



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z				1-10

[Back to Top](#)

A

Abroad (Study Abroad)	Any geographic location not in the aggregate United States, which includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas. Typically used to determine study abroad locations.
Academic Advising	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.
Academic Calendar	The Academic Calendar indicates key dates and deadlines for important academic requirements and/or activities including, but not limited to, the start and end dates of classes, holidays, exam days, and registration dates.
Academic Credential	Generally a notation on a student transcript that represents the completion of a formally recognized academic program.
Academic Freedom	Institutional policies and practices that affirm that those in the academy are free to share their convictions and responsible conclusions with their colleagues and students in their teaching, research, and writing.
Academic Level	Academic Level is the level of student study either undergraduate, post-undergraduate, or graduate.
Academic Program	An instructional program leading toward a bachelor's, master's, doctor's, or first-professional degree or resulting in credits that can be applied to one of these degrees.
Academic Standing	Academic Standing is based on a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA). Students are said to be in acceptable academic standing if they earn the minimum applicable cumulative grade point average, based on the total number of credits attempted. See the Undergraduate Catalog or Graduate Catalog for specifics.

Academic Year	The Academic Year is considered to be the combined Fall, Spring, and Summer terms in a given year, unless otherwise noted. Academic Year is the calendar by which courses are offered.
Academically Disadvantaged	Students who have demonstrated (either by low performance on pre-entrance tests, or by attending class and struggling with the material) an inability to succeed academically without specific counseling, tutorial support, or academic remediation.
Accelerated Programs	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.
Acceptance Rate	The percentage of students who apply and are accepted to the institution.
Accepted	See "Admitted"
Accountability	In higher education, being answerable to the public, e.g., students, parents, policymakers, employers. Historically, accountability has focused on financial resources; emphasis now extends to students' academic progress, including retention, acquisition of knowledge and skills, and degree completion.
Accreditation	A process signifying that an institution has a purpose appropriate to higher education, and resources, programs, and services sufficient to accomplish its purpose on a continuing basis. Accreditation in higher education is defined as a collegial process based on self- and peer assessment for public accountability and improvement of academic quality.
Accrediting Agency or Accrediting Body	Organizations (or bodies) that establish operating standards for educational or professional institutions and programs, determine the extent to which the standards are met, and publicly announce their findings.
ACT	The ACT standardized test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English mathematics, reading, and science. The average of these four scores is an individual's composite score. The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay.
Ad Hoc	Work that is generally done just one time or infrequently. This is normally data collected "on the fly" to answer an immediate request for information.

Adjunct Faculty	An Adjunct is a faculty member who serves in a temporary or auxiliary capacity. Also sometimes referred to as a part-time faculty member.
Admissions Test Scores	Scores on standardized admissions tests or special admissions tests such as the SAT, ACT, TOEFL, or other national test.
Admit Type	Admit Type refers to the application-type a student is assigned – whether it be First-Time, Transfer, Readmit, etc. ACCESS students and graduate students are also assigned specific admit types.
Admitted	A description of the subset of applicants offered admission to a degree-granting or certificate program.
Admitted Student	An Admitted Student is an applicant who is offered admission to a degree-granting or certificate program.
Advanced Placement (AP)	College-level courses taught in high school. Students may take an examination at the completion of the course; acceptable scores allow students to earn college credit toward a degree, certificate, or other formal award.
Aggregate	The process of consolidating data into summary statistics typically for the purposes of public reporting or statistical analysis—i.e., examining trends, making comparisons, or revealing information and insights that would not be observable when data elements are viewed in isolation.
AICUP	Acronym for the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania.
Alum (or Alumnus)	Students who have received a degree, certificate, or other formal award from the institution.
Alumni Surveys	Questionnaires administered to alumni of the institution to determine their satisfaction with programs and services, as well as their current educational and employment status.
American Indian or Alaska Native	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) who maintain a cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community attachment.
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	A statistical technique used to determine if statistically significant differences exist between two or more groups (gender, ethnicity, student classification, etc...) on a continuous variable (GPA, SAT scores, etc...).

Anomaly	A data point that looks like it is not correct. It may in fact be correct, but it requires further examination in order to determine if it should be retained in the dataset or if it is an error.
Anonymity	A research condition in which no one, including the researcher, knows the identities of research participants.
Applicant	An individual who has fulfilled the institution's requirements to be considered for admission.
Applied	A description of a prospective student who has completed an application for enrollment.
Articulation Agreement	A formal agreement (or partnership) between two or more colleges or universities documenting the transfer policies for a specific academic program or degree in general.
Asian	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
Aspirant Institutions	A group of postsecondary institutions that represent the general characteristics of the desired future state for an institution's strategic goals. This comparison group includes institutions that are viewed as superior in one or more areas, that DeSales wishes to emulate, or that represent general characteristics of the desired future state of the University as outlined in the Strategic Plan.
Assessment	An ongoing process aimed at understanding and improving student learning.
Attempted Credits	The total number of credit hours attempted by the student in a given term; adjusted to account for withdrawal from any course or for the addition of classes after the beginning of the term.
Attrition	The loss of student through circumstances other than graduation.
Audit/auditing (a class)	Term used when a student elects to take a course, but does not wish to receive credit for the course toward a degree or other formal award.
Award	The credential granted a student for successful completion of a set curriculum such as a degree or certificate,

B

[Back to Top](#)

Bachelor of Arts	Bachelor of Arts is one of two basic undergraduate degrees. A B.A. is drawn from coursework in topical areas historically associated with the liberal arts – such as language, literature, humanities, mathematics, history, and social sciences.
Bachelor of Science	Bachelor of Science is one of two basic undergraduate degrees. A B.S. is drawn from coursework more typically used in engineering, computer science, mathematics, business, law, and the natural sciences.
Bachelor's Degree	Any earned academic degree carrying the title of "bachelor." Normally requires at least four but not more than five years of full-time college-level work.
Baseline	A control measurement carried out before an experimental treatment, or a measure taken at a specific time against which future measurements will be compared.
Benchmarking	Systematically measuring and comparing the operations and outcomes of organizations, systems, processes, etc., against agreed upon "best-in-class" frames of reference.
Black or African American	A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
Board (Board Charges)	Charges assessed for a meal plan at the university.
Board of Trustees	The governing body that bears ultimate legal and fiduciary responsibility for the smooth functioning and quality of the educational institution.
Branch Campus	A campus or site of an educational institution that is not temporary, is located in a community beyond a reasonable commuting distance from its main campus, and offers organized programs of study, not just courses.

C

[Back to Top](#)

Calendar Year	Twelve month period running from January 1 through December 31.
Capstone Course	A course designed and normally offered in the final semester of a student's major. This course should tie together the key learning

	objectives that faculty expect the student to have learned while completing the program or major field of study.
Career Development (Office)	The office that provides a range of services, including, but not limited to, the following: one-on-one career coaching, resume and cover letter development, interview guidance and practice, Career Development and Planning Class (3 credit Elective), internships and job shadow programs, personality, interests, skills, and work values assessments, permanent positions, and career resource materials.
Carnegie Classification	An institutional classification coding structure developed by the Andrew W. Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. See the Basic Carnegie Classifications descriptions for more information.
Case Study	The collection and presentation of detailed information about a particular participant or small group, frequently including data derived from the subjects themselves.
Casual Employees	Persons who are hired to work during peak times such as those that help at registration time or those that work in the bookstore for a day or two at the start of a session.
Causal Relationship	The relationship established that shows that an independent variable, and nothing else, causes a change in a dependent variable. It also establishes how much of a change is shown in the dependent variable.
Causality	The relation between cause and effect.
Census Date	The Census Date is the date at which enrollment is considered finalized for the term or semester. Also referred to as the official reporting date. For the fall term, the census date falls on or before October 15 th as mandated by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).
Certificate or Certificate Program	A formal award certifying the satisfactory completion of a postsecondary education program.
Chi-Squared Statistic	A statistical technique used to determine if differences between two categorical variables are due to chance or some other factor.
CIP Code	A Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code is a six-digit code in the format of 00.0000 that identifies instructional program specialties within educational institutions. A CIP code is assigned to each program of study at the time it is established.

Citizenship	Citizenship describes an individual’s citizenship in the United States – whether the individual is a U.S. citizen by birth, citizen by naturalization, a permanent resident, or a visa holder.
Chief Administrator	The principal administrative official, or chief executive officer, responsible for the direction of all affairs and operations of a postsecondary education institution, or that component of an organization that conducts postsecondary education, but who may report to a governing board.
Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP)	A taxonomic coding scheme for secondary and postsecondary instructional programs. It is intended to facilitate the organization, collection, and reporting of program data using classifications that capture the majority of reportable data. The CIP is the accepted federal government statistical standard on instructional program classifications and is used in a variety of education information surveys and databases.
Class Size	The total number of student enrolled in a course.
Clock Hours	A unit of measure that represents the number of hours of scheduled instruction given to students in a course. Also referred to as contact hours.
“Closing the Loop”	A phrase indicates the ability to demonstrate the use of data to drive improvement, i.e., the use of data in the next year’s planning process.—through a cycle of collecting, analyzing, and reporting on data— for the continuous improvement of curricular, programmatic, or operational efforts. Closing the loop calls for using assessment results to improve programs and operations.
Cluster Analysis	A method of statistical analysis where data that share a common trait are grouped together. The data is collected in a way that allows the data collector to group data according to certain characteristics.
Co-Curricular Learning	Learning that takes place in activities and programs that are not part of the prescribed sequence of courses in an academic program.
Cohort	A specific group of students established for tracking purposes, such as calculating retention and graduation rates. An example is the six-year graduation rate of the full-time, first-time freshmen cohort.
College Entrance Exam Board (CEEB)	The CEEB code is used to identify the high school that the student graduated from.
College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)	A national program of standardized examinations by which students can earn college credit at many institutions of higher education.

College Navigator	Information source designed to help students, parents, advisors/counselors, and others get information about post-secondary institutions. Part of the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES).
Commencement	An event during which degrees are awarded to graduating students.
Common Application	An application available in print or electronic format that allows students to apply to one or multiple institutions simultaneously.
Common Data Set (CDS)	Standardized method of compiling and reporting of information by academic institutions. Information presented in the CDS includes: enrollments and degrees conferred, profile of first-year students, statistics and policies on transfers, academic offerings and policies, student life, annual expenses, financial aid, faculty and class sizes.
Commuter	A student who lives off campus in housing that is not owned by, operated by, or affiliated with the college. This category includes students who commute from home.
Comparison Group	The group of institutions used for comparison purposes. This is typically referred to in national survey results.
Competitor Institutions	Institutions in which applicants ultimately enroll if they do not enroll at DeSales. These institutions may have significantly different institutional characteristics to DeSales.
Completed Credits	The cumulative completed credit hours at the end of the term for which a student received a grade.
Completer	A student who receives a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award that is conferred.
Completers within 150% of Normal Time	Students who complete a program within 150% of the normal (or expected) time for completion. For a four-year bachelor's program, 150% of normal time for completion is 6 years. Related term(s): Normal time to completion.
Concurrent Enrollment	Enrollment in courses at two institutions during the same semester.
Confidentiality	A research condition in which no one except the researcher(s) knows the identities of the participants in a study.
Contact Hour	A unit of measure that represents an hour of scheduled instruction given to students in a course. Also referred to as clock hour.

Continuous Improvement	Most accrediting bodies require institutional commitment to the concept of quality enhancement through continuous assessment and improvement. The assessment process is considered cyclic.
Continuing Education	A course or activity having no credit applicable toward a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award, or a Coordinating Board approved higher education technical course offered for continuing education units and conducted in a competency-based format.
Continuing Education Unit (CEU)	Basic unit for continuing education courses. One continuing education unit (CEU) is 10 contact hours of participation in an organized continuing educational experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction and not offered for academic credit.
Continuing Student	A student who was enrolled in a prior term and is enrolling for another term at the same academic level.
Control (of institution)	A classification of whether an institution is operated by publicly elected or appointed officials (public control) or by privately elected or appointed officials and derives its major source of funds from private sources (private control). Related term(s): Institutional affiliation, Sector, Level (of institution)
Cooperative (Work-Study) Program	A program that provides for alternate class attendance and employment in business, industry, or government.
Cooperative Education Program (Co-Op)	A type of external learning experience where students receive both lecture instruction and practical experience at a worksite in business, industry, or government.
Core Curriculum	The common part of every undergraduate curriculum that introduces students to a broad range of knowledge areas beyond their major and helps students develop basic intellectual competencies in reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy. May also be referred to as general education curriculum.
Cost of Attendance (COA)	The total cost associated with tuition, required fees, room, and board for a typical undergraduate student.
Correspondence Course	An academic credit course delivered through distance education that is either paper-based or electronic and that is largely self-paced.

Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS)	The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) has been the pre-eminent force for promoting standards in student affairs, student services, and student development programs since its inception in 1979. For the ultimate purpose of fostering and enhancing student learning, development, and achievement, and in general to promote good professional practice, CAS continues to create and deliver a dynamic line of products that are designed to lead to a host of high-quality programs, services, and outcomes. For more information, please view the site for Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education .
Course	A specific class of instruction that the student registers for.
Course Attribute	This is a field in the student information system (SIS) that defines a course's delivery method or other distinguishing characteristic of a course such as the location of the course, type of course, or course level.
Course Credit	Hours of credit for an individual course.
Course Enrollment	Number of students enrolled in each course.
Course Evaluations	A questionnaire administered to students at the end of each course to assess their degree of satisfaction with the course and its instructor.
Course Level	Courses are numbered according to their course level (100, 200, 300, 400, etc).
Course Section	A course section is an instance of a course. The same course may be taught at multiple times, resulting in multiple sections. Each section has a unique identification value.
Credit (Credit Course)	Recognition of attendance or performance in an instructional activity (course or program) that can be applied by a recipient toward the requirements for a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award.
Credit Hour	A unit of measure representing the equivalent of one hour (50 minutes) of course instruction per week over a term. It is applied toward the total number of credit hours needed for completing the requirements of a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award.
Credit Load	Credit load is determined by the total number of credit hours a student is enrolled for in a given term, either as part-time or full-time.

Cross-Listed Course	A course which is taught by the same instructor in the same class but which is listed in two different departments, such as an interdisciplinary course.
Cross-Registration	A system whereby students enrolled at one institution may take courses at another institution without having to apply to the second institution.
Culture of Assessment	An institutional characteristic that shows evidence for valuing and engaging in assessment for ongoing improvement.
Culture of Evidence	A habit of using evidence in assessment, decision making, planning, resource allocation, and other institutional processes that is embedded in and characteristic of an institution's actions and practices.
Current Student	A current student is an actively enrolled student. Enrolled students are those enrolled in courses during the current term.
Curriculum	A combination of courses that compose a particular area of study.
Curriculum Mapping	The process of scoping and sequencing content to identify gaps and redundancies. The mapping is used to improve the coherence of course content for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of a program of study.

[Back to Top](#)

D

Data Quality	The degree to which the collected data [results of measurement or observation] meet the standards of quality to be considered valid [trustworthy] and reliable [dependable].
Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number	The Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) code is a 9-digit number assigned by the Dun and Bradstreet Information Corporation to any entity providing products, goods, or services.
Deferred Admission	The practice of permitting admitted students to postpone enrollment, usually for a period of one academic term or one academic year.
Degree	An award conferred by a college, university, or other postsecondary education institution as official recognition for the successful completion of a program of study.
Degree Level	The level of study, such as bachelor's degree, master's degree, doctoral, degree, and postsecondary certificate. Can also refer to undergraduate or graduate level study.

Degree Type	Type of degree awarded (BA, BS, MA, MEd, etc.)
Degree-Seeking Student	Degree-seeking students are those enrolled in courses for credit and are recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or formal award.
Dependent Variable	The dependent variable is the variable being tested and measured in an experiment, and is 'dependent' on the independent variable.
Developmental Education	Developmental education is defined as courses, tutorials, laboratories, or other efforts to bring students' skill levels in reading, writing, and mathematics to entering college level.
Diploma	A formal document certifying the successful completion of a prescribed program of studies.
Disability Services	Programs and support designed to provide reasonable academic accommodations and support services to empower students who have disabilities to competitively pursue postsecondary education. May also include assistance to campus departments in providing access to services and programs in the most integrated setting possible.
Disaggregate	The process of expanding or separating data into detailed statistics typically for the purposes of in-depth reporting or identifying trends across different population groups, as well as across an entire population.
Distance Education	Education that uses one or more technologies to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor synchronously or asynchronously. Technologies used for instruction may include the following: Internet; one-way or two-way transmissions through open broadcasts, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite or wireless communication devices; audio conferencing; video cassette, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, if the cassette, DVDs, and CD-ROMs are used in a course in conjunction with any of the other technologies listed.
Distance Learning	An option for earning course credit via internet, cable television, satellite classes, videotapes, correspondence courses, or other means.
Distinct Headcount	Enrollment determined by counting each student only once. Also see Unique Headcount.
Diversity	The representation and recognition of people of different backgrounds and points of view in the various constituencies of a college or university.

Doctoral Degree	An earned academic degree carrying the title of "doctor," such as Doctor of Education, Doctor of Physical Therapy, or a Ph.D. degree in any field. Not included are first-professional degrees such as M.D., D.D.S.
Doctoral Degree – Professional Practice	A doctoral degree that is conferred upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential or license required for professional practice. The degree is awarded after a period of study such that the total time to the degree, including both pre-professional and professional preparation, equals at least six full-time equivalent academic years. Some of these degrees were formerly classified as “first-professional” and may include: Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.), Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.), Law (L.L.B. or J.D.), Medicine (M.D.), Optometry (O.D.), Osteopathic Medicine (D.O), Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), Podiatry (D.P.M., Pod.D., D.P.), Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) and others, as designated by the awarding institution.
Doctoral Degree – Research/Scholarship	A Ph.D. or other doctoral degree that requires advanced work beyond the master’s level, including the preparation and defense of a dissertation based on original research, or the planning and execution of an original project demonstrating substantial artistic or scholarly achievement. Some examples of this type of degree may include Ed.D., D.M.A., D.B.A., D.Sc., D.A., or D.M and others, as designated by the awarding institution.
Double (Dual) Major	Students who are actively working to complete two undergraduate programs of study simultaneously.
Drop/Add	A term used to identify the act of deleting/adding courses from/to an established schedule.
Drop-Out	Term for a student who withdraws completely after the census date.
Dual Enrollment	A program through which high school students are enrolled in courses, taught at their high school, that fulfill high school graduation requirements and simultaneously earn the student college credits.
Duplicated Headcount	The sum of students enrolled for credit with each student counted multiple times during a given reporting period. Typically pertains to course enrollments or enrollment over multiple semesters.

E[Back to Top](#)

Early Action	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 (unlike early decision). Students 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 to and enrolled full-time in college, usually after completion of their junior year.
Early Decision	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.
Economically Disadvantaged	Students who qualify for financial aid, federal grants, or other public assistance.
Educational Offerings	Educational programs offered by postsecondary institutions that are occupational, academic, or continuing professional that qualify as postsecondary education programs.
Educational Testing Service (ETS)	A private nonprofit educational testing and assessment organization located in Lawrence Township, New Jersey. For more information visit the Educational Testing Service site .
Effect Size	The amount of change in a dependent variable that can be attributed to manipulations of the independent variable. A large effect size exists when the value of the dependent variable is strongly influenced by the independent variable. It is the mean difference on a variable between experimental and control groups divided by the standard deviation on that variable of the pooled groups or of the control group alone.
Elective	A degree plan requirement, not directed to a specific area of academic content, contributing to the credit hour requirements of a degree.
Employer Identification Number (EIN)	The number assigned to an institution by the Internal Revenue Service for tax purposes.

End of Course Enrollment	The number of students who have not withdrawn or dropped a course and who were enrolled on the final day of the class.
End of Term Enrollment	The number of students who have not withdrawn or dropped out during a term and who were enrolled on the final day of the term.
English as a Second Language (ESL)	A course of study designed specifically for students whose native language is not English.
Enrolled	Enrolled students are those registered in any course(s) offered by the university during a given time period.
Enrollment	The count of all students registered in any courses offered by the university during a given time period.
Enrollment Statistics	The number of students attending the institution, typically sorted according to student characteristics such as age, gender, full-time/part-time status, residence, etc..
Entering Students	Students enrolling at the institution for the first time (typically in the fall term) at the undergraduate level.
Expected Graduation Term	The typical amount of time expected from the start of a program of study to graduation. The expected time to completion is four years for undergraduate students and two years for graduate students.
Extracurricular Activities	Participation in college-related activities of interest, such as clubs, hobbies, student government, athletics, etc.

F

[Back to Top](#)

Fact Book	A compendium of selected facts concerning the academic activities occurring annually at an institution. Data may include admissions, enrollment, and degrees conferred, faculty information, financial aid, various expenditures, student demographics, and other items of interest. Typically published by the Institutional Research office.
Fact Sheets (At-a-Glance)	A smaller condensed version of a Fact Book. A short synopsis of institutional and student statistics.
Faculty	Persons identified by the institution as such and typically those whose initial assignments are made for the purpose of conducting instruction, research, or public service as a principal activity.
Faculty Load	Refers to faculty teaching activities of individual faculty members. The typical teaching load for a full-time faculty member is four undergraduate courses (or 12 semester hours) per semester. Two

	laboratory contact hours are counted as one semester hour in computing the teaching load. One three-credit graduate course is equivalent to four semester hours and three contact hours.
Faculty Rank	The institutionally designated official title or grade of a faculty member. Adjunct and clinical are sometimes used as modifiers. Most typical ranks are Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Instructor, or Lecturer.
Fall Cohort	The group of students entering in the fall term established for tracking purposes. This cohort typically includes all students who enter an institution as full-time, first-time degree or certificate-seeking undergraduate students during the fall term of a given year.
Fall Term	The part of the academic year that begins between late August and November 1.
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)	Federal law which protects privacy interests of parents and students in their educational records.
Final Exam	An exam, usually comprehensive, designed to measure a student's retention and understanding of the course material. Final exams are scheduled for the last week of the semester and do not necessarily correspond to the regular class meeting time.
Financial Aid	Grants, loans, assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, tuition waivers, tuition discounts, veteran's benefits, employer aid (tuition reimbursement) and other monies (other than from relatives/friends) provided to students to meet expenses. This includes Title IV subsidized and unsubsidized loans made directly to students.
Financial Aid Applicant	Any applicant who submits any one of the institutionally required financial aid applications/forms, such as the FAFSA.
Financial Need	The financial need of a student is determined by the institution using the federal methodology and the institution's own standards. Typically, financial need is the difference between the student's cost of attendance and the financial aid they have qualified for.
First Generation Student	First-generation college students are those students whose parent(s) have not attained a college degree.
First-Time Freshman	A completely new student at the undergraduate level that has never attended any postsecondary institution, including 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.
Focus Groups	Small, informal gathering of often homogenous groups through which in-person interviews are conducted.
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	A federal form required from all students seeking need-based financial aid. The FAFSA collects family income and other financial information and is completed and filed by the student or his/her parents.
Freshman	An undergraduate student who has satisfactorily completed fewer than eight courses that carry a minimum of three credit hours each, or between 0-24 credit hours.
Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Staff	The full-time-equivalent (FTE) of staff is calculated by summing the total number of full-time staff and adding one-third of the total number of part-time staff.
Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Students	The number of FTE students is based on student headcounts using the federal methodology as defined in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). The FTE for part-time undergraduate enrollment is calculated by multiplying the part-time headcount by .392857, and the FTE for part-time graduate enrollment is estimated by multiplying the part-time headcount by .382059. These part-time calculations are then added to the number of full-time students to obtain a total FTE.
Full-time Student	An undergraduate student enrolled for 12 or more credits in a given term is considered full-time. Graduate students are considered full-time if they are enrolled in 6 or more credits in a given term.

G

[Back to Top](#)

Gender	The sex of an individual.
General Educational Development (GED)	The Tests of General Educational Development, which provide an opportunity to earn a high school credential. The GED program, sponsored by the American Council on Education, enables individuals to demonstrate that they have acquired a level of learning comparable to that of high school graduates.
Generated Credit Hours	The total student credit hours for all students enrolled in an individual course.

Gift Aid	Any form of financial assistance awarded by the institution, private sources, and/or the state or federal government that does not require repayment.
Governing Board	The body charged with policy direction of any public community/junior college district, technical college system, public university, or other educational agency, including, but not limited to, boards of directors, boards of regents, or boards of trustees.
Grade	Grade assigned to a student for academic performance in a course – usually ranging from an A to F.
Grade Point Average (GPA)	Grade point average is the numeric average of academic performance on a 0.0-4.0 scale. The GPA is the ratio of grade points earned to credit hours attempted. See the Undergraduate Catalog or Graduate Catalog for GPA calculations.
Grade Point Average (GPA)	Numeric average of academic performance on a 0.0 to 4.0 point scale. The GPA is the ratio of grade points earned to credit hours attempted.
Graduate Assistant	Graduate level student employed on a part-time basis for the primary purpose of assisting in classroom or laboratory instruction or in the conduct of research.
Graduate Student	A student who holds a bachelor's or first-professional degree, or equivalent, and is taking courses at the post-baccalaureate level. These students may or may not be enrolled in graduate programs.
Graduation Application	Process by which a student must officially apply for consideration for graduation.
Graduation Rate	Calculated, as required under the Student Right-to-Know Act, as the total number of completers within 150% of normal time divided by the number in the cohort after subtracting any allowable exclusions.
Graduation Survey	Conducted on an annual at many institutions–targeted audiences are normally those students who are receiving an academic credential.

H

[Back to Top](#)

Headcount	Total number of students enrolled at a particular point in time; usually taken at census date.
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Health Services	Free or low cost on-campus primary and preventive health care available to students.
Higher Education Research Institute (HERI)	An interdisciplinary center for research, evaluation, information, policy studies, and research training in postsecondary education. HERI is housed in the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles and is the home of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP). For more information about HERI, please view Higher Education Research Institute .
Highest Education Level	The highest educational degree a student, faculty member, or staff member has earned.
High-Impact Practices (HIPs)	High-impact practices include first-year seminars, common intellectual experiences, learning communities, writing-intensive courses, collaborative assignments, undergraduate research, diversity/global learning, service learning, internships, and capstone courses or projects. Research suggests that if students experience one or more HIPs in the course of their studies, they are more likely to persist, achieve higher levels of learning, and complete their degrees.
Hispanic or Latino	A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
Honors Program	Any special program for academically advanced students offering the opportunity for educational enrichment, independent study, acceleration, or some combination of these.
Housing	On-campus residential facilities.
Housing Capacity	The maximum number of students for which an institution can provide residential facilities.
Hybrid Course (Blended Course)	A hybrid course blends face-to-face interaction with web educational technologies such as online instruction.

[Back to Top](#)

I

Indebtedness	Aggregate dollar amount borrowed through any loan program (federal, state, subsidized, unsubsidized, private, etc.; excluding parent loans) while the student was enrolled at an institution. Student loans co-signed by a parent are assumed to be the responsibility of the student and should be included.
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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.
Independent Variable	The independent variable is the variable the experimenter changes or controls and is assumed to have a direct effect on the dependent variable.
Individual Instruction	Instruction that typically includes independent study, private lesson, practicum, student teaching, internship and cooperative education courses.
Information Literacy	The ability to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use the needed information for a wide range of purposes. An information-literate individual is able to determine the extent of information needed, access it, evaluate it and its sources, use the information effectively, and do so ethically and legally.
Institution of Origin	For first-time freshmen, the institution of origin is the high school from which they graduated. For transfer students, this usually refers to the college or university from which they earned the majority of their transferable units.
Institutional Affiliation	A classification that indicates whether a private not-for-profit institution is associated with a religious group or denomination. Private not-for-profit institutions may be either independent or religiously affiliated.
Institutional Aid	Scholarships and fellowships granted and funded by the institution and/or individual departments within the institution. Includes scholarships targeted to certain individuals for which the institution designates the recipient.
Institutional Effectiveness	The institutional effectiveness process is an on-going, college-wide process of planning and outcomes assessment for the purpose of documenting that the institution is achieving its mission and goals and continuously improving its programs and services.
Institutional Research	A broad category of work done at colleges and universities to assist decision-making and planning in areas such as admissions, financial aid, curriculum, enrollment management, staffing, student life, finance, facilities, athletics, and alumni relations.
Institutional Review Board (IRB)	Group and process used within the educational field to ensure that any conducted research will protect and pose no threat to the rights and welfare of human participants.

Institutional Scholarships	Endowed scholarships, annual gifts and tuition funded grants for which the institution determines the recipient.
Instruction Mode	Type of instructional delivery. Typically includes face-to-face, online, hybrid, or other type of delivery.
Instructional Activity	The provision of coursework to students.
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)	The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) conducted by the NCES. IPEDS involves annual institution-level data collections. All postsecondary institutions that have a Program Participation Agreement with the Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), U.S. Department of Education are required to report data using a web-based data collection system.
International Student	A student who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.
Internship	Any short-term, supervised work experience usually related to a student's major field, for which the student earns academic credit. The work can be full- or part-time, on- or off-campus, paid or unpaid.

J

[Back to Top](#)

Junior	An undergraduate who at the beginning of the fall or spring semester has satisfactorily completed at least 18 courses (3 or more credit hours each) but fewer than 29 courses and 87 credits.
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K

[Back to Top](#)

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Indicators used by an institution to understand performance in relation to strategic goals and objectives. Important performance information that enables the institution and/or stakeholders to understand whether or not the institution is performing within acceptable or planned standards.
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L

[Back to Top](#)

Legacy	A student whose relative has attended, or is attending, the institution (grandparent, mother, father, sibling, aunt, uncle, husband, wife, cousin, or child).
Level (of institution)	A classification of whether an institution's programs are 4-year or higher (4 year), 2-but-less-than 4-year (2 year), or less than 2-year.
Level (of student)	Undergraduate or graduate student (also see Academic Level).
Limited English Proficiency	A student who has limited ability in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language, and whose native language is a language other than English; or who lives in a family or community environment in which a language other than English is the dominant language.
Location	Site of instruction.
Low-Income Student	Low-income students were defined as those whose family income is below 125 percent of the federally established poverty level for their family size.

M

[Back to Top](#)

Major	A course of study in a specific area, such as a major in Business Administration.
Major Enrollment	Headcount of every major enrolled for specified term. Students with multiple majors are counted under each program declared.
Master of Arts	Master of Arts is a postgraduate degree that focuses on areas such as language, history, geography, humanities, philosophy, and social sciences.
Master of Science	Master in science is a postgraduate degree focusing on the sciences, which could include the social sciences.
Master's Degree	Any earned academic degree carrying the title of "master." In liberal arts and sciences, the degree customarily is granted on successful completion of at least one but not more than two full-time academic years of work beyond the bachelor's level. In professional fields, it is an advanced professional degree carrying the master's designation (such as M.S. [Master of Surgery or Master of Science], M.S.W. [Master of Social Work]) earned after the first-



	professional degree. Education specialist (six-year) degrees are also reported as master's degree.
Matriculated Student	A student who has enrolled at the institution.
Matriculation Date	Date of initial enrollment.
Migration (students)	Refers to the movement of students from their home state of residence to another state to attend a postsecondary institution.
Minor	A course of study at the bachelor's level that requires less coursework hours than a major – typically between 12-21 credit hours.
Multiple Regression	A statistical technique that analyzes the variability of a dependent variable by manipulating two or more independent variables.

[Back to Top](#)

N

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)	The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), in the Institute of Education Sciences, is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Education and the primary federal provider of education statistics.
National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)	A nonprofit association of postsecondary institutions, conferences, organizations and individuals that organizes the athletic programs of many colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.
National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)	Administered by Indiana University, NSSE annually collects information at hundreds of four-year colleges and universities about student participation in programs and activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development. The results provide an estimate of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college. For more information, please view the National Survey of Student Engagement site .
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
Need-Based Aid	Institutionally-funded or college-administered award from institutional, state, federal, or other sources for which a student must have financial need to qualify. This includes both institutional and non-institutional student aid (grants, jobs, and loans).
Need-Based Scholarship or Grant Aid	Scholarships and grants from institutional, state, federal, or other sources for which a student must have financial need to qualify.

Need-Based Self-Help Aid	Loans and jobs from institutional, state, federal, or other sources for which a student must demonstrate financial need to qualify.
Net Price	Average institutional net price is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government, or institutional grant and scholarship aid from the total cost of attendance.
New Student Orientation	A student program typically addressing the academic, social, emotional, and intellectual issues involved in beginning college.
Non-Credit Courses	A course or activity having no credit applicable toward a degree, diploma, certificate, or other recognized postsecondary credential.
Non-Degree-Seeking Student	A student enrolled in courses who is not recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or formal award.
Non-Degree-Seeking Student	A student enrolled in courses for credit who is not recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or formal award.
Nonresident Alien	A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.
Non-Tenure Track	A faculty position that is not eligible to receive tenure status with the institution.
Non-Tenured	Faculty who are eligible for tenure, or who are on the tenure track, but have not yet been granted it.
Normal time to Completion	The amount of time necessary for a student to complete all requirements for a degree or certificate according to the institution's catalog. This is typically 4 years (8 semesters) for a bachelor's degree in a standard term-based institution; 2 years (4 semesters) for an associate's degree in a standard term-based institution; and the various scheduled times for certificate programs.

O

[Back to Top](#)

Occupational Program	A program of study consisting of one or more courses, designed to provide the student with sufficient knowledge and skills to perform in a specific occupation.
Occupationally Specific Program	An instructional program, below the bachelor's level, designed to prepare individuals with entry-level skills and training required for employment in a specific trade, occupation, or profession related to the field of study.

Off-Campus Facility	A teaching facility located some distance away from the educational institution which operates it.
Off-Campus Housing	Any housing facility that is occupied by students but is not owned or controlled by the educational institution.
Official Fall Reporting Date	The date (in the fall term) on which an institution must report fall enrollment data to either the state, its board of trustees or governing board, or some other external governing body.
On-Campus Housing	Any residence halls owned or controlled by an institution within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area and used by the institution in direct support of or in a manner related to, the institution's educational purposes.
Online Student	Student enrolled 100% in an online program or in online courses.
OPE ID	Identification number used by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) to identify schools that have Program Participation Agreements (PPA) so that its students are eligible to participate in Federal Student Financial Assistance programs under Title IV regulations. This is a 6-digit number followed by a 2-digit suffix used to identify branches, additional locations, and other entities that are part of the eligible institution.
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 Academic Calendar System	Category used to describe "non-traditional" calendar systems at 4-year and 2-year degree-granting institutions. These can include schools that offer primarily on-line courses or "one course at a time."
Other Undergraduate Students	Non-degree seeking undergraduate students. This designation may include high school students taking college credit, students taking courses but primarily enrolled at another institution (cross-registered students).
Out-of-State Centers	Sites where courses or programs are offered that are in a state different from the state of the main campus.
Out-of-State Student	A student who is not a legal resident of the state in which he/she attends school.
Out-of-State Tuition	The tuition charged by institutions to those students who do not meet the institution's or state's residency requirements. DeSales University does not charge a different rate for those outside of PA.



Overload (faculty)	A faculty member who is employed full-time and has an approved additional teaching assignment.
Overload (student)	A student who is enrolled full-time, but is enrolled in credits above and beyond the typically full-time credit load.

P

[Back to Top](#)

Part-Time (Adjunct) Faculty	Non-tenure track faculty serving in a temporary or auxiliary capacity to teach specific courses on a course-by-course basis.
Part-Time Student	At DeSales, an undergraduate student enrolled for fewer than 12 credits per term is considered part-time. A graduate student is considered part-time if they are enrolled in less than 6 credits per term.
Pedagogy	The method behind teaching.
Peer Institutions	Peer institutions are selected postsecondary institutions that provide a basis for comparison. This comparison group is purposely structured to include institutions that are similar in role or scope to DeSales University.
Pell Grant Program	(Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV, Part A, Subpart I, as amended.) Provides grant assistance to eligible undergraduate postsecondary students with demonstrated financial need to help meet education expenses.
Performance Indicators	Any of a number of statistical, quantitative, or qualitative values that provide insight into the way an organization functions.
Perkins Loan Program	(Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV, Part E, as amended, Public Laws 89-329, 92-318, et al; 20 USC 1087aa-1087hh.). Formerly known as National Direct Student Loans (NDSL), the Perkins Loan program provides low interest loans to eligible postsecondary students (undergraduate, graduate, or professional students) with demonstrated financial need to help meet educational expenses.
Persistence	A measure of how many students return term to term.
Person(s) of Color	A term used to describe all non-white racial or ethnic groups.
Personal Counseling	One-on-one or group counseling with trained professionals for students who want to explore personal, educational, or vocational issues.

Placement Services	Institutional assistance for students in evaluating their career alternatives and in obtaining full-time employment upon leaving the institution.
Post 9/11 GI Bill	A federal education benefit program for veterans, who served on active duty after September 10, 2001. This Department of Veteran Affairs benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits at an approved institution for the following college costs: tuition and fees, books and supplies and housing. The tuition and fees payment, which is the cost for an in-state student attending a public institution, is made directly to the postsecondary institution, whereas payments for books and supplies and housing are sent directly to the student.
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-Baccalaureate Student	A student with a bachelor's degree who is enrolled in graduate-level or first-professional courses.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 years, or designed for completion in at least 30 but less than 60 credit hours, or in at least 900 but less than 1,800 contact hours. • At Least 2 But Less Than 4 Academic Years: Requires completion of an organized program of study at the postsecondary level (below the baccalaureate degree) in at least 2 but less than 4 full-time equivalent academic years, or designed for completion in at least 60 but less than 120 credit hours, or in at least 1,800 but less than 3,600 contact hours.
Postsecondary Education	The provision of a formal instructional program whose curriculum is designed primarily for students who are beyond the compulsory age for high school. This includes programs whose purpose is

	academic, vocational, and continuing professional education, and excludes avocational and adult basic education programs.
Postsecondary Education Institution	An institution which has as its sole purpose or one of its primary missions, the provision of postsecondary education.
Practicum	A type of external learning experience whereby the students receive practical, general training and experiences in the workplace. May include student teaching, internships, work-study, cooperative education and similar activities.
Predominant Calendar System	The method by which an institution structures most of its courses for the academic year.
Prerequisite Course	An academic requirement (e.g., completion of an earlier sequenced course) that must be satisfied prior to the enrollment in a specific course.
Prior Applicant	An applicant that applied to a previous term.
Private For-Profit institution	A private institution in which the individual(s) or agency in control receives compensation other than wages, rent, or other expenses for the assumption of risk.
Private Institution	An educational institution controlled by a private individual(s) or by a nongovernmental agency, usually supported primarily by other than public funds, and operated by other than publicly elected or appointed officials.
Private Nonprofit Institution	A private institution in which the individual(s) or agency in control receives no compensation, other than wages, rent, or other expenses for the assumption of risk. These include both independent nonprofit schools and those affiliated with a religious organization.
Probation	An academic standing placed upon undergraduate students who fall below a certain overall grade point average at the close of any semester.
Professional Certificate/License/Other Credential	Approvals granted by either governmental or professional bodies that allow an individual to practice a particular profession. In many cases, an academic degree is required as a precondition for acquiring such a credential, but academic institutions are not the source of the practice credential. Included are credentials such as teaching certificates and medical licenses.
Professor	Faculty designated by the rank of professor.

Proficiency	The level of knowledge or degree of skill that a student has achieved.
Program	A course of study within an academic career, that is, an instructional program leading toward a bachelor's, master's, doctorate, or first-professional degree or resulting in credits that can be applied to one of these degrees.
Program Participation Agreement (PPA)	A written agreement between a postsecondary institution and the Secretary of Education. This agreement allows institutions to participate in any of the Title IV student assistance programs other than the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) and the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) programs. The PPA conditions the initial and continued participation of an eligible institution in any Title IV program upon compliance with the General Provisions regulations, the individual program regulations, and any additional conditions specified in the program participation agreement that the Department of Education requires the institution to meet. Institutions with such an agreement are referred to as Title IV institutions.
Program Review	An in-depth process of reviewing most aspects of a program, including operational, financial, programmatic, and academic inputs, outputs, and outcomes.
Program with No Formal Award	Any formally organized program with stated educational objectives and well-defined completion requirements that does not lead to a formal award.
Programs of at least 2 years but less than 4 years	Programs requiring at least 2 years but less than 4 years of full-time equivalent college level work, including associate's degrees and programs that can be completed in at least 1,800 but less than 3,600 contact hours to obtain a degree, diploma, certificate, or formal award.
Programs of at least 4 years	Programs designed to be completed in at least 8 semesters or 12 quarters to obtain a degree, diploma, or other formal award. Includes programs resulting in all bachelor's degrees and other baccalaureate level or equivalent degrees, as well as 5-year cooperative programs, and those programs in which the normal 4 years of work are designed to be completed in 3 years.
Programs of less than 2 years	Programs requiring less than 2 years of full-time equivalent college level work (4 semesters or 6 quarters) or less than 1,800 contact hours to obtain a degree, diploma, certificate, or quarter in the summer.
Proprietary Institution	See Private for-profit institution.



Public institution	An educational institution whose programs and activities are operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and which is supported primarily by public funds.
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Q

[Back to Top](#)

Qualitative Assessment	Assessment methods that provide a narration or description of learning (e.g. logs, journals, participant observations, open-ended questions on interviews and surveys).
Quantitative Assessment	Assessment methods that rely on numerical scores or ratings (e.g. standardized tests, surveys).
Questionnaire	A research instrument consisting of a series of questions and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents.

R

[Back to Top](#)

Race/Ethnicity	Race and Hispanic ethnicity are now considered separate categories by the federal government and are reported as follows: All persons who identify themselves as Hispanic are reported only in the Hispanic ethnicity category. Individuals who are not Hispanic and report more than one racial background are reported in the Two or More Races, non-Hispanic category. All other individuals who do not claim Hispanic origin, nor multiple races, are classified in the single racial category chosen.
Raw Data	Data that has not been processed for a specific use.
Readmitted Student	A student returning to the university to the same career/degree level after reapplying; students must generally reapply if they have become inactive after a period of non-enrollment or if they were disqualified.
Registered Hours	Enrolled credit hours of students for a given term; also may be referred to as Student Credit Hours.
Registered Students	Student who are enrolled in any number of credit hours for a given term.
Religious Affiliation or Commitment	Affiliation with a certain church or faith/religion, commitment to a religious vocation, or observance of certain religious tenets/lifestyle.

Remedial Courses	Instructional courses designed for students deficient in the general competencies necessary for a regular postsecondary curriculum and educational setting.
Required Fees	The charges assessed to students for certain items not covered by tuition. Such fees include all fixed-sum charges required of such a large proportion of all students that the student who does NOT pay is the exception. Required fees may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional - charges for student activities, health services, student center, or athletics, and but should not include first-time admissions or application charges. • Program Level - charges specific to a program, such as lab fees and material charges.
Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)	Programs designed to augment the service academies in producing leaders and managers for the armed forces. Each branch of the service has a specific set of courses and training that an officer must complete prior to becoming commissioned officers. ROTC programs allow students to do this while completing their college education. Upon graduation members are commissioned (certified) by the President of the United States to serve as an officer in active, reserve or guard components of each branch.
Residence	A person's permanent address determined by such evidence as a driver's license or voter registration. For entering freshmen, residence may be the legal residence of a parent or guardian.
Resident Alien or Non-Citizens	A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States but who has been admitted as a legal immigrant for the purpose of obtaining permanent resident alien status (and who holds either an alien registration card (Form I-551 or I-151), a Temporary Resident Card (Form I-688), or an Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) with a notation that conveys legal immigrant status such as Section 207 Refugee, Section 208 Asylee, Conditional Entrant Parolee or Cuban-Haitian). Note: Resident aliens are to be reported in the racial/ethnic categories along with United States citizens.
Retention Rate	The percentage of first-time, full-time bachelors (or equivalent) degree-seeking undergraduates from the previous fall enrolled in the current Fall.
Rigor	In higher education, refers both to a challenging curriculum and to the consistency or stringency with which high standards for student learning and performance are upheld.
Room	On-campus dorm/housing costs.

Room and Board	The basic charge for an instructional/academic year for on-campus rooming accommodations to a typical student sharing a room with one other student, and the basic charge for an academic year for board (for a specified number of days per week) to a typical student.
Room Charges	The charges for an academic year for rooming accommodations for a typical student sharing a room with one other student.

S

[Back to Top](#)

SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) - Administered for the College Board by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Each section of the SAT Reasoning Test (critical reading, mathematics and writing) is scored on a 200- to 800-point scale, for a possible total of 2400. Students also receive two "subscores" on the writing section: a multiple-choice score from 20 to 80, and an essay score from 2 to 12.
Scholarships	Grants-in-aid, trainee stipends, tuition and fee waivers, prizes or other monetary awards given to undergraduate students.
Scholarships and Fellowships	Outright grants-in-aid, trainee stipends, tuition and fee waivers, and prizes awarded to students by the institution, including Pell grants. Awards to undergraduate students are most commonly referred to as "scholarships" and those to graduate students as "fellowships." These awards do not require the performance of services while a student (such as teaching) or subsequently as a result of the scholarship or fellowship. The term does not include loans to students (subject to repayment), College Work-Study Program (CWS), or awards granted because of faculty or staff status. Also not included are awards to students where the selection of the student recipient is not made by the institution.
Second Degree	An undergraduate student who has received a bachelor's degree, and is pursuing another degree.
Secondary School Record	Information maintained by the secondary school that may include such things as the student's high school transcript, class rank, GPA, and teacher and counselor recommendations.
Sector	One of nine institutional categories resulting from dividing the universe according to control and level. Control categories are public, private not-for-profit, and private for-profit. Level categories are 4-year and higher (4 year), 2-but-less-than 4-year (2 year), and less than 2-year. For example: public, 4-year institutions.

Self-Directed Major	A program of study based on individual interests, designed with the assistance of an advisor.
Semester Calendar System	A calendar system that consists of two semesters during the academic year with about 16 weeks for each semester of instruction. There may be an additional summer session.
Senior	An undergraduate students who has accumulated over 90 credits hours.
Service Area	The geographical area, or target market, of the institution.
Session	Courses or sub-section of course offerings within a term.
Simple Regression	A statistical technique that analyzes the variability of a dependent variable by manipulating an independent variable.
Sophomore	An undergraduate student who has accumulated between 25 and 55 credit hours.
Special Admissions Tests	Tests prepared by or for a particular institution, or state (for some state institutions) and administered by the institution, for purposes of determining prospective students' skills and competencies.
Specialized Accreditation	Specialized accreditation normally applies to the evaluation of programs, departments, or schools which usually are parts of a total collegiate or other postsecondary institution. The unit accredited may be as large as a college or school within a university or as small as a curriculum within a discipline. Most of the specialized accrediting agencies review units within a postsecondary institution which is accredited by one of the regional accrediting commissions. However, certain of the specialized accrediting agencies accredit professional schools and other specialized or vocational or other postsecondary institutions which are free-standing in their operations. Thus, a "specialized" or "programmatic" accrediting agency may also function in the capacity of an "institutional" accrediting agency. In addition, a number of specialized accrediting agencies accredit educational programs within non-educational settings, such as hospitals.
Stakeholder	Individuals or groups that have a share or interest in some organization or enterprise; stakeholders in higher education typically include students, students' relatives, alumni, employees, organizational members and boards, employers, communities, public officials, and the general public.
Standardized Admissions Tests	Tests prepared and administered by an agency that is independent of any postsecondary education institution. Tests provide information about prospective students and their academic

	qualifications relative to a national sample. Examples are the SAT and the ACT.
Start Term for Institution	The first term a student was ever enrolled at DeSales University.
Start Term for Level	The first term a student was enrolled within a particular level of academic work (undergraduate or graduate).
Start Term for Major or Program	The first term a student was enrolled within a particular major or program of study.
State of Residence	A person's permanent address as determined by such evidence as a driver's license or voter registration. For entering freshmen, state of residence may be the legal state of residence of a parent or guardian.
Statistical Analysis	The application of statistical processes and theory to the compilation, presentation, discussion, and interpretation of numerical data.
Statistical Significance	Researchers use statistical tests to make quantitative decisions about whether a study's data indicate a significant effect from the intervention and allow the researcher to reject the null hypothesis. That is, statistical tests show whether the differences between the outcomes of the control and experimental groups are great enough to be statistically significant. If differences are found to be statistically significant, it means that the likelihood that these differences occurred solely due to chance is relatively low. Most researchers agree that a significance value of .05 or less sufficiently determines statistical significance.
STEM	STEM is an acronym to the academic disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.
Stop Out	A student who left the institution and returned at a later date.
Strategic Plan	Contains the vision, mission and goals of the institution, and provides guidance for decision-making based on resource allocations, including the organization's capital and people.
Strategic Planning Process	The act of defining objectives and assessment methods through which the organization can gauge performance and make adjustments as necessary to obtain pre-determined goals. Strategic planning normally addresses pre-determined goals for a three-year or five-year period.
Student Charges	The sum of tuition, mandatory fees, room charges, and board charges. Excludes other non-mandatory fees.

Student Counts	The number of individuals for whom instruction is provided in an educational program.
Student Learning Outcomes	Statements of what students are expected to know and be able to do by the time they complete the course, major, or degree program.
Student Outcomes Assessment	The collection, analysis, study, and integration of data which measures the natural result of a process, primarily the educational experiences of students. According to Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities, the purposes of outcomes assessment are improvement, institutional effectiveness, and accountability.
Student Right-to-Know Act	Also known as the "Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act" (P.L. 101-542), which was passed by Congress November 9, 1990. Title I, Section 103, requires institutions eligible for Title IV funding to disclose completion or graduation rates of certificate- or degree-seeking, full-time students entering an institution to all students and prospective students. Further, Section 104 requires each institution that participates in any Title IV program and is attended by students receiving athletically-related student aid to annually submit a report to the Secretary. This report is to contain, among other things, graduation/completion rates of all students as well as students receiving athletically-related student aid by race/ethnicity and gender and by sport, and the average completion or graduation rate for the four most recent years. These data are also required to be disclosed to parents, coaches, and potential student athletes when the institution offers athletically-related student aid.
Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI)	Administered by Ruffalo Noel Levitz, the SSI attempts to measure student satisfaction and priorities, indicating how satisfied students are as well as what issues are important to them.
Student Type	Student's designation for the period of enrollment (traditional day, ACCESS, graduate, etc.)
Student Worker	A student employed part-time at the institution.
Student-to-Faculty Ratio	An index of the average size (enrollment) of classes in relation to faculty resources. It may also be defined as the ratio of full-time-equivalent (FTE) students to full-time-equivalent (FTE) faculty.
Study Abroad	Any arrangement by which a student completes part of the college program studying in another country. Can be at a campus abroad or through a cooperative agreement with some other U.S. college or an institution of another country.
Survey Research	Research based on data collected via quantitative, qualitative, or mixed method assessment instruments/methodologies.



Sustainability	The ability of an educational institution to maintain effective functioning and improve over the long term. Assumes financial viability, but also availability of human capital and other resources, as well as institutional vision, planning, and flexibility.
Syllabus	A document containing academic and administrative information about a course. The syllabus is provided by the instructor at the beginning of the semester and typically includes a lesson schedule, dates of exams, and quizzes, assigned books and readings, e-mail/phone number and the best time to reach the instructor, and an explanation of how the final grade will be determined.

T

[Back to Top](#)

Teacher Certification Program	Program designed to prepare students to meet the requirements for certification as teachers in elementary, middle/junior high, and secondary schools.
Tenure	Senior faculty who have been promoted to tenure after demonstrating a strong record of public research, teaching, and administrative service.
Tenure Status	The institutionally designation that serves to identify the status of employees, typically faculty, with respect to permanence of appointed position.
Tenure Track	A position that has a potentially permanent standing with DeSales.
Tenured	Individuals who have been granted tenure.
Term	A term is equivalent to a semester or mini-semester. A term can be described generally as a fall, spring, or summer term.
Terminal Degree	The highest attainable degree in an academic discipline.
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	The standardized test designed to determine an applicant's ability to benefit from instruction in English.
Title IV Institution	An institution that has a written agreement with the Secretary of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs (other than the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) and the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) programs).
Traditionally Underrepresented Groups (TUG)	A member of one of the following racial or ethnic groups: African American/Black, Asian, American Indian/Alaska native, Native

	Hawaiian/ Other, Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, or Two or More Races.
Transcript	An official record of student performance showing all schoolwork completed at a given school and the final mark or other evaluation received in each portion of the instruction. Transcripts often include an explanation of the marking scale used by the school.
Transfer Applicant	An individual who has fulfilled the institution's requirements to be considered for admission and who has previously attended another college or university and earned college-level credit.
Transfer Student (Transfer-In)	A student entering the institution for the first time but known to have previously attended a postsecondary institution at the same level (e.g., undergraduate). The student may transfer with or without credit.
Transfer-Out Rate	Total number of students who are known to have transferred out of the reporting institution within 150% of normal time to completion divided by the revised cohort minus allowable exclusions.
Transfer-Out Student	A student that leaves the reporting institution and enrolls at another institution.
Trend Report	A report that presents comparative information about enrollment and student characteristics, faculty and staff, and the University's financial status over a period of time.
Tuition	Amount of money charged to students for instructional services. Tuition may be charged per year, term, per course, or per credit.
Tuition Discount	Tuition discount is calculated by dividing the total institutional aid by the institution's total gross tuition.
Tuition Payment Plan	A service that allows tuition to be paid in installments spread out over an agreed upon period of time, sometimes without interest or finance charges.
Tuition Waiver	The full or partial reduction of tuition and/or fees assessed by a university for enrollment, or as an employee benefit.
Tutoring	Services that may range from one-on-one tutoring in specific subjects to tutoring in an area such as math, reading, or writing. Most tutors are college students; at some colleges, they are specially trained and certified.
Two-Year Institution	A postsecondary institution that offers programs of at least 2 but less than 4 years in duration. Includes occupational and vocational schools with programs of at least 1,800 hours and academic



	institutions with programs of less than 4 years. Does not include bachelor’s degree-granting institutions where the baccalaureate program can be completed in 3 years.
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U

[Back to Top](#)

Undergraduate	A student enrolled in a bachelor’s degree program, or certificate program considered below a bachelor’s level.
Unduplicated Headcount	The sum of students enrolled for credit with each student counted only once during the reporting period, regardless of when the student enrolled.
Unit	A standard of measurement representing hours of academic instruction (e.g., semester credit, quarter credit, contact hour).
Unit ID	Unique identification number assigned to postsecondary institutions surveyed through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Also referred to as UNITID or IPEDS ID.
United States Department of Education (USDOE)	Federal agency that promotes student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. For more information, please see: United States Department of Education .
University System	An organization of two or more institutions of higher education under the control or supervision of a common administrative governing body. Governing bodies generally have the power to act in their own name, to hire and fire personnel, enter into contracts, etc. A coordinating body without these powers or a section of a state agency usually would not be considered a system office.
US News and World Report	A college ranking/choice organization that provides students and their families with information specific to college types, departments, and academic programs. For more information, please see: US News and World Report .

V

[Back to Top](#)

Variable	A fundamental unit of data contained in a file which is given a unique label or name.
Veterans Administration (VA) Education Benefits	Those benefits that are paid for student assistance at approved postsecondary education institutions for three types of



	beneficiaries: Surviving spouses and children, discharged veterans, and active military personnel in special programs.
Veteran's Counseling	Helps military veterans and their dependents obtain benefits for their selected program and provides certifications to the Veteran's Administration. May also provide personal counseling on the transition from the military to a civilian life.
Visa Type	An international student or applicant's type of visa to live or study in the United States.
Visiting Faculty	Typically a regular employee of another institution who is employed temporarily and who intends to return to his or her regular appointment.
Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)	VSA works to achieve the following objectives: demonstrate accountability and stewardship to the public; support institutions in the measurement of educational outcomes and facilitate the identification and implementation of effective practices as part of institutional improvement efforts; assemble and disseminate information that is transparent, comparable, and understandable; and provide a useful tool for students during the college search process. Additional information is available on the Voluntary System of Accountability site.
Volunteer Work	Special consideration given to students for activity done on a volunteer basis (e.g., tutoring, hospital care, working with the elderly or disabled) as a service to the community or the public in general.

W

[Back to Top](#)

Wait List	List of students who meet the admission requirements but will only be offered a place in the class if space becomes available.
Weekend College	A program that allows students to take a complete course of study and attend classes only on weekends.
White	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa (except those of Hispanic origin).
Withdrawal (course)	Action taken by a student to officially remove his/herself from class attendance after the course has been transcribed.
Withdrawal (university)	There are two types of withdrawal for students who leave a university: (1) voluntary withdrawal occurs when formal notification is received by the university that a student chooses to



	withdraw, or (2) involuntary withdrawal occurs when a student does not meet academic standards or is in violation of some rule or policy because of misconduct and is dismissed from the university.
Women's Center	Center with programs, academic activities, and/or services intended to promote an understanding of the evolving roles of women.
Work Experience	Special consideration given to students who have been employed prior to application, whether for relevance to major, demonstration of employment-related skills, or as explanation of student's academic and extracurricular record.
Work Study/Employment	Federal and state work study aid, and any employment packaged by your institution in financial aid awards.

X

[Back to Top](#)

Y

[Back to Top](#)

Years to Graduate	The number of years a student was enrolled before receiving their degree or certificate from the university.
Yellow Ribbon Program	A voluntary program through which participating public and private institutions can provide military veterans and eligible beneficiaries additional institutional aid to cover the costs of tuition and fees at their institutions. The Yellow Ribbon Program is a supplementary program to the Post 9/11 GI Bill coverage of in-state tuition and fees. The Department of Veterans Affairs matches the institutional aid provided beyond the in-state tuition and fees, but to certain limit each year.
Yield Rate	The percentage of student who enroll after being offered admission, i.e., the number of enrolled students divided by the number of admitted students.

Z

[Back to Top](#)

Zip Code	Address component.
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11/12-Month Contract	The contracted teaching period of faculty employed for the entire year, usually for a period of 11 or 12 months.
12-Month Enrollment	The count of students enrolled over period of 12-months from July 1 to June 30. Each student enrolled over the 12-month period is counted only once.
12-Month Period	The 12-month period for reporting a full year of activity from July 1 to June 30 or the institution's fiscal year.
25th Percentile	The score at which 25 percent of students fall at or below. Typically used in high school GPA, SAT, ACT, or other test score calculations.
3+2 Program	A program of study that normally requires the first 3 years of undergraduate study and the last 2 years of graduate study in order to attain a bachelor's and master's degree. These programs are predefined by the institution.
75th Percentile	The score at which 25 percent of students score at or above. Typically used in high school GPA, SAT, ACT, or other test score calculations.
9/10-Month Contract	The contracted teaching period of faculty employed for 2 semesters covering a period of 9 or 10 months.