

# Average Class Size

<b>Courses Excluded:</b>	Independent studies, Directed Reading, Internship, Continuous Enrollment, Practicum, Comprehensive exam, dissertation research, Field Studies.
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Class Sections: A class section is an organized course offered for credit, identified by discipline and number, meeting at a stated time or times in a classroom or similar setting, and not a subsection such as a laboratory or discussion session. Undergraduate class sections are defined as any sections in which at least one degree degree-seeking student is enrolled for credit. Excludes distance learning classes and noncredit classes and individual instruction such as dissertation or thesis research, music instruction, or one-to-one readings. Exclude students in independent study, co-operative programs, internships, foreign language taped tutor sessions, practicums, and all students in one-to-one classes. Each class section should be counted only once and not be duplicated because of course catalog cross-listings.<sup>1</sup>

<b>Courses included in General Education Department:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>REL Course Code:</b> REL100 – REL 499 course codes.</li> <li>2. <b>English Course Code:</b> ENGL 101, LIT101, LIT102, LIT301, LIT302.</li> <li>3. <b>Psychology Course Code:</b> PSYCH100</li> <li>4. All instructional courses that have a course code that is independent of our degree programs.</li> </ol>
<b>Courses Included in ESL Department:</b>	5. ESL coded courses.
<b>Courses included in Pre-Collegiate report:</b>	6. ENGL100A, ENGL100B, ENGL100C, MATH025, ENGL090 series.

\*These courses are included in the General Education program because credits earned from taking these courses will be applied towards their General Education electives.

Average class size is broken down by department, degree level and overall aggregate of the Institution. Furthermore, two supplementary reports will be created to capture the average class size of ESL, and pre-collegiate courses (MATH025, ENGL090 series). When calculating average class size by department, we will include ENGL 90-100C coded courses under the English department, and the MATH025 course will fall under General Education. Average class size by degree level will be disaggregated by undergraduate level courses and graduate level courses. Furthermore, undergraduate level courses will be broken down to lower division and upper division. The overall aggregate of the institution will not include ESL. In essence, we will only include courses that offer degree applicable credit units.

**Average Class Size by Department:** Average class size by department is calculated by categorizing each course under a department based on its course code. The General Education department, however, includes courses from across the university. The courses that are included in the General Education department are listed in the box above.

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<sup>1</sup> Definition provided by CollegeBoard annual survey.

After properly filing each course under its corresponding department, the average is calculated by simply taking the sum of the number of students enrolled in each course and dividing that by the number of courses offered.

$$\text{Average Class Size} = \frac{\sum_1^n \text{Course 1, course 2, course n}}{\text{Total number of courses}}$$

**Median Class Size:** Whenever the average is calculated it is important to be aware of certain outliers in the data set that could potentially skew the results and make the data unrepresentative. In order to account for this unfortunate reality, we will also calculate the median. The median (or the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile) is calculated by sorting the raw data from the lowest number to the highest number. After the raw data have been sorted in value order, the median is found by taking the “middle” number. Note that if we have an even number of data points, then we will take the average of the two middle numbers. Calculating the median for data points that are significantly skewed will give us a better measure of class size.

**Comparing Average and Median:** A quick way to see if our data is heavily skewed in one direction or the other is by calculating both the median and the average. If the median and the average are equal then we have a normal distribution of data points. If the average is greater than the median then our data is positively skewed; likewise, if the average is less than the median then our data is said to be negatively skewed.

**Distribution by Class Size:** Distributing class size by 5 student increments will give us a distribution curve, which allows us to check for normality of distribution. Additionally,

**Interquartile Range:** A measure of variation and spread that is usually applied when calculating the median. The interquartile range is a measurement used to gauge where on the numerical spectrum a large proportion (more precisely 50%) of courses fall. The interquartile range is calculated by subtracting the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile from the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. Very simply, the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile is calculated by taking the average class size of all courses that are in the bottom 25%. The 75<sup>th</sup> percentile is calculated by taking the average class size of all the courses that are in the top 25%. In essence, the interquartile range is letting us know where 50% of courses fall on the numerical spectrum around the median.

**Average class size by degree level:** Degree level refers to the course level based on its course code.

000-100C	Pre-Collegiate courses
100-299	Lower division courses
300-499	Upper division courses
100-499	Undergraduate Level courses
500-799	Graduate level courses towards a Masters or Doctoral degree.