

# Glossary

## Racial Category

**Non-Resident 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. Resident aliens, who are not citizens or nationals of the United States and who have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (and who hold alien registration receipt cards - Form 1-551/155), are to be reported in the appropriate racial ethnic categories along with United States citizens.

**Black/African American:** A person having origins in any black racial groups of Africa (except those of Hispanic origin).

**American Indian or Alaskan Native:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, or who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

**Asian or Pacific Islander:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or Pacific Islands. This includes people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, Samoa, India, and Vietnam.

**Hispanic:** A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South America, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

**White, Non-Hispanic:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East (except those of Hispanic origin).

**Unknown:** This category is used ONLY if the student did not select a racial/ethnic designation, and the postsecondary institution finds it impossible to place the student in one of the aforementioned categories during established enrollment/employment procedures, or any post-enrollment/employment identification or verification process.

**Two or more races:** This category is used to indicate all races that apply to an individual.

## Registration Status

**First-Time, Freshman Undergraduate:** An entering freshman who has never attended any college. Includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term. Also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school) OR admitted under an alternative admission program (Provisional).

**First-Time, Graduate (Masters or Doctor's-Research/Scholarship):** Student enrolled at the graduate level at an institution for the first time. Include graduate students enrolled in the fall semester who attended graduate school in the prior summer semester.

**First-Time, Transfer:** A student entering the reporting institution for the first time but is known to have previously attended a postsecondary institution. Includes students enrolled in the fall term who entered the institution in the prior summer term.

**Readmit:** Student returning after missing one or more regular semesters (fall or spring).

**Continuing:** Student currently enrolled who was also enrolled the previous regular semester (fall or spring).

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**Special (not accepted to a degree program):** Student who has not been admitted in a degree seeking program.

**Transient (not accepted to a degree program):** Are students from other colleges and universities. They may be admitted to take summer work provided they are in good standing at their institutions, eligible to return and have institutional permission to enroll in a particular course.

**High School Students Taking College Courses:** A student who is still in high school but has special permission to take a college level course.

## Student Level

**First Year (Freshman) also known as First Year (Undergraduates):** An entering freshman who has never attended any college. Includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term. Also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school) OR admitted under an alternative admission program (Provisional).

**Second Year (Sophomore):** A student who has completed the equivalent of one year of full time undergraduate work, that is, at least 30 semester hours but less than 60 semester hours in a 120 semester hour program.

**Third Year (Junior):** A student who has completed the equivalent of two years of full time undergraduate work, that is, at least 60 semester hours in a 120 semester hour program.

**Fourth Year and Beyond (Senior):** An undergraduate student who has completed the equivalent of three years of full time undergraduate work, that is at least 90 semester hours in a 120 semester hour program.

**Unclassified Undergraduate:** A student taking courses creditable toward a degree or other formal award who cannot be classified by academic level. For example, this could include a transfer student whose earned credits have not been determined at the time of this report.

**Graduate I:** Students enrolled in master's level programs.

**Graduate II (Doctoral)-Doctor's-Research/Scholarship:** Students enrolled in doctoral level programs.

**Unclassified Graduate:** A student who has earned a baccalaureate degree and is enrolled in a graduate course at an institution, but who has not yet been granted graduate student status, including students enrolled in post baccalaureate certificate programs.

## Degree Level

**Four or Five Year Baccalaureate:** An award that normally requires at least four, but not more than five years of full time equivalent college-level work. This includes ALL bachelor's degrees conferred in a cooperative or work-study plan or program. Also includes bachelor's degrees in which the normal four years of work are completed in three years.

**Post Baccalaureate:** An award that requires the completion of an organized program of study requiring at least 18 credit hours beyond the bachelor's; designed for persons who have completed a

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baccalaureate degree program, but do not meet the requirements of academic degrees carrying the title of master.

**Master's:** An award that requires the successful completion of a program of study of at least the full time equivalent of one, but not more than two years of work beyond the bachelor's degree.

**Post Master's Certificate:** An award that requires completion of an organized program of study of 24 credit hours beyond the master's degree, but does not meet the requirements of academic degrees at the doctor's level.

**Beyond Master's But Less Than Doctor's-Research Scholarship (Specialist):** Requires the completion of an organized Page 41 of 152 South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Management Information System CHEMIS Data Dictionary program of study that awards the specialist degree, but does not meet the requirements of academic degree at the doctor's level.

**Doctorate Doctor's-Research/Scholarship:** An award that requires work at the graduate level and terminates in a doctor's degree.

**Non-degree seeking:** Students enrolled in courses for credit who have not been recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or formal award. At the undergraduate level, this is not intended to include students enrolled in vocational or occupational programs.

## Enrollment Status

**Full-time:** For undergraduates; a full-time student is a student enrolled for twelve or more semester credits. For graduate students; full-time is defined as enrollment in nine or more semester credits or students involved in thesis preparation that are considered full-time by the institution .

**Part-time:** For undergraduate students; a part-time student is a student enrolled for eleven or fewer semester credits. For graduate students; part-time is defined as enrollment in eight or less semester credits.

NOTE: The above IPEDS definitions apply only to fall and spring semesters. For summer sessions, institutions will define their own credit hour limits in determining the full-time or part-time classification.

## Enrollment Type (based on a course)

Indicates the broad categorization of students based on their progress toward a degree or certificate. There may be multiple enrollment types for a particular course/section (i.e. Lower and Upper division students taking the same class)

**Lower Division:** Students enrolled at the Freshman or Sophomore level.

**Upper Division:** Students enrolled at the Junior or Senior level.

**Graduate I:** Students enrolled at the Masters level.

**Graduate II (Doctor's-Research/Scholarship):** Students enrolled at the Doctoral level.