

## National Student Clearinghouse® Research Center™

**Organization:** National Student Clearinghouse® Research Center™ is the research arm of the National Student Clearinghouse. More than 3,600 colleges and universities (enrolling 98.5% of students in public and private U.S. institutions) regularly submit enrollment and graduation records to the Clearinghouse, which then uses these records to provide a variety of administrative services to colleges and universities, such as academic verification, student record exchange, and compliance reporting for federal and state financial aid programs.

### **Purpose and Uses:**

“The Research Center works with higher education institutions, states, school districts, high schools, and educational organizations to better inform practitioners and policymakers about student educational pathways. Through accurate longitudinal data outcomes reporting, the Research Center enables better educational policy decisions leading to improved student outcomes.”<sup>1</sup>

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

- Enrollment status (start, continue, transfer, withdraw)
- Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) code
- Degree-seeking status
- Current major
- First-time/full-time status
- Demographic characteristics (gender, race, ethnicity)
- Transcript information
- Gainful employment status

**History and Status:** The National Student Clearinghouse was founded as a 501(c)(6) corporation in 1993 to serve student record management and reporting needs of the nation’s colleges and universities. Current services provided to colleges and universities, or on their behalf, include:

- Transcript ordering and exchange
- Enrollment reporting to financial aid organizations
- Gainful employment reporting
- Loan tracking
- Degree verification
- Enrollment verification
- Ability to query student records for FERPA-permissible research purposes through [StudentTracker](#)<sup>SM</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, [“About Us,”](#) website.

The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center was founded as a legally separate 501(c)(3) entity in 2010 to support the education and research programs of the National Student Clearinghouse.

**Methodology:** More than 3,600 colleges and universities report enrollment and degree information to the Clearinghouse. Lenders and guarantors also report student information. Institutions report enrollment information several times each term and degree information after each conferral period. The Clearinghouse thoroughly reviews record submissions for accuracy and completeness before entering them into its system.

**Data Products and Tools:** Regular Research Center reports include:

- [Signature Reports](#): Lengthy, in-depth national studies on that reveal patterns and valuable insights on students' postsecondary, persistence, transfer and completions, such as postsecondary enrollment trends, transfer and mobility, reverse transfer, baccalaureate attainment, and college completion
- [Snapshot Reports](#): Short graph-driven reports released throughout the year that provide timely examinations of national enrollment trends, such as changes in enrollment, changes in popularity of degree programs, and transfers from two-year schools to four-year schools.
- [Current Term Enrollment Estimates](#): Enrollment estimates for the current semester (released every fall and spring)

External researchers' project reports are available [here](#). External researchers can send proposals to the Research Center to analyze Clearinghouse records using StudentTracker.

**Program Cost:** The fee schedule for Clearinghouse services can be found at [www.studentclearinghouse.org](http://www.studentclearinghouse.org).