DAKOTA WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

2026-27

Facts and Statistics



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www.dwuathletics.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @dwublue, @dwuathletics
Flickr: dakotawesleyan
Instagram: @dwublue, @dwu_sports
X: @DakotaWesleyan, @DWUSports

DWU MISSION STATEMENT:

Dakota Wesleyan University cultivates transformative learning, ethical leadership, intentional faith and impactful service for lives of meaning and purpose.

This summary provides answers to frequently asked questions about Dakota Wesleyan University.

DWU is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Academic Programs

5 Largest Undergraduate Majors

Business (all concentrations).....168 (25%)
Nursing (all tracks).....165 (24%)
Athletic Training/Exercise Science/
Fitness and Sport Management.....113 (17%)
Social Sciences (Criminal Justice, Psychology,
Behavioral Science).....73 (11%)
Education (all concentrations).....70 (10%)

Graduate Program Enrollment: 134

Master of Arts in Education.....51 (37%)
Master of Athletic Training.....13 (10%)
Master of Business Administration.....37 (28%)
Certificate Seeking.....33 (25%)

Outcomes

2025-26 Undergraduate Degrees: 173

Associate of Arts.....5 (3%)
Associate of Science.....19 (11%)
Bachelor of Arts.....36 (21%)
Bachelor of Science.....109 (63%)
Undergraduate Certificate.....4 (2%)

2025-26 Graduate Degrees: 62

Master of Arts in Education.....10 (16%)
Master of Athletic Training.....10 (16%)
Master of Business Administration.....21 (34%)
Graduate Certificate.....21 (34%)

Total Graduates.....235

Fast Facts

- 96% of graduates are employed full time or attending graduate school.
- 100% job placement for nursing graduates
- 100% of education graduates are working as teachers or attending graduate school.
- 90% placement rate into medical and other healthcare-related graduate programs
- 72% aggregate retention
- 70% freshman-to-sophomore retention
- 30 student clubs and organizations

Annual Graduate Survey Data

- 93% of graduates would recommend DWU to a student seeking a quality educational experience.
- 95% of graduates "evaluated their overall educational experience at Dakota Wesleyan" as either "excellent" or "good."
- 93% of graduates said their academic experience prepared them well for employment.
- 97% of graduates said that instructors were willing to meet with them outside of class to discuss questions and concerns.
- 93% of graduates were satisfied with academic advising and professional advice given by the adviser.
- 90% of graduates agree that "my experience at Dakota Wesleyan University has prepared and inspired me to lead a life of learning, leadership, faith and service."
- 94% of graduates said professors provided them with opportunities to apply classroom learning to "real-life situations."
- 98% of graduates agreed that their program of study engaged them in developing skills adaptable to changing environments.

National Recognition for DWU

- Fortune: Best Online MBA Programs
- NAIA: Champions of Character Five-Star Gold Institution
- Prairie Business Magazine: 50 Best Places to Work
- Great Colleges to Work For *(only S.D. college recognized)*
- RegisteredNursing.org: Best Nursing Programs in South Dakota
- U.S. News & World Report:
  - Best Value Schools – Midwest
  - Best Regional Colleges – Midwest
  - Top Performers on Social Mobility
  - Best Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs
  - Best Online Master's in Education Programs
  - Best Online MBA Programs
- Research.com:
  - Most Popular Colleges in South Dakota
  - Best Colleges in South Dakota
  - Best Value Colleges in South Dakota
  - Most Affordable Colleges in South Dakota

Accreditation

DWU has been continuously accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), an institutional accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, 230 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604, www.hlcommission.org, since 1916. The university and/or specific university programs are either accredited and/or approved by South Dakota Department of Education, South Dakota Board of Nursing, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), United Methodist University Senate, International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE) and Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

Facilities/Human Resources

There are 38 buildings on the university's 55-acre Mitchell campus, including the Dakota Discovery Museum and L.B. Williams Elementary School. Additionally, DWU owns an outdoor research "laboratory" of 138 acres of native prairie 20 miles from campus. Satellite nursing facilities are maintained in Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

Students Living on Campus.....493

Employees

Staff.....110
Faculty.....49

Student/Faculty Ratio: 12:1
Faculty With Terminal Degree: 70%
Courses Taught by Teaching Assistants: 0%
Faculty/Staff Giving Participation Rate: 76%

Church Affiliation

DWU is affiliated with the Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Student Support Services

Internship support, mentoring, tutoring, small-group learning, writing assistance, pastoral care, career services, nursing services and short-term counseling

Enrollment Statistics

Headcount: 917

Undergraduate.....783
Graduate.....134

Undergraduate Student Enrollment: 783
Full time....660
Part time....29
Other....94

Graduate Student Enrollment: 134
Full time....53
Part time....48
Nondegree or Certificate Seeking....33

Online Enrollment: 113
Undergraduate....15
Graduate....98

Enrollment by Program Type
Mitchell Campus....578
- Undergraduate: 565
- Graduate: 13

Online Programs....99
Hybrid Programs....132
- Satellite Nursing Programs: 99
- Graduate Certificate Programs: 33

Nondegree Certification....4
High School Bridge Program....17
High School Dual Credit....72
Other....15

Fall 2026 New Enrolled Students: 352
Mitchell Campus....202
- Freshmen: 173
- Transfers: 29

Online Programs....49
Hybrid Programs....84
- Satellite Nursing Programs: 61
- Graduate Certificate Programs: 23

High School Bridge Program....17

Average Incoming Freshmen GPA: 3.52
Average Incoming Freshmen ACT: 20.2
% Incoming Freshmen Pell Eligible: 33%
% Incoming Freshmen First Generation: 16%

Enrollment by Classification
Freshmen....247 (27%)
Sophomores....176 (19%)
Juniors....137 (15%)
Seniors....127 (13%)
Other....112 (13%)
Graduate....118 (13%)

Undergraduate Student Profile

Gender DEGREE SEEKING
Men....346 (51%)
Women....336 (49%)

Diversity DEGREE SEEKING
Caucasian....551 (80%)
Hispanic....53 (8%)
Two or More Races....42 (6%)
Black or African American....22 (3%)
American Indian/Native Alaskan....6 (1%)
Asian....6 (1%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander....2 (1%)

Geography DEGREE SEEKING
South Dakota....412 (60%)
Nebraska....53 (8%)
Minnesota....44 (6%)
Iowa....17 (3%)
27 Other States and 6 Countries....156 (23%)
(22 International Students with an F-1 Visa)

International students represent the following countries/territories:
Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland and United Kingdom

Denominational Preference DEGREE SEEKING
Christian....104 (15%)
Catholic....97 (14%)
Lutheran....83 (12%)
Methodist....42 (6%)
Other (12 Other Denominations)....46 (7%)
No Denomination Preference....310 (46%)

First Generation DEGREE SEEKING
First Generation....88 (13%)
Not First Generation....303 (44%)
Unknown....291 (43%)

Graduate Student Profile

Gender
Men....40 (40%)
Women....61 (60%)

Diversity
Caucasian....79 (78%)
Hispanic....8 (8%)
Other (American Indian, Asian, Multiple or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander....14 (14%)

Financial

Budget and Finance
Operating Budget: $20,600,000
Endowment: $71,200,000

Annual Student Charges
Tuition....$33,600
Room and Board....$9,000
Technology Fee....$880
Activity Fee....$640
Total....$44,120

Financial Aid
Federal....$4,341,877
Private....$1,900,413
Endowed Scholarships....$1,248,465
Institutional Scholarships....$10,001,329
Work Study....$104,099
Total....$17,596,183

Average Aid Per Student (including federal loans): $27,092
Average Aid Per Student (not including federal loans): $18,118
Average Debt Per Student (federal loans): $26,053

Full-time, On-campus Students Receiving Aid: 100%

Tiger Athletics

Total Student-Athletes: 442

As a member of the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), DWU offers the following varsity sports:
Men's Baseball
Men's Football
Men's and Women's Basketball
Men's and Women's Cross Country
Men's and Women's Golf
Men's and Women's Soccer
Men's and Women's Track and Field
Men's and Women's Wrestling
Women's Softball
Women's Volleyball
Coed Cheer and Dance (club status)
Coed Esports (club status)

Nickname: Tigers
Colors: Royal Blue (Pantone 2945) and White

GPAC Members
Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, Iowa
College of Saint Mary, Omaha, Neb.
Concordia University, Seward, Neb.
Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, S.D.
Doane University, Crete, Neb.
Dordt University, Sioux Center, Iowa
Hastings College, Hastings, Neb.
Midland University, Fremont, Neb.
Morningside University, Sioux City, Iowa
Mount Marty University, Yankton, S.D.
Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa
Waldorf University, Forest City, Iowa

Alumni

Total Alumni: 20,783
Total Number of Living Alumni: 9,034

Alumni by State/Region
South Dakota....5,068 (56%)
Minnesota....465 (5%)
Nebraska....330 (4%)
Iowa....246 (3%)
California....238 (3%)
Colorado....210 (2%)
Texas....191 (2%)
Arizona....168 (2%)
Florida....117 (1%)
Wisconsin....101 (1%)
Illinois....88 (1%)
New York....60 (1%)
Foreign Countries....66 (1%)
Other....1,686 (18%)

Trustees

Executive Committee
Jim Gritzner '69, Chair
Terry Nebelsick '78, Vice Chair
Beth Kroger '91, Secretary

Dan Duffy '83, Jacquelyn Johnson, Roger Musick, Bishop Lanette Plambeck, Mark Puetz, Lesta Turchen, Leon Washington '72

Total Trustees....27

Administration

Daniel R. Kittle, Ph.D.; President
Kitty Allen, MSA; Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Fredel Thomas '14, MBA; Vice President of Admissions, Marketing and Technology
Mickie Metzinger, Ph.D.; Provost
Rich Seggerman, CPA; Interim Vice President of Finance and Administration

Academic Deans

Ashley Digmann, Ph.D.; Ron and Sheilah Gates College of Business, Education and Social Science
Kyle Herges, MFA; College of Arts and Humanities
Penny Tilton, DNP; Donna Starr Christen College of Healthcare, Fitness and Sciences
Melissa Weber, Ed.D.; Associate Dean of Strategic Initiatives