



IPEDS presents

NCES Postsecondary Surveys

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@ipeds_nces

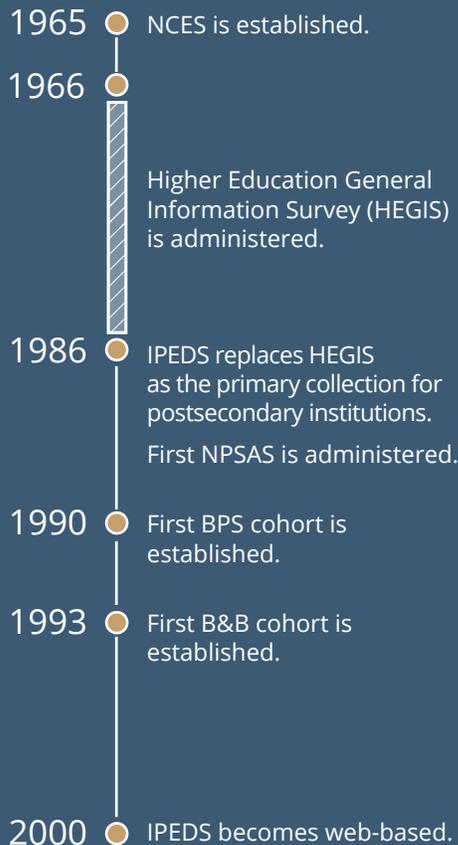
About NCES

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations. NCES is located within the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). It is an independent nonpartisan statistical agency.

Introduction

The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, directed the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to collect information about Title IV higher education institutions and the students they serve. **Title IV** institutions participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial aid programs administered by the office of Federal Student Aid (FSA). Through several postsecondary surveys, NCES collects information about where and how the aid is distributed and whether it had an impact on student outcomes. This brochure describes the NCES postsecondary surveys. Longitudinal surveys that track student progress from secondary to postsecondary education (e.g., the Education Longitudinal Study or the High School Longitudinal Study) are not covered in this document.

Selected Timeline



NCES Postsecondary Surveys

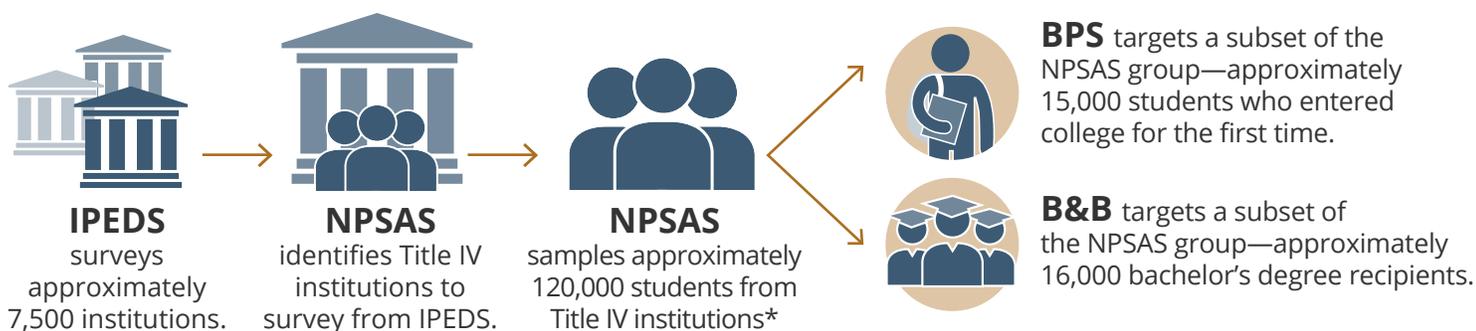
Survey name	Purpose	Data sources	Level of analysis	Frequency of survey
 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System	Collects comprehensive data on the performances and characteristics of Title IV institutions	U.S. Department of Education, institutions	Institution	Yearly
 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study	Examines the characteristics of postsecondary students and how they and their families pay for college	U.S. Department of Education, institution student records, interviews, external sources	Student	Every 2-4 years
 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study	Tracks the persistence, transfer, and attainment of first-time students	NPSAS, transcripts, interviews, external sources	Student	Every 8 years
 Baccalaureates and Beyond Longitudinal Study	Tracks the education, attainment, labor market outcomes, and post-college life of bachelor's recipients	NPSAS, transcripts, interviews, external sources	Student	Every 8 years

How Do the Surveys Differ?

IPEDS gathers information from thousands of Title IV institutions and hundreds of non-Title IV institutions. It differs from the other postsecondary surveys because data collection is mandatory at the institution level. **NPSAS, BPS, and B&B** are collectively referred to as the sample surveys because only a portion of students at selected Title IV institutions are statistically chosen to be surveyed. The sample surveys' data are used to generate a nationally representative portrait of students enrolled in postsecondary education and track their experiences and outcomes. BPS and B&B are longitudinal survey spinoffs of NPSAS that track groups of the same students over time.

Surveys target different respondents

IPEDS surveys institutions, while the sample surveys collect data on students.



* The nationally representative sample of NPSAS contains undergraduate and graduate, aided and non-aided, and full- and part-time students.

Survey data serve different purposes

IPEDS data are used by government entities, policymakers, researchers, consumers, and anyone interested in the characteristics of institutions that receive Title IV funds. The data are used by policymakers to evaluate policy changes, by researchers to assess the postsecondary education landscape, and by students and parents to make college decisions.

NPSAS, BPS, and B&B data are used by policymakers, analysts and researchers to determine if federal student aid programs like Pell Grants and federal student loans are reaching the targeted populations. The data are used to assess how these programs are serving the intended purposes (e.g., by providing opportunity and access to postsecondary students). They can also provide key insights into the postsecondary experiences and outcomes of first-time students and bachelor's degree recipients and allow researchers to explore other issues in higher education.

Surveys collect different data

The following highlights key information collected via each of the surveys but does not cover all collected items.

IPEDS collects information about the *institution*.



Institutional Characteristics

- Institution type and contacts
- Program/degrees offered
- Tuition & fee, room and board charges
- Acceptance rates
- Financial, human, library resources



Student Enrollment

- Student levels, full-time and first-time statuses
- Demographics



Financial Aid and College Financing

- Financial aid awarded
- Number and percent of students awarded aid



Student Outcomes

- Retention
- Graduation rates
- Transfers
- Degrees/certificates awarded

NPSAS collects information about *students* to allow for analysis of how postsecondary education is funded.



Student Characteristics

- Demographics
- Family background
- Education experiences
- Work history
- GPA



Student Enrollment

- Student levels, full-time and first-time statuses
- Field of study
- Highest degree expected



Financial Aid and College Financing

- Cost of attendance
- Student budgets
- Expected family contributions
- Financial aid received
- Other financial sources

BPS surveys first-time *students* three times to track progress over 6 years and identify factors related to persistence.



Student Characteristics

- Demographics and health
- Academic preparation



Financial Aid and College Financing

- Debt incurred by completers



Student Outcomes

- Persistence
- Transfers
- Degrees/certificates earned



Career and Employment

- Income of completers
- Completers' expectations and actual result

B&B collects information on *students'* education, work experiences, and life after completion of the bachelor's degree.



Student Characteristics

- Education experiences
- Enrollment history



Financial Aid and College Financing

- Costs incurred and resulting debt
- Sources of financial aid



Student Outcomes

- Degrees/certificate earned



Career and Employment

- Employment history and job search activities

Data users wishing to combine estimates from the sample surveys with IPEDS should be aware of the differences between the unit of analysis and other details for the collections. Contact NCES for further guidance.

IPEDS Data Use Help Desk
1-866-558-0658
ipedstools@rti.org

Sample Surveys Data Use Help Desk
NCES.Info@rti.org

What Tools Are Available?

IPEDS provides several user-friendly tools through its website: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds>.

College Navigator (found under the *Find Your College* portal) is a consumer information tool that provides comprehensive profiles of IPEDS schools.

College Map (found under the *Find Your College* portal) identifies colleges using geographic constraints as well as characteristics.

Data Trends (found under the *Use the Data* portal) shows how metrics have changed over time and allow for trend analysis by selected school characteristics.

All IPEDS data are publicly available. For a more detailed description of the tools or to access full survey data, visit the IPEDS *Use the Data* or *Find Your College* portals from the homepage.

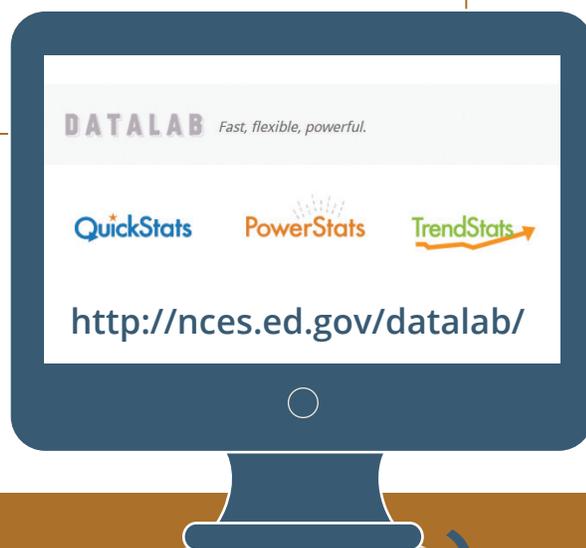
NPSAS, BPS, and B&B provide three user-friendly and publicly available tools within the DataLab website: <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab>.

QuickStats is a tool designed for beginners and provides tables and simple graphs.

PowerStats allows users to perform powerful analytics with linear and logistic regression over thousands of variables.

TrendStats produces average, median, and percentage tables over time.

Advanced data users wishing to download full student-level data files for analysis will need to apply for a restricted use data license (see link under “Additional Resources” below).



Additional Resources

IPEDS homepage: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds>

NPSAS homepage: <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/npsas/>

BPS homepage: <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/bps/>

B&B homepage: <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/b&b/>

NCES data user video tutorials: <https://nces.ed.gov/training/datauser/>

NCES restricted use data information: <https://nces.ed.gov/statprog/rudman/>