

Memorandum for the NCES Review Tracking System (RTS)
IPEDS Data Collection Cycle

2020–21 IPEDS Data Collection: Spring Data Release – Provisional Level

The provisional level data release of the components collected during the spring collection period of the 2020–21 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) contains substantive changes in file structure or file documentation for two components of IPEDS compared to the previous year. Within the Academic Libraries component, new data were collected that specify the number of full-time equivalent staff employed by the library. In the Finance component, there were 3 notable changes. First, a new part was added to collect financial health measures from degree-granting institutions. Second, the Scholarships and Fellowships part of the component was expanded to collect the amount of discounts and allowances attributed to several detail categories. Finally, some new measures were added to the part of the component focused on endowments to further detail the changes to endowment value. Details regarding these changes can be found under “Updates to the Data Collection” on the IPEDS Report Your Data website (<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data>), as pictured below.

The screenshot shows the IPEDS Report Your Data website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the IES and NCES logos, the text 'National Center for Education Statistics', and a search bar. Below this is the main header with 'IPEDS Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System' and a search bar. A red banner below the header contains the text 'IPEDS Data Collection Help Desk (877) 225-2568 or ipeds-help@rti.org'. The main content area is titled 'Report Your Data' and includes a sub-header 'Report your institution's data and access resources that will help with successful submission'. There are several sections with icons and links: 'Answer the Current Survey', 'Revise the Prior Year Survey', 'Survey Schedule and Materials', 'Updates to the Data Collection', 'About the Data Collection', 'Request to be an IPEDS Institution', 'Reporting Guides', and 'Reporting Tools'. The 'Updates to the Data Collection' section is circled in blue and contains links for 'ANNUAL' (Current Changes, Archived Changes) and 'PERIODIC' (This Week in IPEDS).

The data are released to the public through the “Use the Data” portal (<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>) on the IPEDS website. The IPEDS Methodology has been reviewed and approved by the NCES Review Staff and is currently posted on the IPEDS website as a resource for data users.

IPEDS is an annual, large-scale, web-based survey that collects institution-level data from postsecondary institutions in the United States (50 states and the District of Columbia) and other U.S. jurisdictions.¹ For more information about the IPEDS Survey, its 12 components, and data release procedures visit <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data/survey-components>. This memorandum documents the IPEDS universe of reporting institutions and response to the spring collection period of the 2020–21 IPEDS, which was open from December 9, 2020 to April 7, 2021.

2020–21 IPEDS Universe of Institutions

The IPEDS universe is established during the fall collection period. During the 2020–21 collection year, there were 6,133 Title IV institutions and administrative offices² in the United States and other jurisdictions of the United States, such as Puerto Rico. For 2020–21, a total of 558 postsecondary institutions were reported exclusively by a parent institution and are not included in the universe counts. The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are included in the IPEDS universe because they are federally funded and open to the public.³

NCES statistical standards require that the potential for nonresponse bias for all institutions be analyzed for sectors for which the response rate is less than 85 percent. Because response rates were nearly 100 percent for each survey component, no such analysis was necessary.

Table 1 provides an overview of the number of institutions responding to the components that comprise the fall, winter, and spring collection periods. This table is updated after each collection period's data release. Appendix A provides a summary of responses for the previous collection year for comparison purposes. Appendix B shows a table of institutions with a Title IV status change.⁴ Of the 182 institutions that changed Title IV status in 2020–21, 103 were for-profit institutions.

¹ The other U.S. jurisdictions surveyed in IPEDS are American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

² Title IV institutions and administrative offices include 6,063 institutions and 70 administrative (central or system) offices. The central and system offices are required to complete the Institutional Characteristics component in the fall, the Human Resources component in the spring, and the Finance component in the spring (if they have their own separate budget).

³ The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is Title IV eligible. Data for all five institutions are included in the tables and counts of institutions unless otherwise indicated.

⁴ An institution may be classified as changing Title IV status for the following reasons: it closed, it no longer provides federal funded financial assistance, it lost Title IV eligibility, it combined or merged with another institution, it is new, it began to provide federal funded financial assistance, or it regained Title IV eligibility.

Table 1. Summary of Response by IPEDS Survey Component, 2020–21 Data Collection

IPEDS Survey Component	Number of Institutions			
	Not required to report ¹	Expected to respond	Did not respond ²	Provided data
Fall Collection Period: September 2, 2020 to October 14, 2020				
Institutional Characteristics	0	6,133	1	6,132
Completions ³	0	6,063	5	6,058
12-Month Enrollment ³	8	6,055	6	6,049
Winter Collection Period: December 9, 2020 to February 10, 2021				
Admissions ³	4,087	1,976	1	1,975
Graduation Rates ³	634	5,429	4	5,425
200 Percent Graduation Rates ³	1,021	5,042	3	5,399
Outcome Measures ³	2,397	3,666	2	3,664
Student Financial Aid ³	76	5,987	5	5,982
Spring Collection Period: December 9, 2020 to April 7, 2021				
Academic Libraries ³	2,082	3,981	2	3,979
Fall Enrollment ³	4	6,059	6	6,053
Finance	3	6,130	7	6,123
Human Resources	4	6,129	6	6,123

¹Not required to respond to the survey component because the institutions were new, were closed, did not enroll students, or did not meet the criteria for the component (e.g., some components only apply to degree-granting institutions).

²Due to unit nonresponse, all data were imputed for nonresponding institutions.

³Does not include the 70 administrative offices. An administrative office is a system or central office in a multi-campus environment.

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe because they are federally funded and open to the public. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/public/glossary>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2020–21 collection (provisional data).

For any questions related to this data product release, please contact Tara Lawley, IPEDS Program Director, (tara.lawley@ed.gov).

Appendix A

Table A-1. Summary of Response by IPEDS Survey Component, 2019–20 Data Collection

IPEDS Survey Component	Number of Institutions			
	Not required to report ¹	Expected to respond	Did not respond ²	Provided data
Fall Collection Period: September 4, 2019 to October 16, 2019				
Institutional Characteristics	0	6,216	0	6,216
Completions ³	0	6,145	1	6,144
12-Month Enrollment ³	7	6,138	2	6,136
Winter Collection Period: December 11, 2019 to February 12, 2020				
Admissions ³	4,129	2,016	1	2,015
Graduation Rates ³	646	5,499	5	5,494
200 Percent Graduation Rates ³	1,042	5,103	1	5,102
Outcome Measures ³	2,443	3,702	4	3,698
Student Financial Aid ³	83	6,062	4	6,058
Spring Collection Period: December 11, 2019 to May 9, 2020 and September 9, 2020 to October 28, 2020				
Academic Libraries ³	2,110	4,035	1	4,034
Fall Enrollment ³	13	6,132	11	6,121
Finance	4	6,212	13	6,199
Human Resources	11	6,205	8	6,197

¹Not required to respond to the survey component because the institutions were new, were closed, did not enroll students, or did not meet the criteria for the component (e.g., some components only apply to degree-granting institutions).

²Due to unit nonresponse, all data were imputed.

³Does not include the 71 administrative offices. An administrative office is a system or central office in a multi-campus environment.

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe because they are federally funded and open to the public. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/public/glossary>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS 2019–20 collection (provisional data).

Appendix B

Table B-1. Number of Title IV Institutions and number changing Title IV status, by sector of institution: United States and other U.S. jurisdictions, academic years 2019–20 and 2020–21

Sector of Institution	Title IV institutions in 2019–20		Title IV institutions in 2020–21		Net change in Title IV institutions from 2019–20 to 2020–21 ¹
	Number	Number that are no longer Title IV in 2020–21	Number	Number that became Title IV since 2019–20	
All Institutions	6,145	182	6,063	100	-82
Public 4-year	791	30	773	1	-29
Private nonprofit 4-year	1,621	27	1,608	10	-17
Private for-profit 4-year	352	22	343	10	-12
Public 2-year	946	10	920	1	-9
Private nonprofit 2-year	146	4	139	1	-3
Private for-profit 2-year	563	20	564	29	9
Public less-than-2-year	223	4	226	1	-3
Private nonprofit less-than-2-year	59	4	59	4	0
Private for-profit less-than-2-year	1,444	61	1,431	43	-18

¹The net change indicated in this table is the result of changes to Title IV status (number that became Title IV since 2019–20 minus the number that were no longer Title IV as of 2020–21). Institutions that changed sector between 2019–20 and 2020–21 are not reflected in this column.

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the U.S. Department of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. The United States includes the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe because they are federally funded and open to the public. An institution may be classified as changing Title IV status because it closed, it no longer provides federally funded financial assistance, it lost Title IV eligibility, it combined or merged with another institution, it is new, it began to provide federally funded financial assistance, or it regained Title IV eligibility. The other U.S. jurisdictions include American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/public/glossary>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Fall 2019 Institutional Characteristics component (provisional data) and Fall 2020 Institutional Characteristics component (provisional data).