

Graduation Rates

Screening questions

Does the mission of your institution include providing substantial preparation for students to enroll in another eligible institution without having completed their programs?

If you answer Yes to this question, you will be expected to report transfer-out data. If you answer No to this question, you may report transfer-out data if you wish.

- No.
- Yes.

Based on your institution's response to the predominant calendar system question (D1) on the Institutional Characteristics survey from the IPEDS Fall 2002 Data Collection, your institution must report graduation rates data using a _____ cohort.

A fall cohort is used by institutions with standard academic terms (semester, trimester, quarter, 4-1-4, other academic). A full-year cohort is used by institutions offering primarily occupational/vocational programs and operating on a continuous basis.

Section III - Graduation rates

- In the columns below, report the status of the Full-time, First-time students reported in the cohort in Col 10.
- Those who completed their program within 150% of normal time as of August 31, 2002 should be reported in Col 11A.
- Report transfers-out who did not complete a program in Col 30.
- Report exclusions from the cohort in Col 45. The ONLY allowable categories for this column are:
 students who died or became permanently disabled
 students who left school to serve in the armed forces
 students who left school to serve with a foreign aid service of the Federal Government
- Col 49 (non-completers still enrolled plus non-completers not enrolled) will be calculated for you.

Screen 1 of 1	Cohort of full-time, <u>first-time students</u> Cohort year 1999					
	Initial cohort	Revised cohort	Completed program within 150% of <u>normal time to completion</u>	Total transfer-out students (non-completers)	Total <u>exclusions</u>	Non-completers still enrolled and non-completers not enrolled
		(10)	(11A)	(30)	(45)	(49)
Men						
Nonresident alien		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Black, non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Asian/Pacific Islander		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Hispanic		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
White, non-Hispanic		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Race/ethnicity unknown		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Total men						
Women						
Nonresident alien		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Black, non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Asian/Pacific Islander		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Hispanic		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
White, non-Hispanic		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Race/ethnicity unknown		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Total women						

Instructions for Graduation Rates - Less-than-2-year Institutions

Period of Report

This report requests data on a cohort of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students enrolled in your institution either (1) as of October 15, 1999 or (2) during the period between September 1, 1999 and August 31, 2000. Institutions are to report the status of these students as of August 31, 2002.

Screening Question 1:

Please read all screening questions carefully. Your responses will determine whether or not you need to complete the survey. The data collection system will use your answers to these questions to determine which screens for data entry will follow.

1. If the mission of your institution includes providing substantial preparation for students to enroll in another eligible institution, you must report transfer-out data if your institution has information on students who transfer out.

Cohort Identification

The method used to establish the cohort reported on this survey has been predetermined by your institution's response to the predominant calendar system question (D1) on the Institutional Characteristics survey component of the IPEDS Fall 2002 Data Collection, according to the following rules:

- Institutions that offer a predominant number of programs based on **standard academic terms** (semesters, trimesters, quarters, or 4-1-4 plan) will report using a **fall cohort** of students. Institutions may use a census date of October 15, 1999, or the end of the institution's drop-add period, or another official fall reporting date to determine the cohort. This should be the same reporting date established for your IPEDS Fall Enrollment report.
- Institutions that do not offer a predominant number of programs based on standard academic terms (as defined above) will report using a **full-year cohort**. These institutions must count as entering students all those students who entered the institution between September 1, 1999 and August 31, 2000, and who were enrolled for at least 15 days in a program of up to, and including, one year in length, or 30 days in a program of greater than one year in length.

Who to Include in the Cohort

Include all full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students entering the institution either during the fall term or during the 12-month period as described above.

Students must be enrolled in courses creditable toward a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award. Include students enrolled in courses that are part of a vocational or occupational program, INCLUDING those enrolled in off-campus centers and those enrolled in distance learning/home study programs.

Be sure to include full-time students taking remedial courses if the student is considered degree-

seeking for the purpose of student financial aid determination.

A student who is designated as a member of the 1999 cohort remains in the 1999 cohort, even if the student:

- Becomes a part-time student.
- Transfers to another institution.
- Drops out of the institution.
- Stops out of the institution.
- Has not fulfilled the institution's requirements to receive a degree or certificate.

Who to Exclude from the Cohort

DO NOT include students in the cohort who are:

- Enrolled exclusively in courses not creditable toward a formal award or the completion of a vocational program (i.e., nondegree seeking).
- Taking CEUs unless they are also enrolled full time in courses creditable toward a degree or other formal award.
- Exclusively auditing classes.
- Studying abroad (e.g., at a foreign university) if their enrollment at this institution is only an administrative record and the fee is only nominal.
- In any branch campus located in a foreign country.
- Part time.
- Transfers into the institution.

Categorization of Students

The Glossary provides detailed definitions of specific terms and should be used to define students in the initial cohort. The Glossary should also be used to identify completers and transfer-out students.

Length of Program

The Glossary also provides detailed definitions of programs of less than 2 years.

Reporting Students by Racial/Ethnic Category and Gender

Method of Collection - The manner of collecting racial/ethnic information is left to the discretion of the institution, provided that the system which is established results in reasonably accurate data, which may be replicated by others when the same documented system is utilized. One acceptable method is a properly controlled system of post-enrollment self-identification by students. If a self-identification method is utilized, a verification procedure to ascertain the completeness and accuracy of student submissions should be employed.

Assignment to categories - For the purpose of this report, a student may be included in the group to which he or she appears to belong, identifies with, or is regarded in the community as belonging.

However, no person may be counted in more than one racial/ethnic group. Racial/ethnic designations are requested only for United States citizens, resident aliens, and other eligible noncitizens. (See definitions below.)

Racial/ethnic descriptions - Racial/ethnic designations as used in this survey do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. The categories are:

- **American Indian or Alaskan Native** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.
- **Asian or Pacific Islander** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or Pacific Islands. This includes people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, American Samoa, India, and Vietnam.
- **Black, non-Hispanic** – A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa (except those of Hispanic origin).
- **Hispanic** – A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central, or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- **White, non-Hispanic** – A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa or the Middle East (except those of Hispanic origin).

Other descriptive categories:

- **Nonresident alien** – A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely. NOTE: Nonresident aliens are to be reported separately, in the rows provided, rather than in any of the five racial/ethnic categories described above. Resident aliens and other eligible (for financial aid purposes) noncitizens who are not citizens or nationals of the United States and who have been lawfully admitted as legal immigrants for the purpose of obtaining permanent resident alien status (and who hold either an alien registration card (Form I-551 or I-151), a Temporary Resident Card (Form I-688), or an Arrival - Departure Record (Form I-94) with a notation that conveys legal immigrant status such as Section 207 Refugee, Section 208 Asylee, Conditional Entrant Parolee or Cuban-Haitian) are to be reported in the appropriate racial/ethnic categories along with United States citizens.
- **Race/ethnicity unknown** – This category is used ONLY if the student did not select a racial/ethnic designation, AND the postsecondary institution finds it impossible to place the student in one of the aforementioned racial/ethnic categories during established enrollment procedures or in any post-enrollment identification or verification process.

Confidentiality of Data

The confidentiality of individuals will be preserved in accordance with Title V, Section 501(a) of the Education Amendments of 1974 (P.L. 93-380) which amends Part A of the General Education Provisions Act by adding at the end thereof a new Section 406 specifically referring to NCES. Section (d)(2) of the Act is cited below:

"The Center shall develop and enforce standards designed to protect the confidentiality of persons in the collection, reporting, and publication of data under this section. This subparagraph shall not be

construed to protect the confidentiality of information about institutions, organizations, and agencies receiving grants from or having contracts with the Federal Government."

The Freedom of Information Act requires that data retained by the Federal Government must be made available to the public so long as the rights to privacy of individuals are not violated. When requested, data collected in this survey will be made available to the public in the form of diskettes or via Internet. The database will contain all of the data items on the report (except those which might identify individuals), as well as the names of institutions submitting the reports.

Privacy Issues with Disclosure

Before using the worksheets for disclosure, please consider the following:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended (1998) (FERPA) requires that institutions not disclose information where students could be identified.

NCES will not release data cells containing fewer than three individuals.

Section III – Full-Time, First-Time Degree/Certificate-Seeking Students

Report each student only once.

Report the status of the 1999 cohort of degree/certificate-seeking students **as of August 31, 2002** in terms of the number of completers within 150% of normal time to award, number of transfer-out students (non-completers), and exclusions to the cohort. Report all students by race/ethnicity and gender.

Report only for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students. DO NOT include students who transferred into your institution.

Initial cohort - If you are reporting on a fall cohort, the information you reported on line 01 of your 1999 IPEDS Fall Enrollment report will be preloaded in this column. If you did not respond to that survey, or if you are reporting on a full-year cohort, the column will be blank.

Revised cohort (10) –Please review the data in the initial cohort column, and make any necessary corrections for omissions or double counting. Enter the data according to student race/ethnicity and gender. If you have no corrections to make to your cohort as displayed in the initial cohort column, you do not need to enter any data in the revised cohort column. If your data do not appear in the initial cohort column, please provide the enrollment data as requested in the revised cohort column.

Completed within 150% (11A) - In order to calculate a graduation rate to comply with Student Right-to-Know regulations, institutions can count as completers, only those students who received their degree/certificate (or completed a transfer-preparatory program) within 150% of normal program time. See Glossary for definition of normal time to completion. Do not count as completers students who

get their degree/certificate from another institution.

Enter the number of students who completed programs of less than 2 years within 150% of normal time. For example, a student who completed a 6-month (or equivalent) program in 9 months or less would be reported on 11A; those taking longer would not be reported.

Total transfer-out students (non-completers) (30) - If you indicated in Screening Question #2 that the mission of your institution includes providing substantial preparation for students to enroll in another eligible institution, and your institution has information on students who transfer out, report the total number of students who transferred out of your institution (without a degree/award) within 150% of normal time to completion. Include students who transferred out of your institution and subsequently re-enrolled. If you indicated No to Screening Question #2, the data collection system inserts values of NA into each field in this column. You may, however, report transfer-out data if you wish.

Total exclusions (45) -- Indicate the total number of students who left your institution (and have neither graduated nor transferred to another institution) because of one of the following documented reasons:

- a. The student is deceased or is totally and permanently disabled and thus unable to return to school.
- b. The student left school to serve in the armed forces. (DO NOT include students already in the military who transfer to another duty station.)
- c. The student left school to serve with a foreign aid service of the Federal Government, such as the Peace Corps.
- d. The student left school to serve on an official church mission.

NOTE: Students who leave the institution for one of the reasons noted in b, c, or d above, but return prior to the status date of August 31, 2002, may be subtracted from the cohort during the calculation of graduation rates.

Non-completers still enrolled and non-completers not enrolled (49) - This column is generated by the calculation of Col 10 - (Col 11A + Col 30 + Col 45).

Calculation of Graduation and Transfer-out Rates

Worksheets

A worksheet calculating the Student Right-To-Know completion/graduation and transfer-out rates of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students for the 1999 student cohort is provided as a convenience to the institution.

Worksheets calculating the overall four-year average completion/graduation and transfer-out rates of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students for the student cohort are also provided. Data previously reported by the institution have been preloaded to use in these calculations.

An additional blank worksheet for calculating Student Right-to-Know four-year average graduation and transfer-out rates by race/ethnicity or other student characteristics is available from the IPEDS website at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/web2000/springdataitems.asp>.

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