

Updated: 3/2/22

How Many Students are at Wellesley?

This question sounds simple, yet the answer is not always straightforward. There are several ways of thinking about how many students we have – from the perspective of who is enrolled in courses right now or from the perspective of who is making progress toward a degree. Over what time period are we measuring – fall semester, spring, the whole year? The people seeking this information have different ideas in mind when they ask “How many students are at Wellesley?”

The document that follows seeks to provide answers to five different versions of that question by providing five alternative measures of how many students are at the College. Each measure is named and defined in the following matrix, which details the kinds of students who are included in each measure, and the current value of each measure is reported. Most users are interested in the number of *matriculants*, which is the number of students pursuing a degree at the College, and is the number used in our admissions and other materials when we want to describe the “size” of Wellesley, but other users will find the other definitions more useful.

This resource is maintained by the Office of Institutional Research. The data are updated once per semester, after the student census takes place. Please treat these as the official enrollment measurements endorsed by the College.

How many students *enroll* at Wellesley?

Time	Fall	Spring	Summer	Winter	Annual						
Use	<i>Typically used in official external reporting</i>	<i>Typically used for internal reporting</i>	<i>Used for internal reporting and 12-month enrollment</i>	<i>Used for internal reporting and 12-month enrollment</i>	<i>Typically used upon special request and for reporting purposes.</i> <u>Unduplicated</u> : Single-headcount for each individual across all semesters <u>Average</u> : Average number of enrollments across semesters (typically FTE)						
Census date	Fall term: 10/15	Spring term: 3/15	Summer I: <i>Second Thursday</i> Summer II: <i>Second Thursday</i>	Winter: <i>Determined by Registrar</i>	Based on census dates						
Type	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="699 878 1203 984" style="background-color: #cccccc;">Affiliations</td> <td data-bbox="1247 878 1751 984" style="background-color: #4db6ac;">On-campus enrollments</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="699 1016 1203 1122" style="background-color: #4285f4;">Matriculants</td> <td data-bbox="1247 1016 1751 1122" style="background-color: #e1bee7;">On-campus matriculants</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="699 1154 1203 1260" style="background-color: #b3e5fc;">Full-time equivalents</td> <td data-bbox="1247 1154 1751 1260" style="background-color: #ffcc80;">Cohort</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Affiliations	On-campus enrollments	Matriculants	On-campus matriculants	Full-time equivalents	Cohort
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What types of enrollments are there?

	Affiliations	On-campus enrollments	Matriculants (degree-seeking)	On-campus matriculants	Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)
This figure tells us:	How many students are enrolled in Wellesley courses?	How many students are enrolled and physically present on campus, taking courses?	How many “Wellesley students” are enrolled at the College?	How many “Wellesley students” are on campus?	When taking enrollment time-status into account, how many students are enrolled?
Common uses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal reporting for enrollment (i.e., IPEDS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space planning for course enrollments Calculate student-to-faculty ratio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how big a given class is for graduation and advising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity planning on campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial aid Reporting to certain agencies (e.g., NEASC)
Include degree-seeking students studying off-campus? (Abroad, at other domestic institutions)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Depends on request
Include non-traditional degree-seeking students? (Davis, Transfer)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Depends on request
Include non-degree-seeking students? Babson, Brandeis, MIT, Olin, Spelman, 12-College exchange, high school, summer school, foreign exchange, special assistants, post baccalaureate, special students	Yes	Yes	No	No	Depends on request
Include degree-seeking students on personal leave, not enrolled in coursework, or withdrawn?	No	No	No	No	No
Fall 2019 figures:	2,309 Full-time = 2,229 Part-time = 80	2,302 Full-time = 2,224 Part-time = 78 Residents = 2,165	2,226 Full-time = 2,218 Part-time = 8 On-campus = 2,179 Off-campus = 47	2,179 Full-time = 2,178 Part-time = 1	2,256 On-campus: 2,250 Matriculants: 2,221

Notes: With the exception of degree-seeking students studying off-campus, only students enrolled in courses for credit are included in the enrollment total. Enrollment numbers exclude employees, alumnae and Wellesley residents attending courses as auditors.