What Is IPEDS?

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is a system of survey components that collects data from about 7,500 institutions that provide postsecondary education across the United States. IPEDS collects institution-level data on students (enrollment and graduation rates), student charges, program completions, faculty, staff, and finances.

These data are used at the federal and state level for policy analysis and development; at the institutional level for benchmarking and peer analysis; and by students and parents, through the College Navigator (http://collegenavigator.ed.gov), to aid in the college search process. For more information about IPEDS, see http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds.

What Is the Purpose of This Report?

The Data Feedback Report is intended to provide institutions a context for examining the data they submitted to IPEDS. Our goal is to produce a report that is useful to institutional executives and that may help improve the quality and comparability of IPEDS data.

What Is in This Report?

The figures provided in this report are those suggested by the IPEDS Technical Review Panel. They were developed to provide selected indicators and data elements for your institution and a comparison group of institutions. The figures are based on data collected during the 2011-12 IPEDS collection cycle and are the most recent data available. Additional information about these indicators is provided in the Methodological Notes at the end of the report. On the next page is a list of the institutions in your comparison group and the criteria used for their selection. Please refer to “Comparison Group” in the Methodological Notes for more information.

Where Can I Do More with IPEDS Data?

The Executive Peer Tool (ExPT) is designed to provide campus executives easy access to institutional and comparison group data. Using the ExPT, you can produce reports using different comparison groups and access a wider range of IPEDS variables. The ExPT is available through the IPEDS Data Center (http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data center).
Comparison group data are included to provide a context for interpreting your institution’s statistics. If your institution did not define a Custom Comparison Group for this report by July 15, NCES selected a comparison group for you. (In this case, the characteristics used to define the comparison group appears below.) The Executive Peer Tool (ExPT) (http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter) can be used to reproduce the figures in this report using different peer groups.

The custom comparison group chosen by Charter Oak State College includes the following 4 institutions:

- Excelsior College (Albany, NY)
- Granite State College (Concord, NH)
- SUNY Empire State College (Saratoga Springs, NY)
- Thomas Edison State College (Trenton, NJ)
Figure 1. Percent of all students enrolled, by race/ethnicity and percent of students who are women: Fall 2011

Figure 2. Unduplicated 12-month headcount of all students and of undergraduate students (2010-11), total FTE enrollment (2010-11), and full- and part-time fall enrollment (Fall 2011)

Figure 3. Number of degrees awarded, by level: 2010-11
Comparison Group Median (N=4)

Private gifts, grants, and contracts
Other professional (support/service)

Type of aid
Any grant aid
Pell grants
Federal loans

Percent of students
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

NOTE: Any grant aid above includes grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, the institution, or other sources. Federal loans includes only federal loans to students. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 4. Percent of all undergraduates receiving aid by type of aid: 2010-11

Average amount of aid received by all undergraduates, by type of aid: 2010-11

Type of aid
Any grant aid
Pell grants
Federal loans

Aid dollars
$0 $2,000 $4,000 $6,000 $8,000

NOTE: Any grant aid above includes grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, the institution, or other sources. Federal loans includes federal loans to students. Average amounts of aid were calculated by dividing the total aid awarded by the total number of recipients in each institution. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 5. Average amount of aid received by all undergraduates, by type of aid: 2010-11

Full-time equivalent staff, by assigned position: Fall 2011

Staff category
Instruction/ research/ public service
Executive/ administrative/ managerial
Other professional (support/service)
Non-professional

Number of staff
0 50 100 150 200 250

NOTE: Graduate assistants are not included in this figure. For information on the calculation of FTE of staff, see the Methodological Notes. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 6. Full-time equivalent staff, by assigned position: Fall 2011

Percent distribution of core revenues, by source: Fiscal year 2011

Revenue source
Tuition and fees
State appropriations
Local appropriations
Government grants and contracts
Private gifts, grants, and contracts
Investment return
Other core revenues

Percent
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

NOTE: The comparison group median is based on those members of the comparison group that report finance data using the same accounting standards as the comparison institution. For a detailed definition of core revenues, see the Methodological Notes. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 7. Percent distribution of core revenues, by source: Fiscal year 2011
Figure 8. Core expenses per FTE enrollment, by function: Fiscal year 2011

NOTE: Expenses per full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, particularly instruction, may be inflated because finance data includes all core expenses while FTE reflects credit activity only. For details on calculating FTE enrollment and a detailed definition of core expenses, see the Methodological Notes. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.

Overview

This report is based on data supplied by institutions to IPEDS during the 2011-12 survey year. Response rates exceeded 99 percent for most surveys. Detailed response tables are included in IPEDS First Look reports, which can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=010.

Use of Imputed Data

All IPEDS data are subject to imputation for total (institutional) and partial (item) nonresponse. If necessary, imputed values were used to prepare your report.

Data Confidentiality

IPEDS data are not collected under a pledge of confidentiality.

Disaggregation of Data by Race/Ethnicity

When applicable, some statistics are disaggregated by race/ethnicity. Data disaggregated by race/ethnicity have been reported using the 1997 (new) Office of Management and Budget categories. Detailed information about the recent race/ethnicity changes can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/reic/resource.asp.

Postbaccalaureate Degree Categories

The use of new postbaccalaureate degree categories was mandatory in the 2011-12 collection year. These categories are: doctor’s degree-research/scholarship, doctor’s degree-professional practice, and doctor’s degree-other. (The first-professional degree and certificate categories and the single doctor’s degree category have been eliminated.)

Cohort Determination for Reporting Student Financial Aid and Graduation Rates

Student cohorts for reporting Student Financial Aid and Graduation Rates data are based on the reporting type of the institution. For institutions that report based on an academic year (those operating on standard academic terms), student counts and cohorts are based on fall term data. Student counts and cohorts for program reporters (those that do not operate on standard academic terms) are based on unduplicated counts of students enrolled during a full 12-month period.

Description of Statistics Used in the Figures

Average Institutional Net Price

Average net price is calculated for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates who were awarded grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, or the institution anytime during the full aid year. For public institutions, this includes only students who paid the in-state or in-district tuition rate. Other sources of grant aid are excluded. Average net price is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government, and institutional grant and scholarship aid from the total cost of attendance. Total cost of attendance is the sum of published tuition and required fees, books and supplies, and the average room and board and other expenses.

For the purpose of the IPEDS reporting, aid received refers to financial aid that was awarded to, and accepted by, a student. This amount may differ from the aid amount that is disbursed to a student.

Core Revenues

Core revenues for public institutions reporting under GASB standards include tuition and fees; state and local appropriations; government grants and contracts; private gifts, grants, and contracts; sales and services of educational activities; investment income; other operating and non-operating sources; and other revenues and additions (federal and capital appropriations and grants and additions to permanent endowments). Core revenues for private, not-for-profit institutions (and a small number of public institutions) reporting under FASB standards include tuition and fees; government appropriations (federal, state, and local); government grants and contracts; private gifts, grants, and contracts (including contributions from affiliated entities); investment return; sales and services of educational activities; and other sources. Core revenues for private, for-profit institutions reporting under FASB standards include tuition and fees; government appropriations, grants, and contracts (federal, state, and local); private grants and contracts; investment income; sales and services of educational activities; and other sources. At degree-granting institutions, core revenues exclude revenues from auxiliary enterprises (e.g., bookstores, dormitories), hospitals, and independent operations. Nondegree-granting institutions do not report revenue from auxiliary enterprises in a separate category. These amounts may be included in the core revenues from other sources.

Core Expenses

Core expenses include expenses for instruction, research, public service, academic support, institutional support, student services, scholarships and fellowships (net of discounts and allowances), and other expenses. Expenses for operation and maintenance of plant, depreciation, and interest are allocated to each of the other functions. Core expenses at degree-granting institutions exclude expenses for auxiliary enterprises (e.g., bookstores, dormitories), hospitals, and independent operations. Nondegree-granting institutions do not report expenses for auxiliary enterprises in a separate category. These amounts may be included in the core expenses as other expenses.
Equated Instructional Staff Salaries

Total salary outlays for full-time instructional staff on 11/12-month contracts were equated to 9-month outlays by multiplying the outlay for 11/12-month contracted instructional staff by 0.8182. The equated outlays were then added to the outlays for 9/10-month instructional staff to determine an average salary for each rank. Salaries are not included for medical school staff or staff on less-than-9-month contracts.

FTE for Enrollment

The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment used in this report is the sum of the institution’s FTE undergraduate enrollment and FTE graduate enrollment (as calculated from or reported on the 12-month Enrollment component). Undergraduate and graduate FTE are estimated using 12-month instructional activity (credit and/or contact hours). See “Calculation of FTE Students (using instructional activity)” in the IPEDS Glossary at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/.

FTE for Staff

The full-time equivalent (FTE) of staff is calculated by summing the total number of full-time staff from the Employees by Assigned Position (EAP) section of the Human Resources component and adding one-third of the total number of part-time staff.

Graduation Rates and Transfer-out Rate

Graduation rates are those developed to satisfy the requirements of the Student Right-to-Know and Higher Education Opportunity Acts and are defined as the total number of individuals from a given cohort of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates who completed a degree or certificate within a given percent of normal time (for the degree or certificate) before the ending status date of August 31, 2011, divided by the entire cohort of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates minus any allowable exclusions. Institutions are permitted to exclude from the initial cohort students who died or were totally and permanently disabled; those who left school to serve in the armed forces or were called to active duty; those who left to serve with a foreign aid service of the federal government, such as the Peace Corps; and those who left to serve on an official church mission. Transfer-out rate is the total number of students from the cohort who are known to have transferred out of the reporting institution within the same time period, divided by the same adjusted cohort. Only institutions with a mission that includes preparing students to transfer are required to report transfers out.

Retention Rates

Full-time retention rates are defined as the number of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who enter the institution for the first time in the fall and who return to the same institution the following fall (as either full- or part-time), divided by the total number of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates in the fall of first entrance. Part-time retention rates are similarly defined. For 4-year institutions offering a bachelor’s degree, this rate is reported only for those first-time students seeking a bachelor’s degree. For less than 4-year institutions, the rate is calculated for all first-time degree/certificate-seeking students.

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits

Salaries, wages, and benefits, for public institutions under GASB standards, and private, not-for-profit institutions under FASB standards, include amounts paid as compensation for services to all employees regardless of the duration of service, and amounts made to or on behalf of an individual over and above that received in the form of a salary or wage. Frequently, benefits are associated with an insurance payment. Private, for-profit institutions under FASB standards do not report salaries.

Total Entering Undergraduate Students

Total entering students are students at the undergraduate level, both full- and part-time, new to the institution in the fall term (or the prior summer term who returned in the fall). This includes all first-time undergraduate students, students transferring into the institution at the undergraduate level, and nondegree/certificate-seeking undergraduates entering in the fall. Only degree-granting, academic year reporting institutions provide total entering student data.

Tuition and Required Fees

Tuition is defined as the amount of money charged to students for instructional services; required fees are those fixed sum charges to students for items not covered by tuition that are required of such a large proportion of all students that the student who does not pay the charge is an exception. The amounts used in this report are for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates and are those used by the financial aid office to determine need. For institutions that have differential tuition rates for in-district or in-state students, the lowest tuition rate is used in the figure. Only institutions that operate on standard academic terms will have tuition figures included in their report.

Additional Methodological Information

Additional methodological information on the IPEDS components can be found in the publications available at http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=010. Additional definitions of variables used in this report can be found in the IPEDS online glossary available at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/.

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