Shepherd University and peer comparison data

Explanatory notes on back of sheet

Mission Statement: *Shepherd University is a premier public university, grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, that prepares students for lifelong learning and success in their chosen pursuits and serves as a hub for academic, cultural, and economic opportunity.*

Shepherd University data, most recent available (IPEDS data)

Credit student headcount, Fall 2025	3069
Student FTE, Fall 2025	2625
Student-to-faculty ratio, Fall 2025	16:1
Full-time instructional faculty, Fall 2025	111
Part-time instructional faculty, Fall 2025	117
Full-time non-instructional staff, Fall 2025	203
ACT Composite score percentiles, Fall 2025 full-time, first-time-in-college students	
25th percentile	18
75th percentile	24
One-year retention rate, Fall 2024 full-time, first-time-in-college degree-seeking student cohort	69%
Six-year graduation rate, Fall 2019 full-time, first-time-in-college degree-seeking student cohort	50%
Degree programs and minors	83
Completions by level, 2024-25	
Undergraduate	472
Graduate	78

Comparison of Shepherd University with HEPC/MGT peers (most recent available IPEDS data), five years

	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	Average
Credit student headcount						
Shepherd University	3159	3015	3235	3318	3339	3213
HEPC/MGT peer average	3317	3228	3158	3274	3340	3264
Student FTE						
Shepherd University	2682	2502	2674	2713	2718	2658
HEPC/MGT peer average	2747	2630	2544	2618	2672	2642
Student-to-faculty ratio						
Shepherd University	14:1	14:1	15:1	16:1	17:1	15:1
HEPC/MGT peer average	15:1	15:1	15:1	15:1	15:1	15:1
ACT Composite score percentiles						
Shepherd University						
25th percentile	19	19	19	20	19	19
75th percentile	25	26	24	24	24	25
HEPC/MGT peer average						
25th percentile	17	18	18	18	18	18
75th percentile	23	23	24	24	24	24

	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022	Fall 2023	Average
One-year retention rate (full-time, first-time-in-college degree-seeking student cohort)						
Shepherd University	73%	66%	70%	72%	71%	70%
HEPC/MGT peer average	70%	67%	69%	71%	72%	70%

	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Average
Six-year graduation rate (full-time, first-time-in-college degree-seeking student cohort)						
Shepherd University	46%	44%	48%	49%	51%	48%
HEPC/MGT peer average	46%	47%	46%	47%	46%	46%

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Average
Completions by level						
Shepherd University						
Undergraduate	626	558	578	510	543	563
Graduate	56	56	71	79	62	65
HEPC/MGT peer average						
Undergraduate	673	649	641	591	581	627
Graduate	89	101	102	113	121	105

Data derive from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data collections.
"HEPC/MGT peers" are institutions with similarities to Shepherd, as determined by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) in 2017.
Data elements are defined as follows.

Credit student headcount:
This is the total number of students enrolled in one or more credit-bearing courses in the fall term listed, as of the fall census date (around October 1 or so).

Student FTE:
Student FTE (full-time equivalent) is a metric used in higher education to represent the total hours of instruction provided to enrolled students in a standardized way. It combines instruction provided to both full-time and part-time students into a single value to provide a more accurate picture of student enrollment and engagement, and demand for instruction.
For undergraduates, this is (N full-time undergraduate students) + (0.403543)*(N part-time undergraduate students).
For graduates, this is (N full-time graduate students) + (0.361702)*(N part-time graduate students).

ACT Composite percentile scores:
These are mean ACT Composite score percentiles, as reported to IPEDS by institutions that use test scores in the admissions decision process. (Although Shepherd does not require ACT/SAT test scores for admission, we do use submitted scores in the decision process, and therefore report them to IPEDS.)

Student-to-faculty ratio:
This is the ratio of students to faculty, derived by dividing the total undergraduate FTE students by the total FTE instructional staff.
Total FTE students = (N full-time students) + (1/3)*(N part-time students).
Total FTE instructional staff = (N full-time instructional staff) + (1/3)*(N part-time instructional staff).
Note: This FTE computation is done differently from the FTE computation done by IPEDS for the “Student FTE” metric above.

One-year retention rate (full-time, first-time-in-college degree-seeking student cohort):
This is the percentage of entering first-time-in-college, full-time, degree-seeking students who return to Shepherd the next fall after entry in the listed Fall term.

Six-year graduation rate (full-time, first-time-in-college degree-seeking student cohort):
This is the percentage of entering first-time-in-college, full-time, degree-seeking students who complete the baccalaureate at Shepherd within six years of entry in the listed Fall term.

Completions by level:
This is the count of degrees and certificates awarded at all levels for the listed academic year.
Undergraduate completions include postsecondary certificates and baccalaureate degrees.
Graduate completions include postbaccalaureate and post-master's certificates, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees.
The academic year includes August, December, and May graduates in the listed time period.

Colleges, Schools and Departments, Academic Year 2025-26

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
- Department of Contemporary Art, Communication, and Theater
- Department of English, History, and Modern Languages
- School of Music
- Department of Social and Applied Behavioral Sciences

College of Business and Recreation
- Department of Business, Accounting, Economics, and Finance
- Department of Recreation, Sport, and Exercise Science

College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing
- Department of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Engineering
- Department of Natural and Physical Sciences
- School of Nursing

School of Education

Graduate and Professional Studies