

# Common Data Set 2002-2003

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

### A1. Address Information

Name of College or University

**Towson University**

Mailing Address, City/State/Zip/Country

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**B. ENROLLMENT AND PERSISTENCE**

**B1. Institutional Enrollment—Men and Women** Provide numbers of students for each of the following categories as of the institution's official fall reporting date or as of October 15, 2002.

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<b>FULL-TIME</b>	<b>PART-TIME</b>
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**B2. Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Category.**

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**B5.** Of the initial 1996 cohort, how many did not persist and did not graduate for the following reasons: deceased, permanently disabled, armed forces, foreign aid service of the federal government, or official church missions; total allowable exclusions: 0

**B6.** Final 1996 cohort, after adjusting for allowable exclusions: 1,851  
(Subtract question B5 from question B4)

**B7.** Of the initial 1996 cohort, how many completed the program in four years or less (by August 31, 2000): 555

**B8.** Of the initial 1996 cohort, how many completed the program in more than four years but in five years or less (after August 31, 2000 and by August 31, 2001): 408

**B9.** Of the initial 1996 cohort, how many completed the program in more than five years but in six years or less (after August 31, 2001 and by August 31, 2002): 66

**B10.** Total graduating within six years (sum of questions B7, B8, and B9): 1,029

**B11.** Six-year graduation rate for 1996 cohort (question B10 divided by question B6): 55.6 %

### For Two-Year Institutions:

**B12.** Initial 1999 cohort, total of first-time, full-time degree/certificate-seeking students: \_\_\_\_\_

**B13.** Of the initial 1999 cohort, how many did not persist and did not graduate for the following reasons: deceased, permanently disabled, armed forces, foreign aid service of the federal government, or official church missions; total allowable exclusions: \_\_\_\_\_

**B14.** Final 1999 cohort, after adjusting for allowable exclusions \_\_\_\_\_  
(Subtract question B13 from question B12)

**B15.** Completers of programs of less than two years duration (total): \_\_\_\_\_

**B16.** Completers of programs of less than two years within 150 percent of normal time: \_\_\_\_\_

**B17.** Completers of programs of at least two but less than four years (total): \_\_\_\_\_

**B18.** Completers of programs of at least two but less than four-years within 150 percent of normal time: \_\_\_\_\_

**B19.** Total transfers-out (within three years) to other institutions: \_\_\_\_\_

**B20.** Total transfers to two-year institutions: \_\_\_\_\_

**B21.** Total transfers to four-year institutions: \_\_\_\_\_

### Retention Rates

Report for the cohort of all full-time, first-time bachelor's (or equivalent) degree-seeking undergraduate students who entered in fall 2001 (or the preceding summer term). The initial cohort may be adjusted for students who departed for the following reasons: deceased, permanently disabled, armed forces, foreign aid service of the federal government or official church missions. No other adjustments to the initial cohort should be made.

**B22.** For the cohort of all full-time bachelor's (or equivalent) degree-seeking undergraduate students who entered your institution as freshmen in fall 2001 (or the preceding summer term), what percentage was enrolled at your institution as of the date your institution calculates its official enrollment in fall 2002? 85.8 %

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### C. FIRST-TIME, FIRST-YEAR (FRESHMAN) ADMISSION

#### Applications

**C1. First-time, first-year (freshman) students:** Provide the number of degree-seeking, first-time, first-year students who applied, were admitted, and enrolled (full- or part-time) in fall 2002. Include early decision, early action, and students who began studies during summer in this cohort. Applicants should include only those students who fulfilled the requirements for consideration for admission (i.e., who completed actionable applications) and who have been notified of one of the following actions: admission, nonadmission, placement on waiting list, or application withdrawn (by applicant or institution). Admitted applicants should include wait-listed students who were subsequently offered admission.

Total first-time, first-year (freshman) men who applied	<u>4,037</u>
Total first-time, first-year (freshman) women who applied	<u>6,787</u>
Total first-time, first-year (freshman) men who were admitted	<u>2,147</u>
Total first-time, first-year (freshman) women who were admitted	<u>4,116</u>
Total full-time, first-time, first-year (freshman) men who enrolled	<u>813</u>
Total part-time, first-time, first-year (freshman) men who enrolled	<u>3</u>
Total full-time, first-time, first-year (freshman) women who enrolled	<u>1,385</u>
Total part-time, first-time, first-year (freshman) women who enrolled	<u>8</u>

**C2. Freshman wait-listed students (students who met admission requirements but whose final admission was contingent on space availability)**

Do you have a policy of placing students on a waiting list?  Yes  No  
If yes, please answer the questions below for fall 2002 admissions:

Number of qualified applicants placed on waiting list	<u>540</u>
Number accepting a place on the waiting list	<u>540</u>
Number of wait-listed students admitted	<u>186</u>

#### Admission Requirements

**C3. High school completion requirement**

Check the appropriate box to identify your high school completion requirement for degree-seeking entering students:

- High school diploma is required and GED is accepted  
 High school diploma is required and GED is not accepted  
 High school diploma or equivalent is not required

**C4. Does your institution require or recommend a general college-preparatory program for degree-seeking students?**

- Require  
 Recommend  
 Neither require nor recommend

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**C5. Distribution of high school units required and/or recommended.** Specify the distribution of academic high school course units required and/or recommended of all or most degree-seeking students using Carnegie units (one unit equals one year of study or its equivalent). If you use a different system for calculating units, please convert.

	<b>Units Required</b>	<b>Units Recommended</b>
Total academic units	24	
English	4	4
Mathematics	3	4
Science	3	3
Of these, units that must be lab	3	3
Foreign language	2	4
Social studies/History	3	4
Academic electives	6	
Other ( <i>specify</i> )		

**Basis for Selection**

**C6.** Do you have an open admission policy, under which virtually all secondary school graduates or students with GED equivalency diplomas are admitted without regard to academic record, test scores, or other qualifications? If so, check which applies:

Open admission policy as described above for all students     NO

Open admission policy as described above for most students, but  
selective admission for out-of-state students     NO  
selective admission to some programs     NO  
other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**C7. Relative importance of each of the following academic and nonacademic factors in your first-time, first-year, degree-seeking (freshman) admission decisions.**

	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Considered</b>	<b>Not Considered</b>
<i>Academic</i>				
Secondary school record	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Class rank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## SAT and ACT Policies

### C8. Entrance exams

A. Does your institution make use of SAT I, SAT II, or ACT scores in admission decisions for first-time, first-year, degree-seeking applicants?  Yes  No

If yes, place check marks in the appropriate boxes below to reflect your institution's policies for use in admission.

	ADMISSION				
	Require	Recommend	Require for Some	Consider If Submitted	Not Used
SAT I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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### Freshman Profile

Provide percentages for **ALL enrolled, degree-seeking, full-time and part-time, first-time, first-year (freshman) students** enrolled in fall 2002, including students who began studies during summer, international students/nonresident aliens, and students admitted under special arrangements.

**C9. Percent and number of first-time, first-year (freshman) students enrolled in fall 2002 who submitted national standardized (SAT/ACT) test scores.** Include information for **ALL enrolled, degree-seeking, first-time, first-year (freshman) students who submitted test scores.** Do not include partial test scores (e.g., mathematics scores but not verbal for a category of students) or combine other standardized test results (such as TOEFL) in this item. SAT scores should be recentered scores. The 25th percentile is the score that 25 percent scored at or below; the 75th percentile score is the one that 25 percent scored at or above.

Percent submitting SAT scores	<u>97.9%</u>	Number submitting SAT scores	<u>2,163</u>
Percent submitting ACT scores	<u>2.1%</u>	Number submitting ACT scores	<u>48</u>

	25th Percentile	75th Percentile
SAT I Verbal	<b>500</b>	<b>580</b>
SAT I Math	<b>510</b>	<b>600</b>
ACT Composite		
ACT English		
ACT Math		

Percent of first-time, first-year (freshma



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**C11. Percentage of all enrolled, degree-seeking, first-time, first-year (freshman) students who had high school grade-point averages within each of the following ranges (using 4.0 scale). Report information only for those students from whom you collected high school GPA.**

Percent who had GPA of 3.0 and higher	<u>94.4%</u>
Percent who had GPA between 2.0 and 2.99	<u>5.6%</u>
Percent who had GPA between 1.0 and 1.99	<u>0</u>
Percent who had GPA below 1.0	<u>0</u>

**C12. Average high school GPA of all degree-seeking, first-time, first-year (freshman) students who submitted GPA:**  
3.45

Percent of total first-time, first-year (freshman) students who submitted high school GPA: 100 %

### Admission Policies

#### C13. Application fee

Does your institution have an application fee?  Yes  No  
Amount of application fee: \$35  
Can it be waived for applicants with financial need?  Yes  No

#### C14. Application closing date

Does your institution have an application closing date?  Yes  No  
Application closing date (fall): 3/01/03  
Priority date: 10/02

**C15. Are first-time, first-year students accepted for terms other than the fall?**  Yes  No

#### C16. Notification to applicants of admission decision sent (*fill in one only*)

On a rolling basis beginning (date): 10/02  
By (date): \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### C17. Reply policy for admitted applicants (*fill in one only*)

Must reply by (date): \_\_\_\_\_  
No set date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Must reply by May 1 or within 2 weeks if notified thereafter  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**C18. Deferred admission:** Does your institution allow students to postpone enrollment after admission?

Yes  No  
If yes, maximum period of postponement: One Semester

**C19. Early admission of high school students:** Does your institution allow high school students to enroll as full-time, first-time, first-year (freshman) students one year or more before high school graduation?  Yes  No

**C20. Common Application:** Will you accept the Common Application distributed by the National Association of

Secondary School Principals if submitted?  Yes  No  
If "yes," are supplemental forms required?  Yes  No  
Is your college a member of the Common Application Group?  Yes  No

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### Early Decision and Early Action Plans

**C21. Early decision:** Does your institution offer an early decision plan (an admission plan that permits students to apply and be notified of an admission decision well in advance of the regular notification date and that asks students to commit to attending if accepted) for first-time, first-year (freshman) applicants for fall enrollment?  Yes  No

If "yes," please complete the following:

First or only early decision plan closing date \_\_\_\_\_

First or only early decision plan notification date \_\_\_\_\_

Other early decision plan closing date \_\_\_\_\_

Other early decision plan notification date \_\_\_\_\_

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**D. TRANSFER ADMISSION**

**Fall Applicants**

**D1.** Does your institution enroll transfer students?  Yes  No

(If no, please skip to Section E)

If yes, may transfer students earn advanced standing credit by transferring credits earned from course work completed at other colleges/universities?  Yes  No

**D2.** Provide the number of students who applied, were admitted, and enrolled as degree-seeking transfer students in fall 2002.

	<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Admitted Applicants</b>	<b>Enrolled Applicants</b>
Men	1,259	686	400
Women	1,710	1,037	741
Total	2,969	1,723	1,141

**Application for Admission**

**D3.** Indicate terms for which transfers may enroll:

Fall  Winter  Spring  Summer

**D4.** Must a transfer applicant have a minimum number of credits completed or else must apply as an entering freshman?

Yes  No

If yes, what is the minimum number of credits and the unit of measure? 30 Semester Hours

**D5.** Indicate all items required of transfer students to apply for admission:

	<b>Required of All</b>	<b>Recommended of All</b>	<b>Recommended of Some</b>	<b>Required of Some</b>	<b>Not required</b>

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**D9.** List application priority, closing, notification, and candidate reply dates for transfer students. If applications are reviewed on a continuous or rolling basis, place a check mark in the “Rolling admission” column.

	<b>Priority Date</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>	<b>Notification Date</b>	<b>Reply Date</b>	<b>Rolling Admission</b>
Fall	12/02	03/01/03		06/03	X
Winter					
Spring	12/02	12/02		12/15/02	

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### E. ACADEMIC OFFERINGS AND POLICIES

**E1. Special study options:** Identify those programs available at your institution. Refer to the glossary for definitions.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accelerated program                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honors program                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative (work-study) program               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Independent study             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-registration                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internships                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance learning                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Liberal arts/career combination          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double major                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student-designed major        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dual enrollment                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Study abroad                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English as a Second Language (ESL)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher certification program |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange student program (domestic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend college                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> External degree program                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):                               |   |

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**F2. Activities offered** Identify those programs available at your institution.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Choral groups     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marching band   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student government       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concert band      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music ensembles | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student newspaper        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dance             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Musical theater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student-run film society |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drama/theater     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Opera           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Symphony orchestra       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jazz band         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pep band        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Television station       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literary magazine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Radio station   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yearbook                 |

**F3. ROTC** (program offered in cooperation with Reserve Officers' Training Corps)

Army ROTC is offered:

- On campus

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### G. ANNUAL EXPENSES

**Provide 2003-2004 academic year costs for the following categories that are applicable to your institution.**

- Check here if your institution's 2003-2004 academic year costs are not available at this time and provide an approximate date (i.e., month/day) when your institution's final 2003-2004 academic year costs will be available: Figures below are not final

**G1. Undergraduate full-time tuition, required fees, room and board**

List the typical tuition, required fees, and room and board for a full-time undergraduate student for the FULL 2003-2004 academic year (30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours for institutions that derive annual tuition by multiplying credit hour cost by number of credits). A full academic year refers to the period of time generally extending from September to June; usually equated to two semesters, two trimesters, three quarters, or the period covered by a four-one-four plan. Room and board is defined as double occupancy and 19 meals per week or the maximum meal plan. **Required fees** include only charges that all full-time students must pay that are *not* included in tuition (e.g., registration, health, or activity fees.) Do *not* include optional fees (e.g., parking, laboratory use).

	FIRST-YEAR	UNDERGRADUATES
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS:		
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	<b>\$3,956</b>	<b>\$3,956</b>
In-district:		
In-state (out-of-district):	<b>\$3,956</b>	<b>\$3,956</b>
Out-of-state:	<b>\$11,602</b>	<b>\$11,602</b>
NONRESIDENT ALIENS:	<b>\$11,602</b>	<b>\$11,602</b>
REQUIRED FEES:	<b>\$1,698</b>	<b>\$1,698</b>
ROOM AND BOARD: (on-campus)	<b>\$6,322</b>	<b>\$6,322</b>
ROOM ONLY: (on-campus)	<b>\$3,670</b>	<b>\$3,670</b>
BOARD ONLY: (on-campus meal plan)	<b>\$2,652</b>	<b>\$2,652</b>

Comprehensive tuition and room and board fee (if your college cannot provide separate tuition and room and board fees): \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**G2. Number of credits per term a student can take for the stated full-time tuition**      12 minimum      15 maximum

**G3. Do tuition and fees vary by year of study (e.g., sophomore, junior, senior)?**       Yes       No

**G4. If tuition and fees vary by undergraduate instructional program, describe briefly:** \_\_\_\_\_

**G5. Provide the estimated expenses for a typical full-time undergraduate student:**

	Residents	Commuters (living at home)	Commuters (not living at home)
Books and supplies:	<b>\$800</b>	<b>\$800</b>	<b>\$800</b>

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**G6. Undergraduate per-credit-hour charges:**

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS:	
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS In-district:	<b>\$172</b>
In-state (out-of-district):	
Out-of-state:	<b>\$426</b>
NONRESIDENT ALIENS:	<b>\$426</b>



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## H. FINANCIAL AID

### Aid Awarded to Enrolled Undergraduates

**H1.** Enter total dollar amounts **awarded** to full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates (**using the same cohort reported in CDS Question B1, “total degree-seeking” undergraduates**) in the following categories. (Note: If the data being reported are final figures for the 2001-2002 academic year (see the next item below), use the 2001-2002 academic year's CDS Question B1 cohort.) Include aid awarded to international students (i.e., those not qualifying for federal aid). **Aid that is non-need-based but that was used to meet need should be reported in the need-based aid column.** (For a suggested order of precedence in assigning categories of aid to cover need, see the entry for “non-need-based gift aid” on the last page of the definitions section.)

Indicate the academic year for which data are reported for items **H1**, **H2**, **H2A**, and **H6** below:

2002-2003 estimated or  2001-2002 final

	Need-based (Include non-need-based aid use to meet need.)	Non-need-based (Exclude non-need-based aid use to meet need.)
	\$	\$
<b>Scholarships/Grants</b>		
Federal	\$5,489,113	\$35,721
State	\$4,516,346	\$4,129,597
Institutional (endowment, alumni, or other institutional awards) and external funds awarded by the college excluding athletic aid and tuition waivers (which are reported below)	\$4,188,320	\$6,639,618
Scholarships/grants from external sources (e.g., Kiwanis, National Merit) not awarded by the college	\$453,599	\$728,313
<b>Total Scholarships/Grants</b>	\$14,647,378	\$11,533,249
<b>Self-Help</b>		
Student loans from all sources (excluding parent loans)	\$23,507,045	\$12,051,008
Federal Work-Study	\$1,279,592	
State and other work-study/employment		
<b>Total Self-Help</b>	\$24,786,637	\$12,051,008
<b>Parent Loans</b>	\$3,626,761	\$12,628,644
<b>Tuition Waivers</b>	\$239,253	\$644,431
<b>Athletic Awards</b>	\$874,903	\$1,579,645

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**H2. Number of Enrolled Students Receiving Aid:** List the number of degree-seeking full-time and less-than-full-time undergraduates who applied for and received financial aid. **Aid that is non-need-based but that was used to meet need should be counted as need-based aid.** Numbers should reflect the cohort receiving the dollars reported in H1. Note: In the chart below, students may be counted in more than one row, and full-time freshmen should also be counted as full-time undergraduates.

	<b>First-time Full-time Freshmen</b>	<b>Full-time Undergrad (Incl. Fresh)</b>	<b>Less Than Full-time Undergrad</b>
a) Number of degree-seeking undergraduate students (CDS Item B1 if reporting on Fall 2002 cohort)	2,209	12,275	2,021
b) Number of students in line <b>a</b> who were financial aid applicants (include applicants for all types of aid)	1,635	7,087	524
c) Number of students in line <b>b</b> who were determined to have financial need	1,066	4,987	417
d) Number of students in line <b>c</b> who received any financial aid	989	4,691	322
e) Number of students in line <b>d</b> who received any need-based gift aid	475	2,611	177
f) Number of students in line <b>d</b> who received any need-based self-help aid	732	3,594	264
g) Number of students in line <b>d</b> who received any non-need-based gift aid	798	3,627	125
h) Number of students in line <b>d</b> whose need was fully met ( <u>exclude PLUS loans, unsubsidized loans, and private alternative loans</u> )	493	2,280	145
i) On average, the percentage of need that was met of students who received any need-based aid. Exclude any resources that were awarded to replace EFC ( <u>PLUS loans, unsubsidized loans, and private alternative loans</u> )	79%	81%	79%
j) The average financial aid package of those in line <b>d</b> . Exclude any resources that were awarded to replace EFC ( <u>PLUS loans, unsubsidized loans, and private alternative loans</u> )	\$7,260	\$8,109	\$6,156
k) Average need-based gift award of those in line <b>e</b>	\$4,393	\$4,125	\$2,453
l) Average need-based self-help award ( <u>excluding PLUS loans, unsubsidized loans, and private alternative loans</u> ) of those in line <b>f</b>	\$3,211	\$4,209	\$4,300
m) Average need-based loan ( <u>excluding PLUS loans, unsubsidized loans, and private alternative loans</u> ) of those in line <b>f</b> who received a need-based loan	\$2,883	\$3,966	\$4,273
n) Number of students in line <b>a</b> who had no financial need and who received non-need-based <u>gift aid</u> (exclude those receiving athletic awards and tuition benefits)	335	1,739	57
o) Average <u>dollar amount of non-need-based gift aid awarded</u> to students in line <b>n</b>	\$4,237	\$4,376	\$1,518
p) Number of students in line <b>a</b> who received a non-need-based athletic <u>grant or scholarship</u>	64	264	3
q) Average <u>dollar amount of non-need-based athletic grants and scholarships awarded</u> to students in line <b>p</b>	\$8,467	\$7,282	\$2,454

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**H3:** Which needs-analysis methodology does your institution use in awarding institutional aid?

- Federal methodology (FM)  
 Institutional methodology (IM)  
 Both FM and IM

**H4.** Percent of the 2002 undergraduate class who graduated between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002 and borrowed through any loan programs (federal, state, subsidized, unsubsidized, private, etc.; exclude parent loans). Include only students who borrowed while enrolled at your institution. **48%**

**H5.** Average per-borrower cumulative undergraduate indebtedness of those in line H4. Do not include money borrowed at other institutions: **\$15,530**

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**H10.** Indicate notification dates for first-year (freshman) students (answer a or b):



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### I-3. Undergraduate Class Size

In the table below, please use the following definitions to report information about the size of classes and class sections offered in the Fall 2002 term.

*Class Sections:*

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## J. DEGREES CONFERRED

Degrees conferred between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002

Reference: IPEDS Completions, Part A

For each of the following discipline areas, provide the percentage of diplomas/certificates, associate, and bachelor's degrees awarded.

Category	Diploma/ Certificates	Associate	Bachelor's	CIP 1990 Categories to
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### Common Data Set Definitions 2002

**All definitions related to the financial aid section appear at the end of the Definitions document.**

Items preceded by an asterisk (\*) represent definitions agreed to among publishers which do not appear on the CDS document but may be present on individual publishers' surveys.

**\*Academic advisement:** Plan under which each student is assigned to a faculty member or a trained adviser, who, through regular meetings, helps the student plan and implement immediate and long-term academic and vocational goals.

**Accelerated program:** Completion of a college program of study in fewer than the usual number of years, most often by attending summer sessions and carrying extra courses during the regular academic term.

**Admitted student:** Applicant who is offered admission to a degree-granting program at your institution.

**\*Adult student services:** Admission assistance, support, orientation, and other services expressly for adults who have started college for the first time, or who are re-entering after a lapse of a few years.

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

**Applicant (first-time, first year):** An individual who has fulfilled the institution's requirements to be considered for admission (including payment or waiving of the application fee, if any) and who has been notified of one of the following actions: admission, nonadmission, placement on waiting list, or application withdrawn (by applicant or institution).

**Application fee:** That amount of money that an institution charges for processing a student's application for acceptance. This amount is *not* creditable toward tuition and required fees, nor is it refundable if the student is not admitted to the institution.

**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, American Samoa, India, and Vietnam.

**Associate degree:** An award that normally requires at least two but less than four years of full-time equivalent college work.

**Bachelor's degree:** An award (baccalaureate or equivalent degree, as determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education) that normally requires at least four years but *not* more than five years of full-time equivalent college-level work. This includes ALL bachelor's degrees conferred in a five-year cooperative (work-study plan) program. (A cooperative plan provides for alternate class attendance and employment in business, industry, or government; thus, it allows students to combine actual work experience with their college studies.) Also, it includes bachelor's degrees in which the normal four years of work are completed in three years.

**Black, non-Hispanic:** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa (except those of Hispanic origin).

**Board (charges):** Assume average cost for 19 meals per week or the maximum meal plan.

**Books and supplies (costs):** Average cost of books and supplies. Do not include unusual costs for special groups of students (e.g., engineering or art majors), unless they constitute the majority of students at your institution.

**Calendar system:** The method by which an institution structures most of its courses for the academic year.

**\*Career and placement services:** A range of services, including (often) the following: coordination of visits of employers to campus; aptitude and vocational testing; interest inventories, personal counseling; help in resume writing, interviewing, launching the job search; listings for those students desiring employment and those seeking permanent positions; establishment of a permanent reference folder; career resource materials.

**Carnegie units:** One year of study or the equivalent in a secondary school subject.



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**Certificate:** See **Postsecondary award, certificate, or diploma.**

**Class rank:** The relative numerical position of a student in his or her graduating class, calculated by the high school on the basis of grade-point average, whether weighted or unweighted.

**College-preparatory program:** Courses in academic subjects (English, history and social studies, foreign languages, mathematics, science, and the arts) that stress preparation for college or university study.

**Common Application:**

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program desired. For example, a school might offer a two-month program in January, March, May, September, and November; and a three-month program in January, April, and October.

**Diploma:** See **Postsecondary award, certificate, or diploma.**

**Distance learning:** An option for earning course credit at off-campus locations via cable television, internet, satellite classes, videotapes, correspondence courses, or other means.

**Doctoral degree:** The highest award a student can earn for graduate study. The doctoral degree classification includes such degrees as Doctor of Education, Doctor of Juridical Science, Doctor of Public Health, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in any field such as agronomy, food technology, education, engineering, public administration, ophthalmology, or radiology. For the Doctor of Public Health degree, the prior degree is generally earned in the closely related field of medicine or in sanitary engineering.

**Double major:** Program in which students may complete two undergraduate programs of study simultaneously.

**Dual enrollment:** A program through which high school students may enroll in college courses while still enrolled in high school. Students are not required to apply for admission to the college in order to participate.

**Early action plan:** An admission plan that allows students to apply and be notified of an admission decision well in advance of the regular notification dates. If admitted, the candidate is not committed to enroll; the student may reply to the offer under the college's regular reply policy.

**Early admission:** A policy under which students who have not completed high school are admitted and enroll full time in college, usually after completion of their junior year.

**Early decision plan:** A plan that permits students to apply and be notified of an admission decision (and financial aid offer if applicable) well in advance of the regular notification date. Applicants agree to accept an offer of admission and, if admitted, to withdraw their applications from other colleges. There are three possible decisions for early decision applicants: admitted, denied, or not admitted but forwarded for consideration with the regular applicant pool, without prejudice.

**English as a Second Language (ESL):** A course of study designed specifically for students whose native language is not English.

**Exchange student program-domestic:** Any arrangement between a student and a college that permits study for a semester or more at another college **in the United States** without extending the amount of time required for a degree. **See also Study abroad.**

**External degree program:** A program of study in which students earn credits toward a degree through independent study, college courses, proficiency examinations, and personal experience. External degree programs require minimal or no classroom attendance.

**Extracurricular activities (as admission factor):** Special consideration in the admissions process given for participation in both school and nonschool-related activities of interest to the college, such as clubs, hobbies, student government, athletics, performing arts, etc.

**First professional certificate (postdegree):** An award that requires completion of an organized program of study designed for persons who have completed the first professional degree. Examples could be refresher courses or additional units of study in a specialty or subspecialty.

**First professional degree:** An award in one of the following fields: Chiropractic (DC, DCM), dentistry (DDS, DMD), medicine (MD), optometry (OD), osteopathic medicine (DO), rabbinical and Talmudic studies (MHL, Rav), Pharmacy (BPharm, PharmD), podiatry (PodD, DP, DPM), veterinary medicine (DVM), law (LLB, JD), divinity/ministry (BD, MDiv).

**First-time student:** A student attending any institution for the first time at the level enrolled. Includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended a postsecondary institution for the first time at the same level in the prior summer term. Also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credit earned before graduation from high school).

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**First-time, first-year (freshman) student:** A student attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. 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).

**First-year student:** A student who has completed less than the equivalent of 1 full year of undergraduate work; that is, less than 30 semester hours (in a 120-hour degree program) or less than 900 contact hours.

**Freshman:** A first-year undergraduate student.

**\*Freshman/new student orientation:** Orientation addressing the academic, social, emotional, and intellectual issues involved in beginning college. May be a few hours or a few days in length; at some colleges, there is a fee.

**Full-time student (undergraduate):** A student enrolled for 12 or more semester credits, 12 or more quarter credits, or 24 or more contact hours a week each term.

**Geographical residence (as admission factor):** Special consideration in the admission process given to students from a particular region, state, or country of residence.

**Grade-point average (academic high school GPA):** The sum of grade points a student has earned in secondary school divided by the number of courses taken. The most common system of assigning numbers to grades counts four points for an A, three points for a B, two points for a C, one point for a D, and no points for an E or F. Unweighted GPA's assign the same weight to each course. Weighting gives students additional points for their grades in advanced or honors courses.

**Graduate student:** A student who holds a bachelor's or first professional degree, or equivalent, and is taking courses at the post-baccalaureate level.

**\*Health services:** Free or low cost on-campus primary and preventive health care available to students.

**High school diploma or recognized equivalent:** A document certifying the successful completion of a prescribed secondary school program of studies, or the attainment of satisfactory scores on the Tests of General Educational Development (GED), or another state-specified examination.

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

**Honors program:** Any special program for very able students offering the opportunity for educational enrichment, independent study, acceleration, or some combination of these.

**Independent study:** Academic work chosen or designed by the student with the approval of the department concerned, under an instructor's supervision, and usually undertaken outside of the regular classroom structure.

**In-state tuition:**

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**Minority affiliation (as admission factor):** Special consideration in the admission process for members of designated racial/ethnic minority groups.

**\*Minority student center:** Center with programs, activities, and/or services intended to enhance the college experience of students of color.

**Nonresident 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.

**\*On-campus day care:** Licensed day care for students' children (usually age 3 and up); usually for a fee.

**Open admission:** Admission policy under which virtually all secondary school graduates or students with GED equivalency diplomas are admitted without regard to academic record, test scores, or other qualifications.

**Other expenses (costs):** Include average costs for clothing, laundry, entertainment, medical (if not a required fee), and furnishings.

**Out-of-state tuition:** The tuition charged by institutions to those students who do not meet the institution's or state's residency requirements.

**Part-time student (undergraduate):** A student enrolled for fewer than 12 credits per semester or quarter, or fewer than 24 contact hours a week each term.

**\*Personal counseling:** One-on-one or group counseling with trained professionals for students who want to explore personal, educational, or vocational issues.

**Post-baccalaureate certificate:** An award that requires completion of an organized program of study requiring 18 credit hours beyond the bachelor's; designed for persons who have completed a baccalaureate degree but do not meet the requirements of academic degrees carrying the title of master.

**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 doctoral level.

**Postsecondary award, certificate, or diploma:** Includes the following three IPEDS definitions for postsecondary awards, certificates, and diplomas of varying durations and credit/contact hour requirements—

*Less Than 1 Academic Year:* Requires completion of an organized program of study at the postsecondary level (below the baccalaureate degree) in less than 1 academic year (2 semesters or 3 quarters) or in less than 900 contact hours by a student enrolled full-time.

*At Least 1 But Less Than 2 Academic Years:* Requires completion of an organized program of study at the postsecondary level (below the baccalaureate degree) in at least 1 but less than 2 full-time equivalent academic

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**Quarter calendar system:** A calendar system in which the academic year consists of three sessions called quarters of about 12 weeks each. The range may be from 10 to 15 weeks. There may be an additional quarter in the summer.

**Race/ethnicity:** Category used to describe groups to which individuals belong, identify with, or belong in the eyes of the community. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. A person may be counted in only one group.

**Race/ethnicity unknown:** Category used to classify students or employees whose race/ethnicity is not known and whom institutions are unable to place in one of the specified racial/ethnic categories.

**Religious affiliation/commitment (as admission factor):** Special consideration given in the admission process for



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### Financial Aid Definitions

**Financial aid applicant:** Any applicant who submits **any one of** the institutionally required financial aid applications/forms, such as the FAFSA.

**Indebtedness:** Aggregate dollar amount borrowed through any loan programs (federal, state, subsidized, unsubsidized,