

The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education:

The December 2018 Update

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is our Basic Classification?

- The Basic Classification for Gettysburg College is Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus.

What are the criteria for the Basic Classification: Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus?

- Institutions were included in the Baccalaureate Colleges category if bachelor's degrees accounted for at least 50% of all degrees awarded and fewer than 50 master's degrees were awarded (2016-17 academic year degree conferrals); within this broad category, institutions where at least half of bachelor's degrees were awarded in arts and sciences fields were included in the "Arts & Sciences Focus" group, while the remaining institutions were included in the "Diverse Fields" group (e.g., Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art).

The US News Best Colleges Ranking has been using the Basic Classification as their grouping method; institutions which are classified as *Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus* based on the Carnegie Basic Classification correspond to the group: National Liberal Arts Colleges used by the US News.

In addition to the Basic Classification, are there other Carnegie classifications?

- Other classifications capture the more specific characteristics of an institution (sort of like sub-classification), such as Undergraduate Instructional Program and Size and Setting.

What are the categories under the sub-classification based on the Undergraduate Instructional Program?

- *Arts & sciences focus, no graduate coexistence.* Criteria: At least 80% of bachelor's degree majors were in the arts and sciences (i.e., less than 20% were in Professions), and no graduate degrees were awarded in fields corresponding to undergraduate majors.
- *Arts & sciences plus professions, no graduate coexistence.* Criteria: 60–79% of bachelor's degree majors were in the arts and sciences, and no graduate degrees were awarded in fields corresponding to undergraduate majors.
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How is Gettysburg College categorized under the sub-classification based on the Undergraduate Instructional Program?

- Under this sub-classification, Gettysburg College was categorized as “Arts & Sciences Focus, No Graduate Coexistence”. During the 2016-17 Academic Year, 667 bachelor’s degrees were awarded by Gettysburg College, of which 115 or 17.2% were categorized by the Carnegie Classification as Professions; four of our Majors were categorized as Professions: OMS, Environmental Studies, Music Education, and Public Policy. (Note that in its 2015 Update, the Carnegie Classification did not include Environmental Studies as a professional field for Baccalaureate Colleges.)
- Each year, institutions receiving federal financial aid are required to report degree completions data by major (indicated by CIP/Classification of Instructional Programs code) to IPEDS. The Carnegie Classification based its categorization of undergraduate majors (arts & sciences or professions) on the CIP code of each major reported by the institution.

Among the current top 50 National Liberal Arts Colleges, how many had over 20% of their baccalaureate degrees awarded in Professions?

- 11 institutions. See Table 1.

Table 1. US News Top 50 National Liberal Arts Colleges with More than 20% of their Bachelor’s Degrees Awarded in Professions

School Name	Carnegie Basic Classification	Carnegie Sub-classification/Category based on the Undergraduate Instructional Program	% of Bachelor’s Degrees in Professions (2016-17 AY)	US News Rank (released in September 2019)
United States Air Force Academy	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Balanced arts & sciences/professions, no graduate coexistence	49.7%	#39
United States Military Academy	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Balanced arts & sciences/professions, no graduate coexistence	49.1%	#21
University of Richmond	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Balanced arts & sciences/professions, some graduate coexistence	45.9%	#23
United States Naval Academy	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Balanced arts & sciences/professions, no graduate coexistence	45.2%	#17
Harvey Mudd College	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Arts & sciences plus professions, no graduate coexistence	38.5%	#23
Washington and Lee University	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Arts & sciences plus professions, no graduate coexistence	35.1%	#10
Bucknell University	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Arts & sciences plus professions, some graduate coexistence	33.4%	#35
Lafayette College	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Arts & sciences plus professions, no graduate coexistence	24.1%	#39
Skidmore College	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Arts & sciences plus professions, some graduate coexistence	23.0%	#39
Furman University	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Arts & sciences plus professions, some graduate coexistence	29.0%	#46
Berea College	Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	Arts & sciences plus professions, no graduate coexistence	31.8%	#46

When will the next Carnegie Classification Update be released?

- Based on its website (as of December 12, 2019), the next update will be the 2021 Update. (The following editions/updates have been released over the years: 1987, 1994, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and December 2018.)

How will the newly approved Business, Organizations, and Management Major affect our Carnegie Basic Classification in future updates?

- As indicated above, as long as at least half of our bachelor's degrees are awarded in arts and sciences fields, our Basic Classification will remain the same.
- Meanwhile, if the proportion of degrees awarded in Professions exceeds 20%, then, in the sub-classification based on the Undergraduate Instructional Program, we will be categorized as “Arts & Sciences Plus Professions”. Since our newly approved major is for students enrolled in or after Fall 2019, the earliest year we may see an increase in students graduating with a major categorized as “Professions” by the Carnegie Classification will be the 2023 graduating class (Fall 2019 entering cohort completing in four years). Therefore this newly approved major will have no impact on our Basic Classification, or our sub-classification based on the Undergraduate Instructional Program in the Carnegie Classification 2021 Update. (Assuming no change in definition for Professions by the Carnegie Classification.)
- Our proportion of degrees awarded in Professions varied from year to year. The most recent 4-year average (2016-2019 graduating classes): 17% (N=121).
- Our proportion of degrees awarded in OMS varied from year to year. The most recent 4-year average (2016-2019 graduating classes): 10.5% (75 graduates).
- Assuming in the 2023 (or a later) graduating glass, beyond the typical number of OMS majors, there will be an additional 20 students graduating with a major in Business, Organizations, and Management, then our proportion of degrees awarded in Professions is projected to be around this range: 19.3% (if these 20 students are double majors) to 19.8% (if this addition is associated with a redistribution of majors, i.e., 20 students fewer majoring in arts or sciences). (Using a historical 4-year average as projection basis).
- Note that the Carnegie Classification may change the definitions for Professions.

Note: information was based on the website of [The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education](#). For the December 2018 Update, degree conferrals were based on degrees awarded during the 2016-17 Academic Year (reported to IPEDS); both first majors and second majors were included. Percentages of Degrees in Professions displayed above were calculated by Suhua Dong based on raw data downloaded from [The Carnegie Classification website](#).