

## Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

**Organization:** National Center on Education Statistics, US Department of Education. “The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education.”<sup>1</sup>

**Purpose and Uses:** The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) provides data profiles of individual U.S. postsecondary institutions for use by the Department of Education, Congress, other federal agencies, state governments, education providers, professional associations, private businesses, media, students, and parents. IPEDS data are made available to students and parents through the [College Navigator](#) web site and to researchers and others through the [IPEDS Data Center](#). IPEDS also provides the institutional sampling frame used in other postsecondary surveys.

### **Data Elements Relevant to Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development:**

Available categories and types of IPEDS data available on each of 7,500 postsecondary institutions include:

- Institutional Characteristics (such as tuition and fees, room and board charges, control or affiliation, type of calendar system, levels of awards offered, types of programs, and admissions requirements)
- Institutional Prices for first-time, full-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students (including tuition and fee data and estimated student budgets)
- Enrollment (including fall enrollment, residence of first-time students, age, unduplicated 12-month head count, instructional activity, total entering class)
- Student Financial Aid (including the number of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who receive student financial aid, by type and source of aid, and the average dollar amount of aid received by these students)
- Degrees and Certificates Conferred ( Completions) by type of program and level of award
- Student Persistence and Success (first-year retention and graduation rates)
- Institutional Resources
  - Human Resources
    - Employees by assigned position (number of employees by full- or part-time status, faculty status, and occupational activity)
    - Salaries (including the number of full-time instructional faculty by rank, gender, and length of contract/teaching period, and salary outlays for full-time staff)
    - Staff (demographic and occupational characteristics)
  - Finances (institutional revenues by source, expenditures by category, and assets and liabilities)

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<sup>1</sup> NCES home page, <http://nces.ed.gov/>.

**History and Status:** According to NCES:

The IPEDS web-based data collection system was implemented in 2000-01 . . . . All Title IV institutions are required to respond to IPEDS (Section 490 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 (P.L. 102-325)). IPEDS allows other (non-title IV) institutions to participate on a voluntary basis. About 200 elect to respond. . . . IPEDS was developed to address technical problems with previous postsecondary education statistical programs, including the Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS) and the Vocational Education Data System (VEDS).<sup>2</sup>

IPEDS has clearance from OMB to operate through December 2016.

**Methodology:** IPEDS collects information by academic year from approximately 7,300 institutions eligible to participate in Title IV student financial aid programs (and so required by law to respond to IPEDS). IPEDS allows other (non-title IV) institutions to participate on a voluntary basis—each year, about 200 choose to respond. The following table shows the expected distribution of the universe of institutions participating by legal status and program length.

**Title IV Institutions in the IPEDS Universe: Estimated Counts for 2014-15 Collection**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Private not-for-profit</u>	<u>Private for-profit</u>
Total	7,500	2,000	1,900	3,600
4-year	3,100	700	1,600	800
2-year	2,300	1,050	200	1,050
Less than 2-yr	2,100	250	100	1,750

IPEDS system components include Institutional Characteristics; Completions; Fall Enrollment; 12-month Enrollment; Student Financial Aid; Graduation Rates; 200% Graduation Rates: Human Resources; and Finance.

IPEDS data collection is administered online. All IPEDS survey components are completed by all participating institutions—there is no sampling. NCES says that IPEDS response rates for institutions receiving federal financial aid are consistently 99.8% and higher.

**Data Products and Services:** IPEDS data are accessible on the [NCES website](#). Online tools include [College Navigator](#) and the [IPEDS Data Center](#). NCES regularly produces [reports on the basis of IPEDS data](#).

**Annual Costs:** The approximate annual cost to the Federal Government for years 2013-16 is \$9.6 million (\$8.0 for contractor and \$1.6 million for federal salaries and expenses).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> National Center for Education Statistics, [“Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System \(IPEDS\) 2014-2016 and 2013 carry over: Supporting Statement Part A,”](#) submitted to the Office of Management and Budget, September 23, 2013, p. 2 and p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> NCES, *op.cit.*, p. 29.