



Quick Facts: Undergraduate Class Size Distribution

This report summarizes undergraduate class sizes based on the distribution of student credit hours (SCH) rather than the number of course sections. Weighting by SCH better reflects the classroom experience because it accounts for where students actually spend their instructional time, providing a more direct measure of the undergraduate classroom experience than just counting sections or the commonly reported student-faculty ratio.

While CWU's official IPEDS student-faculty ratio was 15.5 in Fall 2025, that measure is a blunt ratio that does not describe the class sizes students actually experience. Instead, this report shows that 88% of undergraduate instruction occurred in classes enrolling fewer than 50 students. Class size is closely tied to course level: 100-level courses are far more likely to be larger than upper-division (300-499) courses.

Why weight by student credit hours?

A three-credit lecture enrolling 120 students contributes substantially more to the undergraduate classroom experience than a one-credit class enrolling 15 students. These classes should not be counted equally.

	FALL 2022	FALL 2023	FALL 2024	FALL 2025
STUDENT FACULTY RATIO	14.9	14.8	15.1	15.5

DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT CREDIT HOURS BY CLASS SIZE BY COURSE LEVEL

COURSE LEVEL	CLASS SIZE	FALL 2022	FALL 2023	FALL 2024	FALL 2025
100-199	SMALL (2-19)	9%	11%	9%	6%
	MEDIUM (20-49)	69%	73%	67%	70%
	LARGE (50-99)	12%	6%	12%	12%
	VERY LARGE (100+)	10%	10%	13%	13%
200-299	SMALL	22%	24%	25%	19%
	MEDIUM	68%	71%	67%	76%
	LARGE	10%	5%	3%	5%
	VERY LARGE	0%	0%	5%	0%
300-399	SMALL	36%	41%	35%	29%
	MEDIUM	63%	59%	65%	71%
	LARGE	1%	0%	0%	0%
	VERY LARGE	0%	0%	0%	0%
400-499	SMALL	44%	49%	55%	47%
	MEDIUM	56%	51%	42%	51%
	LARGE	0%	0%	2%	2%
	VERY LARGE	0%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	SMALL	22%	25%	24%	19%
	MEDIUM	66%	66%	63%	69%
	LARGE	7%	4%	6%	6%
	VERY LARGE	5%	5%	7%	6%

Source: CWU-IERP, 2026-07-15. Notes: Small class refers to a class with 2-19 students. A Medium class refers to a class with 20-49 students. A Large class has 50-99 students, and a Very Large class has 100 or more students. Course level is based on the Catalog Number. Data includes in-person and hybrid lecture, practice, seminar, and lab classes with more than one student enrolled, excluding off-campus locations. These class size groupings align with the groups used in the Common Data Set (CDS). Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.