What Is IPEDS?

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is a system of survey components that collects data from nearly 6,700 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 2009-10 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 14, NCES selected a comparison group for you based on the institutional characteristics detailed immediately above the listing of the comparison group institutions. (If the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education was used as an institutional characteristic in the definition of a comparison group, the 2005 Basic version was used.) The comparison group used in this report may not reflect your institution’s peer group, or you may wish to compare your institution to other groups. 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.

Using some of your institution’s characteristics, a group of comparison institutions was selected for you. The characteristics include small, public, 2-year colleges, in the midwestern states and enrollment of a similar size. This comparison group includes the following 26 institutions:

- Dakota College at Bottineau (Bottineau, ND)
- Ellsworth Community College (Iowa Falls, IA)
- Flint Hills Technical College (Emporia, KS)
- Gogebic Community College (Ironwood, MI)
- Illinois Eastern Community Colleges-Frontier Community Coll (Fairfield, IL)
- Independence Community College (Independence, KS)
- Itasca Community College (Grand Rapids, MN)
- Linn State Technical College (Linn, MO)
- Manhattan Area Technical College (Manhattan, KS)
- Metropolitan Community College-Business & Technology (Kansas City, MO)
- Mitchell Technical Institute (Mitchell, SD)
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (Curtis, NE)
- Nicolet Area Technical College (Rhinelander, WI)
- North Central Kansas Technical College (Beloit, KS)
- Northwest Iowa Community College (Sheldon, IA)
- Northwest Kansas Technical College (Goodland, KS)
- Northwest Technical College (Bemidji, MN)
- Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute (Wooster, OH)
- Pine Technical College (Pine City, MN)
- Rainy River Community College (International Falls, MN)
- Saint Louis Community College-Wildwood (Wildwood, MO)
- Salina Area Technical College (Salina, KS)
- Vermilion Community College (Ely, MN)
- West Shore Community College (Scotchville, MI)
- Western Dakota Technical Institute (Rapid City, SD)
- Williston State College (Williston, ND)
Figure 1. Percent of all students enrolled, by race/ethnicity and percent of students who are women: Fall 2009

NOTE: For this survey year, institutions could report race and ethnicity using both 1977 (old) and 1997 (new) Office of Management and Budget categories. Categories shown in this figure are derived by adding comparable categories from both old and new; however, the "Two or more races" category appears only in the 1997 version. For more information about disaggregation of data by race and ethnicity, please see the Methodological Notes at the end of this report. Median values for the comparison group will not add to 100 percent. See “Use of Median Values for Comparison Group” in the Methodological Notes at the end of this report for how median values are determined. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 2. Unduplicated 12-month headcount (2008-09), total FTE enrollment (2008-09), and full- and part-time fall enrollment (Fall 2009)

NOTE: For details on calculating full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, see Calculating FTE in the Methodological Notes at the end of this report. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 3. Number of degrees and certificates awarded, by level: 2008-09

NOTE: N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.

Figure 4. Academic year tuition and required fees for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students: 2006-07--2009-10

Figure 5. Average net price of attendance for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students receiving grant or scholarship aid: 2006-07--2008-09

Figure 6. Percent of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who received grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, or the institution, or loans, by type of aid: 2008-09

Figure 7. Average amounts of grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, or the institution, or loans received, by full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students, by type of aid: 2008-09

NOTE: The tuition and required fees shown here are the lowest reported from the categories of in-district, in-state, and out-of-state. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


NOTE: Average net price is for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students and 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 weighted average room and board and other expenses. For more information, see the Methodological Notes at the end of this report. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


NOTE: Any grant aid above includes grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, or the institution. Federal grants includes Pell grants and other federal grants. Any loans includes federal loans and other loans to students. For details on how students are counted for financial aid reporting, see Cohort Determination in the Methodological Notes at the end of this report. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.

Figure 8. Percent of all undergraduates receiving aid by type of aid: 2008-09

Figure 9. Average amount of aid received by all undergraduates, by type of aid: 2008-09

Figure 10. Graduation rate cohort as a percent of all undergraduates and as a percent of total entering students (Fall 2009); graduation rate and transfer-out rate (2006 cohort); and retention rates (Fall 2009)

Figure 11. Graduation rates of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates within normal time, and 150% and 200% of normal time to completion: 2005 cohort
Figure 12. Full-time equivalent staff, by assigned position: Fall 2009

Figure 13. Average salaries of full-time instructional staff equated to 9-month contracts, by academic rank: Academic year 2009-10

Figure 14. Percent distribution of core revenues, by source: Fiscal year 2009

Figure 15. Core expenses per FTE enrollment, by function: Fiscal year 2009

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.


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.


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. 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.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Overview

This report is based on data supplied by institutions to IPEDS during the 2008-10 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 Median Values for Comparison Group

The value for the comparison institution is compared to the median value for the comparison group for each statistic included in the figure. If more than one statistic is presented in a figure, the median values are determined separately for each indicator or statistic. Medians are not reported for comparison groups with less than three values. Where percentage distributions are presented, median values may not add to 100 percent. Through the ExPT, users have access to all of the data used to create the figures included in this report.

Missing Statistics

If a statistic is not reported for your institution, the omission indicates that the statistic is not relevant to your institution and the data were not collected. As such, not all notes listed below may be applicable to your report.

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. Between survey years 2008-09 and 2010-11, the categories used for the collection and reporting of race/ethnicity data in IPEDS are transitioning to those developed in 1997 by the Office of Management and Budget, and institutions may report using either those categories, the older (1977) categories, or a mixture of both. Therefore, during the transition, only derived categories that present comparable data will be displayed. Detailed information about these changes can be found at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/reic/resource.asp.

Postbaccalaureate Degree Categories

In 2008-09 IPEDS, new postbaccalaureate degree categories were introduced as optional. The new categories are Doctor’s degree-Research/scholarship, Doctor’s degree-Professional practice, and Doctor’s degree-Other. In addition, the First-professional degree and certificate categories and the single Doctor’s degree category are being phased out. During the transition period, all First-professional students are reflected as graduate students, all First-professional degrees awarded are reflected as Doctor’s degrees, and all Doctor’s degrees reported under the new categories are aggregated under a single Doctor’s degree category, so that data reported by all institutions are comparable.
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) plus the estimated FTE of first-professional students, if applicable. Undergraduate and graduate FTE are estimated using 12-month instructional activity (credit and/or contact hours). All doctor's degree students are reported as graduate students. First-professional FTE is estimated by calculating the ratio of full-time to part-time first-professional students from the fall enrollment counts and applying this ratio to the 12-month unduplicated headcount of first-professional students. The estimated number of full-time first-professional students is added to one-third of the estimated number of part-time students. 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, 2009, 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.

**Student-to-Faculty Ratio**

The guidance provided to institutions for calculating their student-to-faculty ratio is as follows: the number of FTE students (using Fall Enrollment data) divided by the total FTE instructional staff (using the total Primarily instruction + Instruction/research/public service staff reported on the EAP section of the Human Resources component and adding any not primarily instructional staff that are teaching a credit course). For this calculation, FTE for students is equal to the number of full-time students plus one-third the number of part-time students; FTE for instructional staff is similarly calculated. Students enrolled in “stand-alone” graduate or professional programs (such as medicine, law, veterinary, dentistry, social work, or public health) and instructional staff teaching in these programs are excluded from the FTE calculations.

**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 again 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?id=010. Additional definitions of variables used in this report can be found in the IPEDS online glossary at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/.

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