CMU’s Enrollment Numbers Reported by OIR

What is CMU’s total enrollment? Simple as the question may seem, there can be more than one answer due to different definitions and reporting requirements. As a guide to data seekers, the following is an explanatory summary of commonly reported enrollment numbers and their uses.

- **CMU Definition** (Fall 2015 enrollment headcount: 26,968)
  This definition includes all enrolled CMU students both on and off campus, and thereby provides a more representative snapshot of the university’s total educational capacity. Reported annually by Office of Institutional Research to the CMU community, this published number serves as a base for institutional planning and enrollment projections.

- **Federal (IPEDS) Definition** (Fall 2015 enrollment headcount: 26,825)
  According to the federal requirement, the IPEDS definition does not include certain types of students\(^1\), for example, CMU students enrolled at locations outside the USA are to be excluded. Though less representative than the CMU count, the reported IPEDS number is widely propagated to the external world through public media. Prospective students, higher education researchers and policy makers frequently use IPEDS numbers to compare institutions. CMU also uses IPEDS numbers to select our peer institutions.

- **State (HEIDI) Definition** (Fall 2015 enrollment headcount: 24,826)
  By state definition, the HEIDI enrollment number is limited to Michigan sites only\(^1\). Given CMU’s large number of off-campus enrollments in other states, our HEIDI number is substantially smaller than that of the IPEDS. The HEIDI report is primarily used by state legislators and government administrators for planning and budgeting purposes.

- **12-month enrollment** (2014-15 unduplicated headcount: 30,471)
  Collected by IPEDS, this whole-year figure captures the total annual unduplicated enrollment, including students not registered in the fall. For an institution like CMU with many non-traditional students, the 12-month enrollment provides more complete information about the university’s annual productivity.

- **Full Time Equivalent** (Fall 2015 FTE enrollment: 22,193)
  To adjust for different workload, student headcount is often converted into FTE, which is defined as the institutional sum of full-time headcount plus 1/3 part-time headcount.

- **Fiscal Year Equated Student** (2014-15 FYES: 23,337)
  Based on student credit hours and level of study, FYES is a calculated output measure. When used together with budget data, FYES provides a measure of cost-effectiveness.

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\(^1\) See the Enrollment Definitions Appendix document for detailed explanations.

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Appendix

Requirements for Reporting Enrollment

CMU count date policy: fall headcount = on-campus fall headcount (unduplicated students registered as of 10% completion of the term) + estimated off-campus fall headcount (final headcount enrollment of the same term of the previous year)

As required by the State of Michigan, headcount and student credit hours should be counted at a specific date for each academic term and year to year according to policy established by the institution’s governing board.

Enrollment numbers:

1. CMU report – Includes all students
2. IPEDS – Includes activity at U.S. sites (federal reporting)

Student to include:

- Students enrolled in courses creditable toward a diploma, certificate, degree, or other formal award, including those enrolled in off-campus centers
- High school students taking regular college courses for credit
- Full-time students taking remedial courses if the student is considered degree-seeking for the purpose of student financial aid determination
- Students from overseas enrolled in U.S. courses for credit (e.g., online students)
- Graduate students enrolled for thesis credits, even when zero credits are awarded, as these students are still enrolled and seeking their degree

Students to exclude:

- Students enrolled exclusively in courses not creditable toward a formal award
- Students enrolled exclusively in Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
- Students exclusively auditing classes
- Residents or interns in Doctor's - professional practice (previously first-professional), since they have already received their Doctor's degree
- Any student studying abroad (e.g., at a foreign university) if their enrollment at the 'home' institution is only an administrative record and the fee is nominal
- Students in any branch campus located in a foreign country

3. HEIDI – Includes activity at Michigan sites (state reporting)

Headcount, student credit hour, and fiscal year equated student data are reported by student level, residency, and academic term. However, certain instructional activity is not to be reported pursuant to section 701 of the higher education appropriation act. Excluded student credit hours under section 701 are:
(a) Student credit hours generated through instructional activity by faculty or staff in classrooms located outside Michigan, with the exception of instructional activity related to international study-abroad programs or field courses.

(b) Student credit hours generated through distance learning instruction for a student not eligible for the institution’s in-state main campus resident tuition rate. However, in instances where a student is enrolled in distance education and non-distance education credit hours in a given term and the student’s non-distance education enrollment is at a campus or site located within Michigan, student credit hours per the student’s eligibility for in-state or out-of-state tuition rates may be reported.

Distance/Internet learning means instruction that occurs solely in other than a traditional classroom setting where the student and instructor are in the same physical location and for which a student receives course credits and is charged tuition and fees. Examples of distance learning are instruction delivered solely through the Internet, cable television, teleconference, or mail.

(c) Student credit hours generated through credit by examination.

(d) Student credit hours generated through inmate prison programs regardless of teaching location.

(e) Student credit hours generated in new degree programs after January 1, 1975, that have not been specifically authorized for funding by the legislature, except spin-off programs converted from existing core programs that do all of the following:

(i) Represent new options, fields, or concentrations within existing programs.
(ii) Are consistent with the current institutional role and mission.
(iii) Are accommodated within the continuing funding base of the institution.
(iv) Do not require a new degree level beyond that which the institution is currently authorized to grant within that discipline or field.
(v) Do not require funding from the state other than that provided by the student credit hours generated within the program, either before program initiation or within the first 3 years of program operation.

4. Definition of On-Campus – enrollment in courses at the main Mt Pleasant campus (courses with “on-campus” as the course location/site)