

## Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

Slide 1 of 20



## Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

Slide 2 of 20

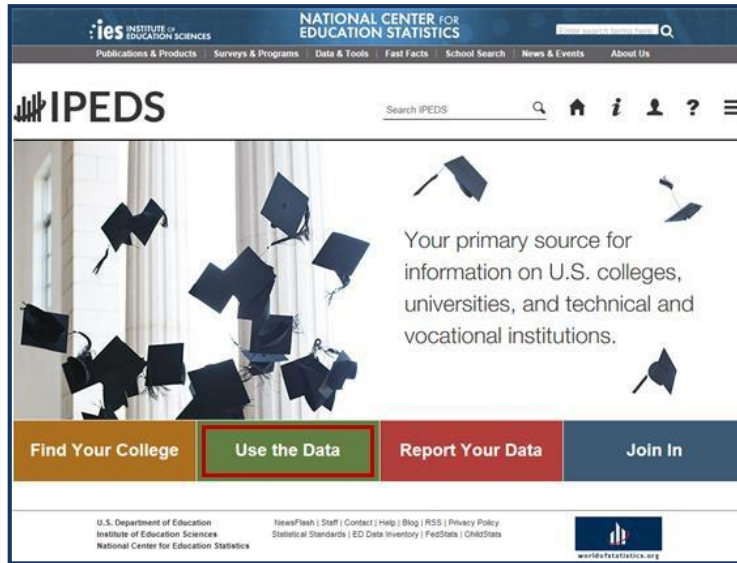
### Module Objectives

- Describe the options for using [IPEDS](#) data
  - Viewing institutional data
  - Generating reports
  - Downloading data files
- Describe processes for accessing IPEDS data
- Describe the structure of IPEDS data files
- Explain how to choose variables for analysis

Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

Slide 3 of 20

Accessing IPEDS Data from the [IPEDS Website](#)



Slide 4 of 20

Collection Year vs. Data Year

- Collection Year: Year in which the data are collected by NCES during the fall, winter, and spring data collection cycle
- Data Year: Year the data represent, which may be prior to the collection year
- For example, 12-month enrollment collected in the fall during the 2014-15 data collection is for the prior 12-month period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014
  - Collection Year 2014 = Data Year 2013-14

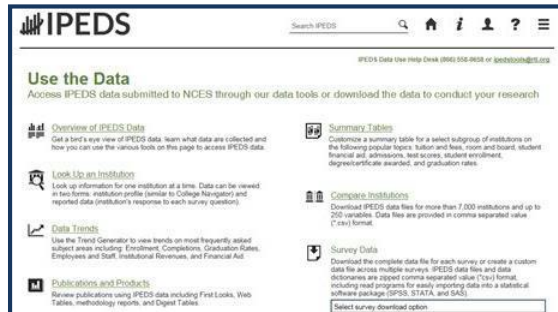


## Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

### Slide 5 of 20

#### Options for Accessing IPEDS Data

- Look up an institution: View profiles and data reported for a single institution
- Compare institutions: Download single merged data file for a group of institutions including up to 250 variables
- Statistical tables: Create simple descriptive statistics (e.g., total, count, average, median, standard deviation, percentiles) on selected IPEDS institutions and variables
- Survey data (three options):
  - Access Database: Make available the entire survey data for one the Microsoft Access format beginning with the 2007-98 IPEDS data collection year
    - File is compressed using WinZip
  - Complete Data Files: Each component has multiple files; in many cases you'll need to be able to merge the files together
    - Each download includes a Read Files for SPSS, SAS, and STATA
    - Always download the Institutional Characteristics Header file because it includes basic directory information
  - Custom Data Files: Select institution by names, UnitIDs, groups, variables, uploading a file
  - IPEDS UnitID is common across files and can be used for merging
- Data feedback report: Create reports with pre-determined tables and comparison groups for institutions



### Slide 6 of 20

#### Helpful Shortcuts in IPEDS

- Save session – allows you to save all institutions and variables you have selected
- Download and save a group of institutions (.uid file)\*
- Download and save a list of variables (.mvl file)\*

\* You can then upload these back into the system, but you must provide an email address and password to become an IPEDS 'Power User'

## Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

Slide 7 of 20

### Select Institutions By Group

- Several methods are available for creating a system-generated Institution Group

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Look up an institution" with a "Provisional Release Data (Change)" link. Under the "1. Select Institutions" tab, it displays "My Comparison Institution - None Selected" with an "ADD" button. Below this, a question asks "How would you like to select institutions to include in your data file/report?". There are four main options: "By Names or UnitIDs", "By Groups", "By Variables", and "By Uploading a File". The "By Groups" option is highlighted with a red arrow, and a sub-menu is open showing "EZ Group", "Automatic Group", and "Saved Group". Below the options, there is a text box for entering institution names or UnitIDs and a "Select" button.

- Additional information about options for using data from the IPEDS website is available in the [IPEDS data manual](#)

Slide 8 of 20

### Using EZ Groups

Uses common variables to define institution groups

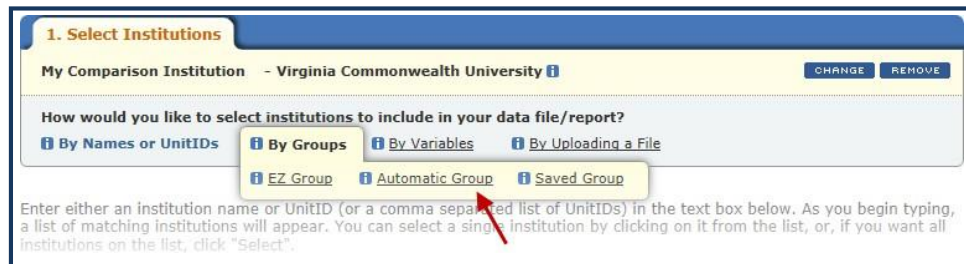
The screenshot shows the "Data Collection: 2013" interface. At the top, it says "0 institution(s)" with "Clear" and "Search" buttons. Under the "Select" section, there are checkboxes for "First Look Universe", "Title IV participating", "U.S. only", and "All institutions". The "Special missions (if any)" section has checkboxes for "Historically Black College or University", "Tribal College", and "Land Grant Institution". The "Special characteristics" section lists various variables with expandable menus: "State or other jurisdiction", "Geographical region", "Sector", "Degree-granting status", "Highest degree offered", "Institutional category", "Carnegie Classification 2010: Basic", "Degree of urbanization (Locale)", "Institution size category", "Reporting method (academic/hybrid/program)", "Has full-time first-time undergraduates", and "All programs offered completely via distance education". On the right, a "Check all | Uncheck all" panel is open, showing checkboxes for "Administrative Unit", "Public, 4-year or above", "Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above", "Private for-profit, 4-year or above" (which is checked), "Public, 2-year", "Private not-for-profit, 2-year", "Private for-profit, 2-year", "Public, less-than 2-year", "Private not-for-profit, less-than 2-year", and "Private for-profit, less-than 2-year".

## Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

### Slide 9 of 20

#### Using NCES-defined Automatic Groups

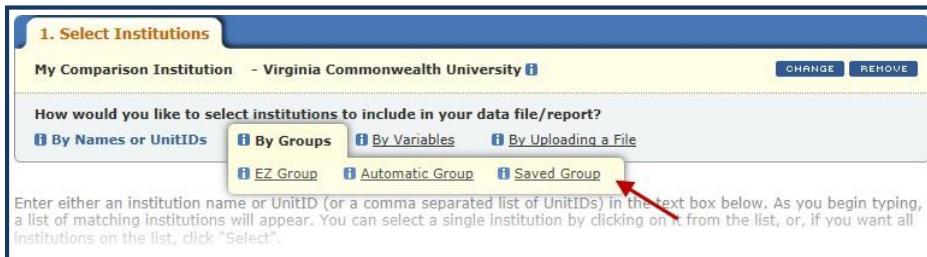
- Creates a group of peer institutions for a selected comparison institution
- Uses pre-defined criteria:
  - Institutional control and level
  - Degree-granting status
  - Title IV status
  - Carnegie classification
  - Geographic region



### Slide 10 of 20

#### Using Institutionally-defined Saved Groups

- Creates a group of peer institutions for selected comparison institution
- Option not available for all institutions



Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

Slide 11 of 20

**Using Variables to Create an Institution Group**

- Select up to 20 variables as criteria for creating an institution group



Slide 12 of 20

**Using Variables to Create an Institution Group (Continued)**

Select up to 20 criteria variables to create institution group:

- Browse/Search Variables
  - Browse list of variables and search for variables by name or keyword
- Choose from My Variables
  - Choose from existing variables previously selected or uploaded
- Create Derived Variables
  - Derive custom variables from existing variables using addition, subtraction, or division
- Upload Variables
  - Previously saved list of variables
  - Must be a Power User

## Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

### Slide 13 of 20

#### Structure of IPEDS Data Files

- Single-record files
  - Contain one row of data for each institution
  - Example: Data downloaded using Compare Institutions
- Multiple-record files
  - Contain several rows of data for each institution
  - Example: Data by race/ethnicity and gender in the Fall Enrollment and Completions components of downloaded survey or custom data files

### Slide 14 of 20

#### Sample Multiple Record File

	A	B	C	D	E
1	unitid	institution name	CipTitle	C2013_A.Award Level code	C2013_A.Grand total
2	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Speech Communication and Rhetoric	Bachelor's degree	101
3	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Speech Communication and Rhetoric	Master's degree	9
4	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Computer and Information Sciences, General	Bachelor's degree	22
5	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Computer and Information Sciences, General	Master's degree	16
6	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Computer and Information Sciences, General	Doctor's degree - research/scholarship	3
7	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Computer and Information Systems Security/Information Assurance	Master's degree	2
8	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Education, General	Post-master's certificate	9
9	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Educational Leadership and Administration, General	Master's degree	40
10	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Educational Leadership and Administration, General	Post-master's certificate	38
11	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Educational Leadership and Administration, General	Doctor's degree - research/scholarship	7
12	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Educational Leadership and Administration, General	Doctor's degree - professional practice	4
13	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Special Education and Teaching, General	Bachelor's degree	6
14	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Special Education and Teaching, General	Master's degree	39
15	100663	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Counselor Education/School Counseling and Guidance Services	Master's degree	33

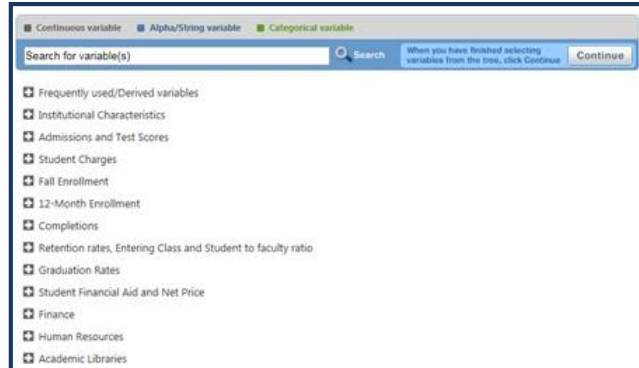
## Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

Slide 15 of 20

### Choosing Variables

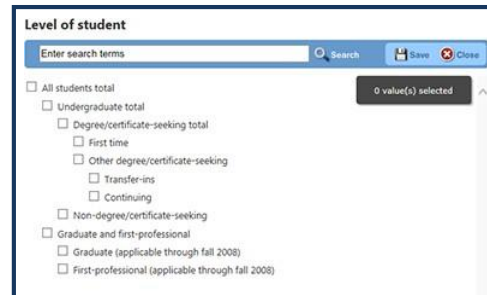
Steps for choosing variables:

1. Select Year
2. Select Qualifying Variable(s)  
(Only applicable for some variables)
3. Select from the list of variables



Slide 16 of 20

### Choosing Variables (Continued)





## Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

### Slide 17 of 20

#### Considerations for Choosing Variables

- Compare Institutions option
  - Limit of 250 variables
  - Need to be selective
- Analyzing Completions data
  - Three sets of Qualifying Variables under Step 2

The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting variables under the 'Completions' category. It includes a description of the data, a selection step for years (2009-10 to 2012-13), and a step for selecting qualifying variables such as 'First or Second Major', 'CIP Code - 2010 Classification', and 'Award Level code'.

**Completions**

Awards/degrees conferred by program (2010 CIP classification), award level, race/ethnicity, and gender - includes new race/ethnicity and award level categories.

Gender - 2009-10 to current year

Step 1: Select Year(s)

2012-13  2011-12  2010-11  2009-10

Step 2: Select Qualifying Variable(s)

[First or Second Major](#)

[CIP Code - 2010 Classification](#)

[Award Level code](#)

- Best to use the Download Survey Data Files option instead of Compare institutions option

### Slide 18 of 20

#### IPEDS Use the Data Help Desk

IPEDS Use the Data Help Desk

(866) 558-0658

[ipedstools@rti.org](mailto:ipedstools@rti.org)

## Getting Started with the IPEDS Data

### Slide 19 of 20

#### Module Summary

- Described the options for using IPEDS data
  - Viewing institutional data
  - Generating reports
  - Downloading data files
- Described processes for accessing IPEDS data
- Described the structure of IPEDS data files
- Explained how to choose variables for analysis

### Slide 20 of 20

#### Module Resources

- [IPEDS Website](#)
- [Use IPEDS Data](#)
- [IPEDS Data Manual](#)
- [IPEDS Use the Data Help Desk](#): (866) 558-0658, [ipedstools@rti.org](mailto:ipedstools@rti.org)