How Old is WashU?

The age distribution of the U.S. population has changed substantially, and more people are living longer than ever before. Yet, this demographic shift is not reflected in the student body at WashU. In fact, there is a notable difference between the age distribution of WashU students and the age distribution of the U.S. population as a whole.

Undergraduate Student Body

The age distribution of WashU’s undergrads is very narrow—99% of undergraduates are 25 or younger.

While 62% of the U.S. population is over the age of 30, 0% of the undergrad population at WashU is older than 30, with the exception of those attending University College.

The students that make up University College are spread across a wider range of ages. Almost 30% are under the age of 30; 33% are between 31-40; 24% are 41-50; and 14% are 51 or older.

Age Distribution:
WashU Undergrad Student Body and U.S. Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Younger than 20</th>
<th>21-25</th>
<th>26-30</th>
<th>Older than 30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTS AND SCIENCES</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHITECTURE</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSINESS</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U COLLEGE</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. POPULATION</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent of full-time undergraduate students under the age of 25 at 4-year, private, non-profit universities in the U.S.*:

87%

Percent of full-time undergraduate students at WashU 25 or under:

100%

*National Center for Education Statistics, Fall 2017
Graduate Student Body

As expected, WashU’s graduate schools are more age diverse than it’s undergraduate student body. The age make-up of the student body varies by school:

Take-Aways

• Demographic shifts at the population level are not reflected in the student body.
• Virtually all WashU undergraduate students are younger than 25.
• The age of the graduate student body varies across schools, but most students are under age 30.
• University College has the largest percentage of students older than 30.
• Age diversity corresponds to type of degree and curriculum format.

Washington University for Life

In 2018, WashU became a member of the Age-Friendly University Global Network, a group of educational institutions committed to expanding programs and policies to engage people in all life stages.

WashU for Life initiative includes:

• Next Move Student Group at the Brown School
• Focus groups with admissions and career services staff to understand opportunities and challenges of increasing age diversity
• Next Move: Transitioning to the New Retirement Seminars
• Multigenerational Classroom Research Study