

University of Mount Union

Data Glossary

October 2026

Academic Year (AY): The University follows a traditional two semester system with Fall and Spring semesters, and terms throughout the academic year that include Summer and Winter. The Academic Year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year.

Accrediting Agency: A private, non-profit organization that examines higher education institutions or programs for quality assurance and improvement.

ACT Composite Score: The American College Test (ACT) composite score is an average score based on the four ACT assessment tests (English, Math, Reading, and Science).

ACT Superscore: The ACT superscore is an average score based on the four best subject scores from all ACT test attempts. A superscore is used for institutional scholarship opportunities. As is the standard practice for higher education, the superscore is not used for data reporting, rather the student's highest composite score is used.

ACT Writing Score: The optional ACT writing test score, not included in a student's ACT Composite Score.

ACTS (Admissions and Consumer Transparency Supplement): An IPEDS reporting component that collects detailed admissions and financial aid data for transparency and compliance purposes.

Award Year: Is the school year for which financial aid is used to fund a student's education. For financial aid purposes at Mount Union, this is the 12-month period beginning July 1 of one year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

Carnegie Classification: The following data represent UMU's new Carnegie Classification for 2025 (refer to [Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education](#) for additional information)

Institutional Classification: Professions-focused Baccalaureate Small
Student Access and Earnings: Lower Access, Medium Earnings
Award Level Focus: Bachelor's (81.7%), Master's (12.7%), Doctorates (5.7%)
Academic Program Mix (UG): Business and Related Services (17.8%), Education (12.8%), Recreation, Fitness and Kinesiology (11.7%), Health Professions (9.2%), Biological & Biomedical Sciences (7.8%), Other (40.7%)
Academic Program Mix (GR): Health Professions & Related (71.7%), Education (25.8%), Business and Related (2.5%)

Census Date: The census date for each semester is the date the University takes a snapshot of all students' enrollment, which becomes the "official enrollment" used for state and federal reporting and which determines a student's financial aid eligibility. Mount Union's census date is the 2nd Monday after the *Last Day to Drop Without "W"* and *Last Day to Add a Class* as posted in the Academic Calendar for each semester.

Class Level (students): Undergraduate students are classified by the total number of credit hours successfully completed. This does not necessarily correlate with the number of years a student has been enrolled as an undergraduate. The following class levels are defined in the Undergraduate Catalog (see [University Catalog | University of Mount Union](#) for current and past editions.)

- **First Year** - fewer than 30 total semester hours completed
- **Sophomore** - at least 30 and fewer than 60 total semester hours completed
- **Junior** - at least 60 and fewer than 90 total semester hours completed
- **Senior** - a total of 90 or more semester hours completed

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP): A taxonomic scheme developed by the U.S. Dept. of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) that supports the accurate tracking and reporting of fields of study and program completions activity (see nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode). Each major, minor, and graduate program at UMU is assigned a six-digit CIP code (2020) although codes can appear as two-digit or four-digit levels. For example:

CIP Code	Field of Study
45	Social Sciences
45.11	Sociology
45.1101	Sociology, General

Cohort: A specific group of students established for tracking purposes.

Cohort Year: The year a cohort of students begins attending the University.

College Credit Plus (CCP): CCP permits high ability students in grades 7 through 12 to complete college coursework for high school and/or college credit, at either the university or high school site. See UMU website for CCP www.mountunion.edu/college-credit-plus.

Degree/Certificate-Seeking Student: A student enrolled in courses for credit who is seeking a degree, certificate, or other recognized postsecondary credential. High school students also enrolled in postsecondary courses for credit are not considered degree/certificate-seeking.

Digital Learning: A term that includes a broad range of technology-based learning that gives students some element of control over when, where, and how they engage with course materials and educational experiences.

Distance Education: Educational programs in which instructors and students are not ever physically located in the same place for instruction. Teaching and learning occur through online platforms, video conferencing, and other digital technologies.

First-Generation College Student: An undergraduate student whose parents or legal guardians did not complete a baccalaureate (four-year) degree.

Freeze Date: See prior entry for "Census Date."

FVT/GE (Financial Value Transparency / Gainful Employment): Federal reporting requirements that measure and disclose the financial outcomes of educational programs by comparing graduate earnings, debt, and other indicators of program value.

Higher Learning Commission (HLC): The [HLC](#) is a regional accrediting agency that evaluates and accredits colleges and universities to ensure they meet standards for educational quality, institutional effectiveness, and continuous improvement.

Hybrid Course: A course that has both in-person and online components. The online components should represent more than 50% but less than 75% of course content and include required in-person meetings.

Hyflex Course: A course a student can complete in-person, synchronously online, or asynchronously online.

IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System): The federal data collection system that gathers and reports standardized information on colleges and universities, including enrollment, completions, finances, faculty, and student outcomes.

Legacy Student: A student whose parent(s) graduated from Mount Union.

Lifetime Learner: An adult student seeking professional growth or career change without committing to a full degree.

NC-SARA (National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements): A nationwide reciprocity agreement that establishes consistent standards for offering distance education across participating states, simplifying state authorization for colleges and universities.

Non-Degree/Non-Certificate Seeking Student: A student who is enrolled for credit but who is not recognized by the University as seeking a degree or recognized postsecondary credential. This includes high school students enrolled in College Credit Plus (CCP) , Lifetime Learners, and some Post-Baccalaureate students.

Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE): The [ODHE](#) is the state agency that oversees Ohio's colleges and universities, manages higher education policies, coordinates statewide data reporting, and administers student financial aid and academic programs.

Online Course: A course in which all instruction and interaction occur online, with instructors and students participating from different physical locations. Types of online courses include

- **Asynchronous** – instruction and learning activities do not require students and instructors to participate at the same time.
- **Synchronous** – instruction and learning occur in real time with students and instructors participating remotely at the same time.

Online Program: A Distance Education offering designed to be flexible and that enables learners to balance education with work, family, or other commitments.

Post-Baccalaureate Student: A student who has completed a baccalaureate degree but does not meet the requirement of a master's degree.

Standard Occupational Classification (SOC): A federal statistical standard used to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collection, calculating, or disseminating data. SOC codes are required for IPEDS reporting. For more information, please see [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

STATS (Student Tuition and Transparency System): A federal reporting framework that collects program-level data on student costs, debt, completion, and earnings to evaluate program value and financial outcomes.

Student-Athlete: A student who participates in an intercollegiate sport sanctioned by the NCAA or OAC.

Terminal Degree: Terminal degree refers to the highest earned degree attainable in the discipline, and/or to its equivalent in professional work, or outstanding professional stature in the field. (See Appendix 1 of the Faculty Constitution and Handbook.)

Universal Meeting Time (UMT): Designated time between 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays reserved for university-related meetings.