

Typical Class Sizes for Undergraduate Students at Ohio's Public Campuses

Questions: What is the average class size at Ohio's public colleges and universities? Does class size vary depending on the type of college attended? What is the probability that an undergraduate student will be enrolled in a class having fewer than 20 students? What is the probability that an undergraduate student will be enrolled in a class having 50 or more students?

Why ask about Class Size? Many prospective students and their families believe that class size is an important variable to consider when making decisions about which higher education institution to attend. Such students will want to know the average class size at various institutions throughout the state. In addition, they will want to know the likelihood of being enrolled in either a very small class or a very large class. While small classes are generally preferred, large classes with good instructors may be better than small classes with less qualified instructors.

National Answers: There are no known national indicators of class size.

Statewide Answers: The average undergraduate class size in fall 2001 was 18 for classes meeting as labs and 27 for classes meeting as lectures. The probability of an undergraduate student being enrolled in a class with 50 or more students is 9% for labs and 24% for lectures.

Note: Class meetings are weighted based on the number of hours they meet. Thus, a class meeting for three hours is weighted three times as heavily as a class meeting for one hour. Class meetings with fewer than four enrollees are excluded from the calculation of average class size but not from the probability distribution.

Average Undergraduate Level Class Size and Probability of Being Enrolled in a Class Having Fewer than 20 or Greater than 49 Students, Fall 2001

Room Type	Average Meeting Size	Percent of Students in Meetings Smaller than 20*	Percent of Students in Meetings of 50 or Larger*
Lecture	27	19%	24%
Lab	18	45%	9%

* Note: These figures represent the probability that at any given point in time a student will be in a class of this size. They do not represent the percent of classes in this size category.

Sector Answers: Average class sizes are highest at university main campuses for both labs and lectures. The probability of being enrolled in a large class (50 or more students) is very low at Ohio's 2-year campuses (0% - 8%). The probability of an undergraduate student being enrolled in a small lecture (fewer than 20 students) is greatest at technical colleges (39%) and lowest at university main campuses (12%).

Average Undergraduate Level Class Size and Probability of Being Enrolled in a Class Having Fewer than 20 or Greater than 49 Students, Fall 2001 by Sector

Room Type	Sector	Average Meeting Size	Median Meeting Size	Percent of Students in Meetings Smaller than 20	Percent of Students in Meetings of 50 or Larger
Lecture	Community Colleges	20	19	32%	4%
	State Community Colleges	19	19	33%	1%
	Technical Colleges	19	17	39%	8%
	University Branch Campuses	22	21	25%	5%
	University Main Campuses	33	25	12%	36%
Lab	Community Colleges	14	13	63%	0%
	State Community Colleges	16	15	56%	0%
	Technical Colleges	16	14	58%	4%
	University Branch Campuses	17	17	44%	3%
	University Main Campuses	20	18	39%	13%

Campus Answers: Average class size varies significantly from campus to campus. Among university main campuses, Central State University has the smallest average labs (16 students) and lectures (18 students). The largest average lecture size is 43 students at The Ohio State University. Among university main campuses, the probability of being enrolled in a lecture with fewer than 20 students is greatest at Central State University (36%) and lowest at The Ohio State University (6%). Among 2-year institutions, Owens State Community College's Findlay Campus has the smallest average lectures (13 students), Jefferson Community College and Washington State Community College have the smallest average labs (11 students) and Kent State's Geauga Campus has the highest probability of being enrolled in a lab with fewer than 20 students (100%).

Note: Definitional differences exist among campuses with respect to course scheduling may affect the following reported statistics

Average Undergraduate Level Lecture Class Size and Probability of Being Enrolled in a Lecture with Fewer than 20 or Greater than 49 Students, Fall 2001 by Campus

Community Colleges – Lectures

Institution	Average Meeting Size	Median Meeting Size	Percent of Students in Meetings Smaller than 20	Percent of Students in Meetings of 50 or Larger
Cuyahoga Community College, Eastern	21	20	30%	2%
Cuyahoga Community College, Metro	19	19	34%	1%
Cuyahoga Community College, Western	24	23	22%	11%
Jefferson Community College	17	16	50%	0%
Lakeland Community College	19	17	37%	4%
Lorain County Community College	24	24	19%	7%
Sinclair Community College	19	18	39%	1%

State Community Colleges – Lectures

Cincinnati State Technical & Community College	17	17	44%	0%
Clark State Community College	20	19	35%	1%
Columbus State Community College	23	23	19%	1%
Edison State Community College	16	15	49%	0%
Northwest State Community College	20	20	28%	0%
Owens State Community College, Findlay	13	12	69%	0%
Owens State Community College, Toledo	18	16	39%	3%
Southern State Community College, Central	21	19	28%	1%
Southern State Community College, Fayette	19	20	35%	0%
Southern State Community College, North	19	17	39%	0%
Southern State Community College, South	19	20	33%	0%
Terra State Community College	17	17	46%	0%
Washington State Community College	16	15	51%	0%

Technical Colleges – Lectures

Belmont Technical College	17	14	40%	1%
Central Ohio Technical College	24	24	19%	7%
Hocking Technical College	27	22	19%	23%
Marion Technical College	21	23	24%	5%
Muskingum Area Technical College	19	18	42%	3%
North Central State College	16	14	60%	3%
James A. Rhodes State College	20	18	40%	5%
Stark State College of Technology	17	16	49%	1%

University Branch Campuses - Lectures

Institution	Average Meeting Size	Median Meeting Size	Percent of Students in Meetings Smaller than 20	Percent of Students in Meetings of 50 or Larger
Bowling Green State University, Firelands	22	22	21%	0%
Kent State University, Ashtabula	21	19	29%	9%
Kent State University, East Liverpool	15	14	56%	3%
Kent State University, Geauga	14	13	60%	0%
Kent State University, Salem	18	18	32%	0%
Kent State University, Stark	26	24	14%	11%
Kent State University, Trumbull	22	23	24%	2%
Kent State University, Tuscarawas	22	20	25%	12%
Miami University, Hamilton	25	24	16%	6%
Miami University, Middletown	23	22	18%	5%
OSU, Agricultural Technical Institute	23	21	28%	6%
Ohio State University, Lima	26	24	18%	11%
Ohio State University, Mansfield	24	22	20%	5%
Ohio State University, Marion	26	26	17%	7%
Ohio State University, Newark	24	22	18%	3%
Ohio University, Chillicothe	22	21	25%	3%
Ohio University, Eastern	19	19	33%	0%
Ohio University, Lancaster	21	20	28%	5%
Ohio University, Southern	19	18	40%	2%
Ohio University, Zanesville	20	20	28%	0%
University of Akron, Wayne	20	19	33%	3%
University of Cincinnati, Clermont	24	23	20%	3%
University of Cincinnati, Raymond Walters	21	20	31%	1%
Wright State University, Lake	20	19	35%	0%

University Main Campuses – Lectures

Bowling Green State University	34	28	9%	33%
Central State University	18	15	36%	5%
Cleveland State University	30	24	14%	31%
Kent State University	34	25	11%	40%
Miami University	33	27	9%	27%
The Ohio State University	43	27	6%	52%
Ohio University	37	25	11%	44%
Shawnee State University	24	21	25%	14%
University of Akron	27	24	16%	17%
University of Cincinnati	28	21	19%	32%
University of Toledo	35	25	13%	43%
Wright State University	35	26	10%	38%
Youngstown State University	30	25	14%	26%

Average Undergraduate Level Lab Class Size and Probability of Being Enrolled in a Lab with Fewer than 20 or Greater than 49 Students, Fall 2001 by Campus

Community Colleges – Labs

Institution	Average Meeting Size	Median Meeting Size	Percent of Students in Meetings Smaller than 20	Percent of Students in Meetings of 50 or Larger
Cuyahoga Community College, Eastern	14	12	64%	0%
Cuyahoga Community College, Metro	15	14	55%	0%
Cuyahoga Community College, Western	15	13	53%	0%
Jefferson Community College	11	9	83%	0%
Lakeland Community College	13	12	65%	0%
Lorain County Community College	16	14	48%	0%
Sinclair Community College	14	14	82%	0%

State Community Colleges – Labs

Cincinnati State Technical & Community College	15	15	63%	1%
Clark State Community College	14	14	66%	3%
Columbus State Community College	17	18	48%	0%
Edison State Community College	19	21	21%	0%
Northwest State Community College	15	15	50%	0%
Owens State Community College, Findlay	14	13	56%	0%
Owens State Community College, Toledo	17	18	33%	0%
Southern State Community College, Central	17	22	24%	0%
Southern State Community College, Fayette	23	22	0%	0%
Southern State Community College, North	13	11	77%	0%
Southern State Community College, South	13	13	56%	0%
Terra State Community College	15	15	73%	0%
Washington State Community College	11	9	94%	0%

Technical Colleges – Labs

Belmont Technical College	15	14	51%	6%
Central Ohio Technical College	14	14	81%	0%
Hocking Technical College	20	18	38%	11%
Marion Technical College	15	15	58%	0%
Muskingum Area Technical College	15	14	61%	0%
North Central State College	12	12	86%	0%
James A. Rhodes State College	13	12	74%	0%
Stark State College of Technology	13	13	82%	0%

University Branch Campuses – Labs

Institution	Average Meeting Size	Median Meeting Size	Percent of Students in Meetings Smaller than 20	Percent of Students in Meetings of 50 or Larger
Bowling Green State University, Firelands	14	11	53%	0%
Kent State University, Ashtabula	12	12	87%	0%
Kent State University, East Liverpool	16	17	82%	0%
Kent State University, Geauga	12	12	100%	0%
Kent State University, Salem	14	15	56%	0%
Kent State University, Stark	18	17	46%	0%
Kent State University, Trumbull	14	13	58%	0%
Kent State University, Tuscarawas	17	18	42%	0%
Miami University, Hamilton	18	17	50%	0%
Miami University, Middletown	16	16	52%	0%
OSU, Agricultural Technical Institute	20	18	34%	8%
Ohio State University, Lima	21	19	36%	5%
Ohio State University, Mansfield	21	19	41%	0%
Ohio State University, Marion	19	21	33%	0%
Ohio State University, Newark	22	22	20%	6%
Ohio University, Chillicothe	22	22	27%	0%
Ohio University, Eastern	15	13	64%	0%
Ohio University, Lancaster	14	13	64%	0%
Ohio University, Southern	14	12	66%	0%
Ohio University, Zanesville	20	17	36%	12%
University of Akron, Wayne	14	12	66%	0%
University of Cincinnati, Clermont	16	16	55%	0%
University of Cincinnati, Raymond Walters	18	20	35%	0%
Wright State University, Lake	14	15	77%	0%

University Main Campuses – Labs

Bowling Green State University	20	18	45%	11%
Central State University	16	13	52%	23%
Cleveland State University	20	21	21%	2%
Kent State University	18	17	54%	4%
Miami University	25	20	28%	27%
The Ohio State University	23	19	31%	20%
Ohio University	20	16	41%	18%
Shawnee State University	17	17	46%	3%
University of Akron	19	16	52%	6%
University of Cincinnati	19	18	42%	9%
University of Toledo	19	18	39%	10%
Wright State University	21	20	28%	12%
Youngstown State University	19	19	38%	0%