Seventy-eight percent of high school students, nationwide, graduated on time; an increase of 2 percentage points from the previous year. [» more info](#)

Projections of Education Statistics to 2021 (Jan 9)
This publication provides projections for key education statistics including statistics on enrollment, graduates, teachers, and expenditures in elementary and secondary schools, and enrollment and earned degrees conferred expenditures of degree-granting institutions. [» more info](#)

Trends in Debt for Bachelor's Degree Recipients a Year After Graduation: 1994, 2001 and 2009 (Jan 3)
This report presents a comprehensive set of tables about the debt of recent college graduates for three cohorts of bachelor's degree recipients spanning a 15-year period. [» more info](#)

First-Year Undergraduate Remedial Coursetaking: 1999-2000, 2003-04, and 2007-08 (Jan 2)
This Statistics in Brief uses the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) to measure the frequency and change of remedial coursetaking in U.S. postsecondary institutions. [» more info](#)

[Archive](#) | [Calendar of Events](#)

@EdNCES



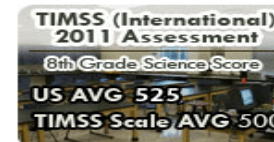
Did You Know?

In Science, no state scored lower in 2011 than in 2009. The interactive map provides details! [» more info](#)

Data Snapshot

TIMSS (International) 2011 Assessment
8-th GRADERS SCIENCE SCORE

U.S. AVG. : 525
TIMSS Scale AVG. : 500
[» more info](#)



Most Viewed NCES Sites

[Statement of Commitment to Scientific Integrity by Principal Statistical Agencies](#) (346 KB)

The International Year of Statistics is a worldwide celebration and recognition of the contributions of statistical science. [Learn more.](#)



School Search /
College Navigator



Welcoming your comments:
2012 revised statistical standards now available for public review.

nces.ed.gov

Search by school name

ies INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Enter search terms here

Publications & Products

Surveys & Programs

Data & Tools

Fast Facts

School Search

News & Events

About Us

COLLEGE Navigator

English | [Español](#) | [About](#)

Name of School

san jose state

States (use map for more than 1 state)

No Preference

Alabama

Alaska

Arizona

Use Map



ZIP Code

Miles from

Programs/Majors

0 Items Selected



Level of Award ?

Certificate

Associate's

Bachelor's

Advanced

Institution Type ?

Public

4-year

Private non-profit

2-year

Private for-profit

< 2-year

[+ MORE SEARCH OPTIONS](#)

[Show Results](#)

[Guide Me](#) | [Clear Search](#)

Find the right college for you



Guide Me

- » Refine your search with *More Search Options* to select additional search criteria.
- » Build a list of schools using *My Favorites* for side-by-side comparisons.
- » Pinpoint school locations with an *interactive map*.
- » Export search results into a *spreadsheet*.
- » Save your session including search options and favorites.
- » [Add College Navigator](#) to your browser search bar.

[College Affordability and Transparency Center](#)



Browse lists of institutions with the highest and lowest tuition & fees and net price. [» GO](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Preparing for your Education](#)

Find out what you need to do to prepare for education beyond high school. [» GO](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

Apply for Federal Student Aid on FAFSA. [» GO](#)

[Careers](#)

Deciding on a career? Consult the *bls.gov* Occupational Outlook Handbook. [» GO](#)

COLLEGE Navigator

Name of School
san jose state

States (use map for more than 1 state)
No Preference
Alabama
Alaska
Arizona

Use Map

ZIP Code _____ Miles from _____

Programs/Majors
0 Items Selected
Browse for Programs

Level of Award
 Certificate Associate's
 Bachelor's Advanced

Institution Type
 Public 4-year
 Private non-profit 2-year
 Private for-profit < 2-year

San Jose State University

1 Washington Sq, San Jose, California 95192-0001

General information: (408) 924-1000
Website: www.sjsu.edu
Type: 4-year, Public
Awards offered: Bachelor's degree
Master's degree
Campus setting: City: Large
Campus housing: Yes
Student population: 30,236 (24,804 undergraduate)
Student-to-faculty ratio: 25 to 1



IPEDS ID: 122755
OPE ID: 00115500

Expand All | Collapse All

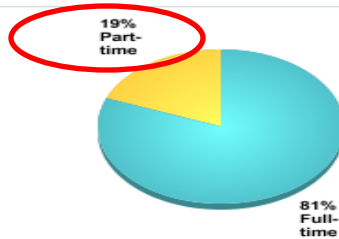
- + GENERAL INFORMATION
- + TUITION, FEES, AND ESTIMATED STUDENT EXPENSES
- + FINANCIAL AID
- + NET PRICE
- + ENROLLMENT
- + ADMISSIONS
- + RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATE
- + PROGRAMS/MAJORS
- + VARSITY ATHLETIC TEAMS
- + ACCREDITATION
- + CAMPUS SECURITY
- + COHORT DEFAULT RATES

nces.ed.gov - enrollment

Graduate enrollment

5,432

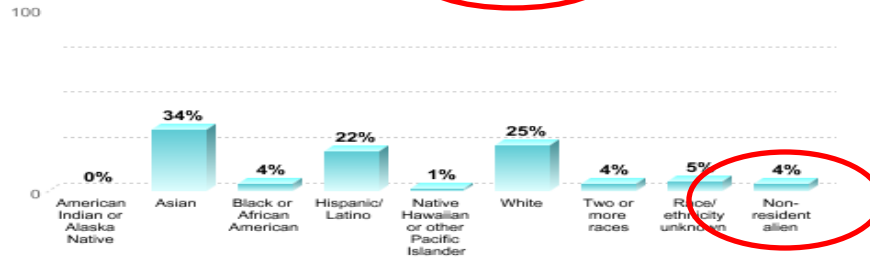
UNDERGRADUATE ATTENDANCE STATUS



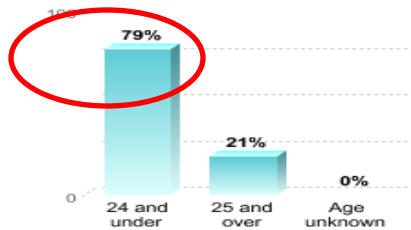
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GENDER



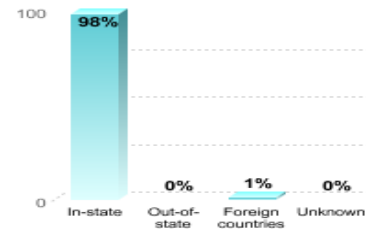
UNDERGRADUATE RACE/ETHNICITY



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AGE



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESIDENCE



■ Residence data are reported for first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates, Fall 2010.

GRADUATE ATTENDANCE STATUS



nces.ed.gov - admissions

ADMISSIONS

Undergraduate application fee (2011-2012): \$55

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS FALL 2010

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
Number of applicants	22,999	11,003	11,996
Percent admitted	57%	54%	59%
Percent admitted who enrolled	21%	23%	20%

ADMISSIONS CONSIDERATIONS

	REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED
Secondary school GPA	X	
Secondary school record	X	
Completion of college-preparatory program	X	
Admission test scores (SAT/ACT)		X

TEST SCORES: FALL 2010 (ENROLLED FIRST-TIME STUDENTS)

STUDENTS SUBMITTING SCORES	NUMBER	PERCENT
SAT	2,634	95%
ACT	591	21%

TEST SCORES	25TH PERCENTILE*	75TH PERCENTILE**
SAT Critical Reading	440	560
SAT Math	470	590
ACT Composite	19	25
ACT English	18	24
ACT Math	19	26

NOTES:

* 25% of students scored at or below

** 25% of students scored above

- Data apply to first-time degree/certificate-seeking students.
- Institutions are asked to report test scores only if they are required for admission.

RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

PROGRAMS/MAJORS

VARSITY ATHLETIC TEAMS

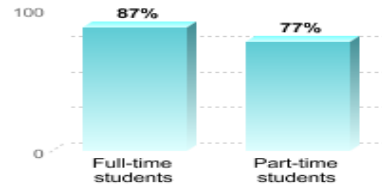
ACCREDITATION

CAMPUS SECURITY

COHORT DEFAULT RATES

nces.ed.gov – retention & graduation

RETENTION RATES FOR FIRST-TIME STUDENTS PURSUING BACHELOR'S DEGREES



Percentage of Students Who Began Their Studies in Fall 2010 and Returned in Fall 2011

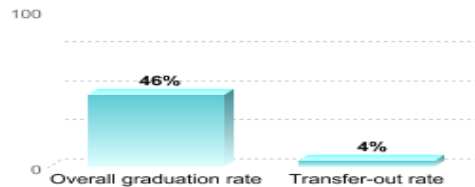
OVERALL GRADUATION RATE AND TRANSFER-OUT RATE

The overall graduation rate is also known as the "Student Right to Know" or IPEDS graduation rate. It tracks the progress of students who began their studies as **full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking students** to see if they complete a degree or other award such as a certificate within 150% of "normal time" for completing the program in which they are enrolled.

Some institutions also report a transfer-out rate, which is the percentage of the full-time, first-time students who transferred to another institution.

Note that not all students at the institution are tracked for these rates. Students who have already attended another postsecondary institution, or who began their studies on a part-time basis, are not tracked for this rate. **At this institution, 54 percent of entering students were counted as "full-time, first-time" in 2011.**

OVERALL GRADUATION AND TRANSFER-OUT RATES FOR STUDENTS WHO BEGAN THEIR STUDIES IN FALL 2005

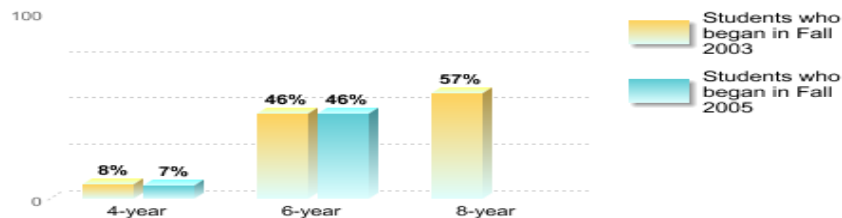


Percentage of Full-time, First-Time Students Who Graduated or Transferred Out Within 150% of "Normal Time" to Completion for Their Program

BACHELOR'S DEGREE GRADUATION RATES

Bachelor's degree graduation rates measure the percentage of entering students beginning their studies full-time and are planning to get a bachelor's degree and who complete their degree program within a specified amount of time.

GRADUATION RATES FOR STUDENTS PURSUING BACHELOR'S DEGREES



Percentage of Full-time, First-time Students Who Graduated in the Specified Amount of Time

6-YEAR GRADUATION RATE BY GENDER FOR STUDENTS PURSUING BACHELOR'S DEGREES

nces.ed.gov – campus security

⊖ CAMPUS SECURITY

2010 CRIME STATISTICS

ARRESTS - ON-CAMPUS	2008	2009	2010
Illegal weapons possession	7	4	6
Drug law violations	74	80	44
Liquor law violations	26	60	13
ARRESTS - ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCE HALLS ¹	2008	2009	2010
Illegal weapons possession	2	1	3
Drug law violations	34	32	27
Liquor law violations	6	15	7
CRIMINAL OFFENSES - ON-CAMPUS	2008	2009	2010
Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex offenses - Forcible	9	3	2
Sex offenses - Non-forcible (incest and statutory rape only)	0	0	0
Robbery	15	3	6
Aggravated assault	3	12	2
Burglary	30	31	36
Motor vehicle theft	10	11	16
Arson	1	6	3
CRIMINAL OFFENSES - ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCE HALLS ¹	2008	2009	2010
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Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Sex offenses - Forcible	3	3	2
Sex offenses - Non-forcible (incest and statutory rape only)	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0
Aggravated assault	1	3	0
Burglary	9	10	3
Motor vehicle theft	0	0	0
Arson	1	4	0

- (!) Residence Halls are a subset of On-Campus statistics
- The crime data reported by the institutions have not been subjected to independent verification by the U.S. Department of Education. Therefore, the Department cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data reported here.
- These data do not include incidents that: (a) took place off campus on public property immediately adjacent to and accessible from the Campus; (b) took place on a noncampus building or property owned or controlled by a student organization that is officially recognized by the institution; or (c) incidents at buildings/property owned or controlled by an institution but is not contiguous to the institution. For further information, see <http://ope.ed.gov/security>.

Can you meet the admission requirements?

- Is a GPA requirement shown?
 - If not, what was the average GPA for last year's new students?
- Are standardized examinations required? (SATs / ACTs for undergraduates are sometimes required)
- Is professional experience required?
- Is *conditional admission* offered?

Spring International TOEFL waiver agreements

- University of Wisconsin – Stout, WI
- University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, WI
- Marion University, WI
- Colorado Mesa University, CO
- Metropolitan State University, CO
- Community College of Denver, CO
- Arapahoe Community College, CO
- Valparaiso University, IN
- Concordia St Paul University, MN
- Lewis-Clarke State College, ID
- Montana State University, MT (undergraduate)

Final application list

Try to find at least:

- 2 'reach' – *may* be admitted
- 2 'achievable' – *probably* admitted
- 2 'safety' – *should be* admitted

**Apply for more schools if
your GPA is low**

SILC Resources

Workshops each term:

- How to search for universities
- How to apply to university
- What to include in your application essays
- General admission help sessions

Materials Library:

- University brochures
- State travel guidebooks
- College search guides

University Application Board:

- news
- events
- document samples
- cheat sheets for local universities
- scholarship resources

Handouts – PDFs on the lobby computer:

- “How to apply to university”
- General application advice
- Research university information

See Kate or Karen for extra help