Stanford University Statistics: Definitions

*Stanford University Statistics: 2015-16* provides a historical summary of the people and resources at the core of Stanford University’s programs. Ten years of history are presented; in general, financial data are reported through 2014-15, while student, faculty, and staff data are shown through 2015-16.

**General**

**Confidentiality:** While some of the data in this report is public, much of the content is sensitive, and is for limited internal use only. Data on pages marked “CONFIDENTIAL” should be used with caution are distributed only to a limited audience as part of this report, and should not be further reproduced or circulated. Please contact IR&DS with any questions about sharing this information.

**Data Updates:** This year’s report includes a number of corrections to historical data, as well as changes to some of the data definitions. These changes are the result of close examination of the data and comparisons with other sources; in all cases, these changes reflect improved data quality and consistency, both within this report (e.g., across years, and/or across tables) and in comparison to other reports produced by IR&DS and other units.

Please make sure to review the definitions as you work with the data, and contact IR&DS with any questions.

**Data Sources:** The data sources reported in the notes on each page are the official organizations, publications, or systems in which the data originates. In many cases, the data has been copied into the Decision Support Services’ (DSS) data collections for stable reporting and ease of analysis.

**Race and Ethnicity Categories:** Race and ethnicity reporting changed in 2010-11, following changes to categories made by the federal government. Individuals are now invited to report all race/ethnicity categories with which they identify; this is the source of the new ‘two or more races’ category.

Per the federal government, the following derivation logic is applied in identifying a single race/ethnicity category for each individual, based on their self-identified race/ethnicity information:

- **Non-resident aliens:** *International* (if using)
- For U.S. citizens and permanent residents:
  - If ethnicity is identified as ‘Hispanic or Latino’ (regardless of race): *Hispanic or Latino*
  - If ethnicity is **not** identified as ‘Hispanic or Latino’:
    - If two or more races are identified: *Two or more races* (new in 2010-11)
    - If a single race is identified: *American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander* (new in 2010-11), or *White*
    - If no race is identified: *Unknown*
Definitions

In this report, these categories are grouped as follows:

**Unknown (+ International):** Unknown (and International, if using; see below)

**Non-Minority:** White

**Other Minority:** Asian, Two or more races

**Under-Represented Minority:** American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

**For students:** All international students (non-resident aliens) are counted as International, regardless of their race/ethnicity.

**For faculty and staff:** Race/ethnicity is reported for all individuals, including non-resident aliens.

I:  Students and Degrees

Degree Levels

**Bachelor's degrees:** AB, BA, BAS, BS, B (denotes undeclared undergraduate)

**Master's degrees:** AM, EDS, ENG, JSM, JM, LLM, MA, MAT, MBA, MFA, MLS, MPP, MS

**Doctoral degrees:** DMA, EDD, JD, JSD, MD, PHD

Degrees in light grey are no longer offered at Stanford.


Enrolled Students

Enrolled student headcounts are as of approximately the third week of fall quarter of each academic year, in early October. For example, “2015-16” data is as of October 2015.

**Degree Level:** Each student is counted only once as either a degree-seeking bachelor’s, master's, or doctoral student. Students working towards coterminal bachelor’s and master’s degrees are counted as master’s students if they have reached graduate status by completing 180 units or 13 quarters. A graduate student pursuing multiple degree programs is also counted only once. Graduate students are counted at the level of their highest-ranking degree program (where MD is top-ranked, then PHD, JSD, DMA, JD, MLS, LLM, JSM, ENG, MLA, MPP, MFA, MBA, MS, and MA).

**School:** Enrolled students are counted in the school (or other relevant area) of their major or degree program. In order for these counts to add up to the total number of enrolled students, a student pursuing more than one major or degree program is counted only once. Undergraduates with more than one major are counted in the school of the first alphabetical major in which they are enrolled. A graduate student pursuing multiple degree programs is counted in the school of their
highest-ranking degree program (where MD is top-ranked, then PHD, JSD, DMA, JD, MLS, LLM, JSM, ENG, MLA, MPP, MFA, MBA, MS, and MA).

Students enrolled in the MLA program in Continuing Studies are included in these counts beginning in 2014-15; conferred MLA degrees are included in degree counts for all years.

Admissions

Counts reflect applications to enter Stanford during the academic year shown. For example, “2015-16” data reflects students applying during the 2014-15 academic year, in hopes of enrolling in a degree program during fall quarter of 2015-16. Matriculants are those who declare their intent to enroll at the end of the admission process; this number may differ slightly from the actual total of new enrollees, as some may not ultimately enroll.

Counts of applications, and these applicants’ admission outcomes, are as recorded in admission data systems, primarily PeopleSoft. These counts may not reflect the full pool of applicants (etc.).

- These counts do not reflect students who enter degree programs outside of the standard admission process. Coterminal master’s students, for example do not apply through this central process, so their applications are not included.
- A small number of other students also enter through other pathways; for example, students already enrolled in graduate study at Stanford may in some situations change their degree program through the “grad auth” process, rather than submitting a formal application through the central process.
- Some degree programs use alternate application systems; in some cases, not all data from these systems may be entered into PeopleSoft, or otherwise included in these university totals.

Overall, the number of students who are not included for these reasons are relatively small, and the totals presented here are generally reflective of the overall patterns.

Degree Level: Applicants are counted at the level of the degree program for which they are applying. Students apply to only one degree program per academic year, with the exception of the biosciences admission process in which students may submit a single application for up to 3 of the 14 biosciences Ph.D. programs.

Degree Conferrals

Degree counts represent distinct degrees conferred during summer through spring quarters of each academic year (the “Summer Start Academic Year”). For example, “2014-15” data includes summer quarter 2014 through spring quarter 2015.

Degree Counts: For graduate students, a degree is conferred upon completion of each master’s and/or doctoral program. A student who completes e.g. two MS programs will earn two MS degrees (and be counted twice). An undergraduate student, however, may earn only a single degree of each type (AB/BA, BS, BAS). When an undergraduate graduates with two majors both
Definitions

leading to a single BA (or BS, or BAS), only a single BA degree is granted. University-wide totals of undergraduate degrees thus count each such bachelor's degree only once.

School: Finer-grained counts of undergraduate degrees within a school will count each bachelor's degree which reflects completion of a major in that school, regardless of whether the degree also reflects completion of majors in other schools. Thus, because in some cases a single degree will be included in multiple schools' totals, the sum of each school's degree total can be higher than the true number of degrees conferred by the university; see Example 3, below.

Example 1: Major 1 (H&S) confers BS; Major 2 (H&S) confers BS (1 degree; 1 school)
  University total: 1; H&S school total: 1

Example 2: Major 1 (H&S) confers BS; Major 2 (H&S) confers BA (if degrees are not merged to BAS: 2 degrees; 1 school)
  University total: 2; H&S school total: 2

Example 3: Major 1 (H&S) confers BS; Major 2 (Engineering) confers BS (1 degree; 2 schools)
  University total: 1; H&S school total: 1; Engineering school total: 1

II: Faculty and Staff

Faculty

Faculty data reflect Stanford's professoriate faculty (see also http://irds.stanford.edu/facmap). This group includes the following:

Tenure Line faculty: Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor (Subject to PhD), Szego Assistant Professor, Szego Assistant Professor (Subject to PhD), Associate Professor, Professor

Non-Tenure Line (NTL) faculty:

  NTL: Applied Research: Associate Professor (Applied Research), Professor (Applied Research)

  NTL: Clinical: Associate Professor (Clinical), Professor (Clinical)

  NTL: Performance: Associate Professor (Performance), Professor (Performance)

  NTL: Research: Assistant Professor (Research), Associate Professor (Research), Professor (Research)

  NTL: Teaching: Associate Professor (Teaching), Professor (Teaching)

Medical Center Line faculty: Assistant Professor (MCL), Associate Professor (MCL), Professor (MCL)
  MCL faculty are not members of the Academic Council, and are engaged in "clinical care, teaching, and scholarly activity that advances clinical medicine." [School of Medicine Faculty Handbook, §2.3A]
Senior Fellows: Faculty with primary appointments as Senior Fellows at designated policy centers and institutes. This does not include Hoover Senior Fellows.

Center Fellows: Faculty with primary appointments as Center Fellows in specified centers and policy institutes.

Center Fellows are not members of the Academic Council.

Professoriate faculty members are counted as of September 1 at the start of each academic year. For example, “2015-16” data is as of September 1, 2015.

Faculty Counts: Each faculty member is counted only once. Faculty members holding multiple appointments are counted in the school of their primary appointment, as are faculty members serving as senior administrators (President, Provost, Dean, etc.). Faculty on leave are included; emeriti are not included.

Tenure Status: Tenure line faculty are categorized as either ‘Tenured’ or ‘Not tenured’, depending on their individual tenure status. All other faculty – non-tenure line, medical center line, and senior/center fellows – are included in ‘Not tenure line’.

Staff

Staff data are tabulated from the University’s payroll records. Active, benefits-eligible, non-teaching staff members – that is, those holding continuing appointments (over six months long) of at least 50% time – as of the December 15 payroll are counted. The figures include professional librarians and research staff (e.g., Research Associates) in addition to non-academic employees in managerial, clerical, technical, service, or maintenance positions at the University. No student employees are counted. Employees who are on leave, either paid or unpaid, are included. Staff employees in all auxiliaries and service centers are included, though those at Stanford University Hospitals and SLAC are not.

The non-professorial teaching staff data are also tabulated from the University’s payroll records. These counts include all employees, rather than strictly benefits-eligible employees, as many of these individuals (e.g., lecturers) are hired at less than 50% FTE or for fewer than six months. These counts do not include individuals with academic appointments as Academic Staff – Teaching or Other Teaching Staff but who are not hired as Stanford employees.

See also http://irds.stanford.edu/maps/StanfordStaffMap.pdf

III: Financial Aid and Tuition

The dollar amounts given for undergraduate financial aid are actual expenditures (Stanford funds) or receipts (outside funds) for the entire academic year. Figures indicating proportions of students are also based on the entire academic year. A student is counted as “aided” (in the appropriate categories) in an academic year if he or she receives financial aid (in those categories) in one or more quarter of university attendance in that year. Thus, an undergraduate student can be counted in more than one category.
Definitions

Data for graduate financial aid are tabulated from the Graduate Financial Support (GFS) and Financial Aid components of PeopleSoft. As with the undergraduate aid data, the computed figures cover the entire academic year. It should be noted that financial aid data from student records may not agree precisely with information tabulated from the University’s financial system. There are several reasons this can occur, including the fact that some financial aid is not paid through the university; this aid is not recorded in Oracle Financials.

This section includes the only table in this report (other than Consumer Price Index data in Table VI-1) containing information from sources external to Stanford. These outside data include mean family income, taken from U.S. government data (Census Bureau), and average costs at other major private universities, tabulated from COFHE (Consortium on Financing Higher Education).

IV: Sponsored Projects

The annual figures on grants and contracts are taken from two sources:

- Stanford’s annual report on sponsored projects, produced by the Office of Research Financial Compliance and Services.
- SeRA, the Stanford Electronic Research Administration database.

It is important to note that the dollar figures for new awards and new proposals are not annualized; many of these proposals or awards are for multi-year projects. Similarly, many active projects are also multi-year. This means that it is incorrect to consider expenses in a year divided by the number of active projects in that year as a measure of average grant or contract size. Additionally, while it can be tempting to compute ratios of awards to proposals in a given year as a measure of success in obtaining grants, this is also incorrect. Awards are given after a fairly substantial lag, and awards in one fiscal year are typically connected with proposals submitted in an earlier year.

The data in this section are for all sponsored activity. Sponsored research is a large percentage of these amounts, but sponsored instruction and some other types of activity are included as well. Thus, these figures will differ from reports focusing on sponsored research alone.

V: Finances

The data in this section are taken from Stanford’s Annual Financial Report, Oracle Financials, and the DoResearch web portal. Expenses are reported here following Consolidated Budget methodology, and are attributed to various units based on the department codes in the many separate accounts in Oracle Financials.