



Media Primer

Publication No. 2017047 | DECEMBER 2016

@ipeds_nces



PRESS CONTACT

Phone: (202) 401-1576

Email: press@ed.gov

The **U.S. Department of Education Press Office** is available 24 hours a day and will be able to answer questions about IPEDS.

About IPEDS

IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) is an annual data collection distributed by the Postsecondary Branch of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), a non-partisan center of the Institute of Education Sciences under the U.S. Department of Education. NCES is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations.

Did you know...

- IPEDS is required by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.
- Institutions that participate in federally funded student financial aid programs (over 7,300 institutions) are mandated to provide IPEDS data by law. The collection is one of the most comprehensive and complete sources of postsecondary data available.
- The data are used by most organizations as a reference source for their publications and software applications, including popular third-party organizations that specialize in college searches and rankings.
- IPEDS data (dating back to 1986) are publicly available and can be accessed via <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Home/UseTheData>



What Data Are Collected Through IPEDS?

IPEDS data are submitted at the aggregate level from postsecondary institutions and do not have student level information. Institutions submit data through 12 interrelated survey components that are collected in 3 periods. Frequently accessed metrics and when they're collected are listed in the following figure.

Data Collected in Each Period

Fall	Winter	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution type and other general information¹ • Estimated student tuition and fees • Number of completers by programs² • Number of degrees/certificates awarded by programs² • 12-month enrollment² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions considerations applicants, and admitted students¹ • Graduation rates² • Student outcomes after 6 and 8 years • Number of students awarded financial aid by aid type • Average net price 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall census enrollment counts^{1,2} • Distance education enrollment¹ • Retention rates¹ • Institution finances • Number and type of staff² • Staff salaries outlays • Academic libraries

¹ Indicates where data are reported for the current year. Otherwise, data are reported for the prior year(s).

² Data available by gender and race/ethnicity.



When Are Data Available?

Data are released several months after institutions finish submitting their data to IPEDS. The figure below shows approximate dates for the 1st release of data (after initial cleaning and validation) for surveys collected in each period; check http://twitter.com/ipeds_nces or <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/InsidePages/TWII> for announcements of the latest data releases.

Estimated Release Dates for Data Collected in Each Period

Fall	Winter	Spring
<p>November</p> <p>Institutions finish submitting data</p> <p>Initial review and validation of the data (+6 months)</p> <p>Early summer</p> <p>1st release of data</p>	<p>March</p> <p>Institutions finish submitting data</p> <p>Initial review and validation of the data (+6 months)</p> <p>Early fall</p> <p>1st release of data</p>	<p>April</p> <p>Institutions finish submitting data</p> <p>Initial review and validation of the data (+6 months)</p> <p>Mid-fall</p> <p>1st release of data</p>

NOTE: Data release times are approximate. See https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/resource/download/IPEDS_DataReleaseProcedures.pdf for more details about the complete data release cycle.

Media Assets



Tools

The content of the IPEDS website is public information and may be used freely and without cost, though a citation is recommended.¹ For access to the data, consider using the following tools, which have been listed in order of ease of use.

IPEDS **FIND YOUR COLLEGE** is the main web page that provides links to consumer-focused tools and resources that aid in the college decision making process.

<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Home/FindYourCollege>

Within the *Find Your College* page, you can find:

College Navigator, designed to help potential students and their parents find and compare colleges. It provides comprehensive profiles of institutions.

College Map, designed to help consumers find and compare colleges based on a geographic area. Use the tool to view all the institutions in IPEDS or search by location.

IPEDS **USE THE DATA** is the main web page that provides researcher-focused access to IPEDS data and tools. View video tutorials about the collection or access data through one of the many functions.

<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Home/UseTheData>

The functions within the *Use the Data* portal include:

Data Trends, which provide trends over time for the most frequently asked questions, including: student enrollments, completions, graduation rates and financial aid. Information on institutional staff and finances are also available.

Look Up an Institution, which allows for quick access to an institution's comprehensive profile. The function shows similar data to College Navigator but contains more IPEDS metrics.

Statistical Tables, which allow power users to quickly get aggregate level (e.g., national or state level) data and statistics (e.g., total, count, average, median, standard deviation, percentiles) for specific metrics.



Publications

The **IPEDS FIRST LOOK** reports accompany data releases for each period and provide summary tables for the data. *First Look* reports are the first publications released with new data and cover data for one year.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=010>

The **DIGEST OF EDUCATION STATISTICS** is a compilation of statistical information covering education from pre-K through graduate school. **IPEDS data are typically found in Chapter 3.** While *Digest* tables are published several months after *First Look* reports, they provide data for the most frequently accessed metrics and contain time trends of data.

<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>

The **CONDITION OF EDUCATION** summarizes important developments and trends in education. The report presents 42 indicators on the status and condition of education.

<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/>

¹ Suggested citation if one has not been provided: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), [collection year], [survey component]. Retrieved from [link] on [date].

Media Resources

About IPEDS

<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/Home/AboutIPEDS>

Intro to using IPEDS data

https://nces.ed.gov/training/datauser/IPEDS_01.html

Technical info on the collection

https://nces.ed.gov/statprog/handbook/ipeds_usesofdata.asp



IPEDS news and updates

http://twitter.com/ipeds_nces

National Center for Education Statistics website

<http://nces.ed.gov>

Institute of Education Sciences website

<http://ies.ed.gov>

U.S. Department of Education website

<http://ed.gov>