

Graduation Rates for Selected Cohorts, 2005-10; and Student Financial Aid in Postsecondary Institutions, Academic Year 2012-13

First Look (Provisional Data)



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NOVEMBER 2014

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November 2014

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This report was prepared for the National Center for Education Statistics under Contract No. ED-IES-13-C-0056 with RTI International. Mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Suggested Citation

Ginder, S.A., Kelly-Reid, J.E., and Mann, F.B. (2014). *Graduation Rates for Selected Cohorts, 2005-10; and Student Financial Aid in Postsecondary Institutions, Academic Year 2012-13*. First Look (Provisional Data) (NCES 2014-105). U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved [date] from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch>.

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Introduction

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) collects institution-level data from postsecondary institutions in the United States (50 states and the District of Columbia) and other U.S. jurisdictions (see appendix A for a list of other U.S. jurisdictions). This First Look presents findings from the provisional data of the IPEDS winter 2013-14 data collection, which included three survey components: Graduation Rates (GR), Graduation Rates 200 (GR200), and Student Financial Aid (SFA). GR and GR200 present graduation rates for selected cohorts within 100, 150, and 200 percent of normal program completion time. SFA collects the number of undergraduate students awarded aid as well as the amount of the aid awarded to those students. Data for these components were collected through the IPEDS web-based data collection system. Detailed information about the study methodology can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014067>.

This First Look using IPEDS provisional data provides users with an opportunity to access fully reviewed, edited, and imputed IPEDS data. Final data, including revisions to the provisional data submitted by institutions after the close of data collection, will be available during the next collection year (2014-15).

The purpose of this report is to introduce new data through the presentation of tables containing descriptive information. Selected findings have been chosen to demonstrate the range of information available when using the IPEDS data rather than to discuss all of the observed differences, and they are not meant to emphasize any particular issue. Not all data collected during the winter 2013-14 collection are displayed in this First Look; however, all data from the winter 2013-14 collection are publicly available through the IPEDS Data Center, found at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter>.

IPEDS 2013-14

Participation in IPEDS was required for institutions and administrative offices that participated in Title IV federal student financial aid programs such as Federal Pell Grants or Federal Stafford Loans during the 2013-14 academic year.¹ A total of 7,397 institutions in the United States and other U.S. jurisdictions were expected to participate in the winter collection. Tables in this report focus on the 7,236 Title IV institutions in the United States and exclude Title IV institutions in other U.S. jurisdictions; however, data from institutions in both the United States and other U.S. jurisdictions are available for download.

Detailed definitions of terms used in this report are available in the glossary (appendix B).

¹ Institutions participating in Title IV programs are accredited by an agency or organization recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, have a program of more than 300 clock hours or 8 credit hours, have been in business for at least 2 years, and have a signed Program Participation Agreement with the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.

Graduation Rates

The 2013-14 GR component collected counts of full-time, first-time² degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students beginning their postsecondary education in the specified cohort year and their completion status as of August 31, 2013 (150 percent of normal program completion time) at the same institution where the students started. Four-year institutions used 2007 as the cohort year, while less-than-4-year institutions used 2010 as the cohort year. For 4-year institutions operating on standard academic terms (semester, trimester, quarter), students beginning in cohort year 2007 are those who were first-time students in the fall of the 2007-08 academic year. For 4-year institutions operating on other than standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2007 are those who were first-time students between September 1, 2007, and August 31, 2008. Similarly, for less-than-4-year institutions operating on standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2010 are those who were first-time students in the fall of the 2010-11 academic year. For less-than-4-year institutions operating on other than standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2010 are those who were first-time students between September 1, 2010, and August 31, 2011.

200 Percent Graduation Rates

The GR200 component was designed to combine information reported in a prior collection via the GR component with current information about the same cohort of students. From previously collected data, the following elements were obtained: the number of students entering the institution as full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students in a cohort year; the number of students in this cohort completing within 100 and 150 percent of normal program completion time; and the number of cohort exclusions. Then the count of additional cohort exclusions and additional program completers between 151 and 200 percent of normal program completion time was collected.

Four-year institutions report on bachelor's or equivalent degree-seeking students and use cohort year 2005 as the reference period, while less-than-4-year institutions report on all students in the cohort and use cohort year 2009 as the reference period. For 4-year institutions operating on standard academic terms (semester, trimester, quarter), students beginning in cohort year 2005 are those who were first-time students in the fall of the 2005-06 academic year. For 4-year institutions operating on other than standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2005 are those who were first-time students between September 1, 2005, and August 31, 2006.

Similarly, for less-than-4-year institutions operating on standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2009 are those who were first-time students in the fall of the 2009-10 academic year. For less-than-4-year institutions operating on other than standard academic terms, students beginning in cohort year 2009 are those who were first-time students between September 1, 2009, and August 31, 2010.

² Throughout this publication, the term “first-time” refers to students with no prior postsecondary experience attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. See appendix B, glossary, for further definition of a first-time student.

Student Financial Aid

The SFA component collected data on the number of undergraduate students awarded aid and the amount of aid awarded, with particular emphasis on full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students awarded financial aid for the 2012-13 academic year. In addition, student counts and awarded aid amounts are collected to calculate the net price of attendance for two subsets of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students: those awarded any grant aid, and those awarded Title IV aid.

Selected Findings

Graduation Rates

- Approximately 59 percent of full-time, first-time students at 4-year institutions in 2007 who were seeking a bachelor's or equivalent degree completed a bachelor's or equivalent degree within 6 years at the institution where they began their studies (table 1).
- When the time students were tracked for program completion was extended from within 100 percent of normal time to within 200 percent of normal time, graduation rates for undergraduates who were full-time, first-time students in 2009 increased from 20 percent to 37 percent at 2-year institutions and from 43 percent to 69 percent at less-than-2-year institutions (table 2).

Student Financial Aid

- Among full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students awarded any grant aid, differences in average cost of attendance and net price of attendance³ for the 2012-13 academic year varied by institutional sector (table 3). For those attending public 4-year institutions, average cost was approximately \$18,800 and net price was about \$12,000; for those attending nonprofit 4-year institutions, average cost was roughly \$36,100 and net price was about \$21,000; and for those attending for-profit 4-year institutions, average cost was approximately \$26,900 and net price was about \$21,700.

³ Net price of attendance is calculated as the cost of attendance minus the average grant aid received by the students whose net price is being described. The calculation of net price of attendance does not include loan aid.

Table 1. Graduation rates at Title IV institutions where the students started as full-time, first-time students, by race/ethnicity, level and control of institution, and gender: United States, cohort years 2007 and 2010

Level and control of institution and gender	Overall (%)	American Indian or Alaska Native (%)	Asian (%)	Black or African American (%)	Hispanic or Latino (%)	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (%)	White (%)	Two or more races (%)	Race/ethnicity unknown (%)	Nonresident alien (%)
Total 4-year institutions (cohort year 2007) ¹	55.2	36.3	68.8	36.9	48.5	43.1	59.8	64.3	43.8	60.6
Public	55.1	35.4	66.9	37.6	46.8	44.0	58.6	57.3	54.0	56.0
Men	52.1	32.3	63.1	32.4	42.7	42.6	55.6	56.2	50.7	52.2
Women	57.6	37.8	70.4	41.0	50.0	45.2	61.3	58.2	56.9	60.6
Private nonprofit	64.2	43.8	76.5	44.0	59.5	58.9	67.4	75.7	58.1	70.9
Men	61.4	40.1	74.5	37.8	56.5	59.6	64.8	72.9	55.5	66.7
Women	66.5	46.4	78.1	48.4	61.4	58.5	69.4	77.5	60.4	75.4
Private for-profit	32.0	30.3	48.1	25.7	40.2	24.9	37.6	43.1	19.9	33.5
Men	33.4	28.8	45.4	25.6	39.1	21.9	39.4	40.8	20.8	37.6
Women	31.3	30.9	50.1	25.8	40.8	26.1	36.5	44.8	19.5	30.5
Bachelor's or equivalent degree-seekers attending 4-year institutions and completing bachelor's or equivalent degree (cohort year 2007)	59.4	40.6	70.5	40.8	52.5	49.6	62.9	67.8	53.4	63.9
Public	57.7	39.5	68.3	40.3	50.7	49.6	60.7	60.4	56.6	58.2
Men	54.6	35.8	64.7	34.7	46.3	49.5	57.7	59.1	53.6	54.1
Women	60.3	42.3	71.8	44.1	54.1	49.7	63.3	61.4	59.2	63.4
Private nonprofit	65.3	47.9	77.5	44.7	60.9	58.2	68.3	76.8	58.6	71.5
Men	62.3	44.5	75.3	38.3	58.1	58.1	65.5	74.3	55.6	67.3
Women	67.7	50.5	79.3	49.4	62.9	58.2	70.4	78.4	61.1	76.0
Private for-profit	31.9	19.6	46.9	22.4	35.0	21.2	39.9	32.5	20.6	41.1
Men	35.7	27.2	45.9	23.4	36.0	23.9	45.0	28.9	21.8	41.4
Women	28.3	14.3	48.0	21.7	34.1	19.7	33.7	37.6	19.7	40.8
Total 2-year institutions (cohort year 2010)	31.9	26.8	38.4	26.0	36.1	39.6	32.2	28.6	30.7	36.4
Public	21.1	17.8	28.2	12.8	17.7	17.6	24.1	18.8	17.5	32.6
Men	20.4	17.6	26.0	12.5	16.3	16.3	23.5	17.6	16.5	30.2
Women	21.7	17.9	30.7	13.1	19.0	19.1	24.7	20.0	18.5	35.1
Private nonprofit	55.8	20.5	59.3	51.0	64.8	46.2	58.9	42.8	49.2	52.7
Men	49.5	22.6	53.2	42.5	57.5	33.3	54.2	31.4	43.2	45.0
Women	59.4	19.3	62.4	55.3	68.6	63.6	62.0	48.5	55.8	58.3
Private for-profit	63.4	60.9	76.8	53.8	68.4	68.5	66.4	59.7	53.9	69.0
Men	61.2	59.6	75.4	50.4	63.8	65.6	65.6	56.6	51.3	65.1
Women	64.6	61.7	77.7	55.4	70.8	70.4	67.0	61.5	55.2	72.7

See notes at end of table.

Table 1. Graduation rates at Title IV institutions where the students started as full-time, first-time students, by race/ethnicity, level and control of institution, and gender: United States, cohort years 2007 and 2010—Continued

Level and control of institution and gender	Overall (%)	American Indian or Alaska Native (%)	Asian (%)	Black or African American (%)	Hispanic or Latino (%)	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (%)	White (%)	Two or more races (%)	Race/ethnicity unknown (%)	Nonresident alien (%)
Less-than-2-year institutions (cohort year 2010)	66.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public	71.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Private nonprofit	73.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Private for-profit	65.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

— Not available. Graduation rates data are not collected by race/ethnicity or gender for less-than-2-year institutions.

¹The total 4-year institution cohort contains all full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduates, regardless of the level of the award sought.

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the Secretary of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. Although they are not Title IV eligible, four of the U.S. service academies are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe because they are federally funded and open to the public. The rates in this table reflect graduation rates at institutions regardless of the length of programs, unless otherwise indicated. The graduation rate was calculated as required for disclosure and reporting purposes under the Student Right-to-Know Act. This rate was calculated as the total number of completers within 150 percent of normal time divided by the adjusted cohort (revised cohort minus any allowable exclusions). The revised cohort is the number of students entering the institution as full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduates in the reference year. Allowable exclusions include those students who died or were totally and permanently disabled; students who left school to serve in the armed forces (or have been called up 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 official church missions. Students who self-identify with more than one race are included in the Two or more races category. Students of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity are included in the Hispanic or Latino category regardless of race. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Winter 2013-14, Graduation Rates component (provisional data).

Table 2. Graduation rates of students at the Title IV institution where the students started as full-time, first-time students, by control of institution, degree or certificate sought, and other selected characteristics: United States, cohort years 2005 and 2009

Degree or certificate sought, level of institution, and specified time to graduation	Overall (%)	Private		
		Public (%)	Nonprofit (%)	For-profit (%)
Bachelor's or equivalent degree-seekers attending 4-year institutions and completing bachelor's or equivalent degree (cohort year 2005)				
Within 100% of normal program completion time	38.3	32.1	52.2	19.9
Within 150% of normal program completion time	58.7	56.6	65.2	29.1
Within 200% of normal program completion time	61.1	59.6	66.5	30.9
Degree- or certificate-seekers attending 2-year institutions and completing a degree or certificate (cohort year 2009)				
Within 100% of normal program completion time	20.1	11.7	51.0	41.6
Within 150% of normal program completion time	32.7	21.1	62.2	63.2
Within 200% of normal program completion time	37.0	26.5	64.8	64.5
Certificate-seekers attending less-than-2-year institutions and completing a certificate (cohort year 2009)				
Within 100% of normal program completion time	42.8	61.8	49.9	40.2
Within 150% of normal program completion time	66.8	75.2	74.2	65.5
Within 200% of normal program completion time	68.6	78.5	75.1	67.1

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the Secretary of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. Although they are not Title IV eligible, four of the U.S. service academies are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe because they are federally funded and open to the public. The rates in this table reflect graduation rates at institutions regardless of the length of programs, unless otherwise indicated. The graduation rate was calculated as required for disclosure and reporting purposes under the Student Right-to-Know Act. This rate was calculated as the total number of completers within 150 percent of normal time divided by the adjusted cohort (revised cohort minus any allowable exclusions). The revised cohort is the number of students entering the institution as full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduates in the reference year. Allowable exclusions include those students who died or were totally and permanently disabled; students who left school to serve in the armed forces (or have been called up 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 official church missions. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Winter 2013-14, 200 Percent Graduation Rates component (provisional data).

Table 3. Average academic year cost of attendance, average grant/scholarship aid, and net price of attendance for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students at Title IV institutions, by control of institution, level of institution, and other selected characteristics: United States, academic year 2012-13

Level of institution, type of aid awarded, and family income level ¹	Public ²			Private					
	Average grant/scholarship aid			Nonprofit			For-profit		
	Average cost	Average grant/scholarship aid	Net price	Average cost	Average grant/scholarship aid	Net price	Average cost	Average grant/scholarship aid	Net price
4-year									
Students awarded any grant aid	\$18,759	\$6,710	\$12,049	\$36,139	\$15,094	\$21,045	\$26,868	\$5,169	\$21,699
Students awarded Title IV aid									
All family income levels	18,805	5,987	12,818	36,227	15,344	20,883	26,770	4,672	22,098
\$0-30,000	18,805	9,178	9,627	36,227	19,461	16,766	26,770	5,400	21,370
\$30,001-48,000	18,805	7,873	10,932	36,227	19,048	17,179	26,770	4,780	21,990
\$48,001-75,000	18,805	4,884	13,921	36,227	16,994	19,233	26,770	2,871	23,899
\$75,001-110,000	18,805	2,517	16,288	36,227	14,726	21,501	26,770	1,447	25,323
\$110,001 and more	18,805	1,723	17,081	36,227	12,050	24,177	26,770	1,090	25,680
2-year									
Students awarded any grant aid	11,972	4,610	7,363	23,864	5,806	18,058	25,281	5,140	20,141
Students awarded Title IV aid									
All family income levels	12,028	4,710	7,318	24,021	4,896	19,126	25,135	4,610	20,525
\$0-30,000	12,028	5,490	6,537	24,021	6,406	17,615	25,135	5,238	19,897
\$30,001-48,000	12,028	4,595	7,433	24,021	5,705	18,317	25,135	4,611	20,524
\$48,001-75,000	12,028	2,849	9,179	24,021	3,807	20,214	25,135	2,536	22,599
\$75,001-110,000	12,028	1,230	10,798	24,021	2,043	21,978	25,135	911	24,224
\$110,001 and more	12,028	750	11,278	24,021	2,047	21,974	25,135	616	24,519
Less-than-2-year									
Students awarded any grant aid	13,418	4,432	8,986	21,641	5,620	16,021	24,801	4,456	20,344
Students awarded Title IV aid									
All family income levels	13,495	4,122	9,373	21,104	4,647	16,457	24,682	4,103	20,578
\$0-30,000	13,495	4,343	9,152	21,104	5,215	15,889	24,682	4,443	20,238
\$30,001-48,000	13,495	4,518	8,977	21,104	3,832	17,272	24,682	2,890	21,792
\$48,001-75,000	13,495	3,203	10,292	21,104	3,859	17,245	24,682	1,757	22,925
\$75,001-110,000	13,495	834	12,661	21,104	3,642	17,462	24,682	501	24,181
\$110,001 and more	13,495	1,466	12,029	21,104	0	21,104	24,682	46	24,636

¹Students are classified into a family income category by the institution they attend based on the income used by the institution's financial aid office to calculate the student's expected family contribution.

²Average cost, average grant/scholarship aid, and net price for public institutions are displayed for students paying in-district tuition.

NOTE: Title IV institutions are those with a written agreement with the Secretary of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs. Although they are not Title IV eligible, four of the U.S. service academies are included in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) universe since they are federally funded and open to the public. However, the U.S. service academies are not included in this table. The net price of attendance is the price actually charged to full-time, first-time undergraduate students awarded financial aid at an institution after deducting federal, state/local government, and institutional grant and scholarship aid. The calculation of net price of attendance does not include loan aid. Because not all institutions have students at each income level, for the purposes of this table the net price is calculated as the average cost minus the average grant/scholarship aid. Average cost is calculated using the tuition and required fees, books and supplies, room and board, and other expenses data from the Institutional Characteristics component. A weighted average of on-campus; off-campus, not with family; and off-campus, with family room and board and other expenses values was used to calculate a single average cost instead of individual costs by living arrangement. The factors used to generate this weighted average were reported in the Student Financial Aid component separately for the group of students awarded any grant aid and the group of students awarded Title IV aid. Hence, the resulting average cost values may differ between the groups. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Definitions for terms used in this table may be found in the IPEDS online glossary located at <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary>.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, IPEDS, Fall 2013, Institutional Characteristics component and Winter 2013-14, Student Financial Aid component (provisional data).

Appendix A: Data Collection Procedures

The winter 2013-14 collection was entirely web-based; data were collected between December 11, 2013, and February 12, 2014. Data were provided by “keyholders,” institutional representatives appointed by campus chief executives, who were responsible for ensuring that survey data submitted by the institution were correct and complete. No problems were noted during the winter 2013-14 data collection. During the collection period, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Help Desk was available to assist respondents with reporting the necessary data.

The IPEDS universe is established during the fall collection period. There were 7,477 Title IV institutions and administrative offices¹ located in the United States and other jurisdictions of the United States, such as Puerto Rico,² in the 2013-14 academic year. Although they are not Title IV eligible, four of the U.S. service academies are included in the IPEDS universe as if they were Title IV institutions because they are federally funded and open to the public.³

Because Title IV institutions are the primary focus of IPEDS and they are required to respond, response rates for Title IV institutions in the winter 2013-14 IPEDS collection were high. The Graduation Rates (GR) component response rate was about 100.0 percent (6,427 Title IV entities responded).⁴ The response rate for the Graduation Rates 200 (GR200) component was 100.0 percent (5,821 institutions responded).⁵ For the Student Financial Aid (SFA) component, the response rate was about 100.0 percent (7,079 Title IV institutions responded).⁶

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) statistical standards require that the potential for nonresponse bias for all institutions (including those in other U.S. jurisdictions) is analyzed for sectors for which the response rate is less than 85 percent. Because response rates were greater than 99.9 percent for each survey component, no such analysis was necessary. However, data from one institution that responded to the SFA component contained item

¹ Title IV institutions and administrative offices include 7,397 institutions and 80 administrative (central or system) offices. The central and system offices are required to complete the Institutional Characteristics component in the fall and the Finance and Human Resources components in the spring.

² The other U.S. jurisdictions surveyed in IPEDS are American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

³ The four U.S. service academies that are not Title IV eligible are the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is Title IV eligible. Data for all five institutions are included in the tables and counts of institutions unless otherwise indicated.

⁴ The GR component was required of the subset of institutions that enrolled full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates during the cohort year. As a result, 6,428 institutions were expected to respond to the GR component.

⁵ The GR200 component was required of the subset of institutions that enrolled full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates during the cohort year. As a result, 5,821 institutions were expected to respond to the GR200 component.

⁶ The SFA component was required of the subset of institutions that enrolled undergraduates during the previous academic year. As a result, 7,082 Title IV institutions were expected to respond.

nonresponse, and these missing items were imputed. Three institutions that were expected to respond to the SFA component and one institution that was expected to respond to the GR component had all data imputed due to unit nonresponse. Detailed information about the study methodology including imputation procedures can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014067>.

Appendix B: Glossary of IPEDS Terms

academic year: The period of time generally extending from September to June; usually equated to 2 semesters or trimesters, 3 quarters, or the period covered by a 4-1-4 calendar system.

adjusted cohort: In the Graduation Rates component of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), an institution's revised cohort minus any allowable exclusions.

bachelor's or equivalent degree-seeking cohort: In the Graduation Rates component of IPEDS, a cohort of students who were seeking a bachelor's or equivalent degree upon entry.

cohort: A specific group of students identified and tracked over time.

cohort year: The year that a cohort of full-time, first-time students began attending college.

completers within 150 percent of normal time: Students who completed their program within 150 percent of the normal (or expected) time for completion at the same institution where the student started.

control (of institution): A classification of whether an institution is operated by publicly elected or appointed officials (public control) or by privately elected or appointed officials and derives its major source of funds from private sources (nonprofit or for-profit control).

degree/certificate-seeking students: Students enrolled in courses for credit who are recognized by the institution as seeking a degree or other formal award. At the undergraduate level, this is intended to include students enrolled in vocational or occupational programs.

exclusions: Those students who may be removed (deleted) from a cohort (or subcohort). For the Graduation Rates data collection, students may be removed from a cohort if they left the institution for one of the following reasons: died or were totally and permanently disabled; to serve in the armed forces; to serve with a foreign aid service of the federal government, such as the Peace Corps; or to serve on official church missions.

fall cohort: The group of students entering in the fall term established for tracking purposes. For the Graduation Rates component, this includes all students who enter an institution as full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students during the fall term of a given year.

federal grants: Grants provided by federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, including Title IV Pell Grants and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG). Also includes need-based and merit-based educational assistance funds and training vouchers provided from other federal agencies and federally sponsored educational benefits programs, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, and other federal agencies. (Used for reporting on the Student Financial Aid component.)

financial aid: Grants, loans, assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, tuition waivers, tuition discounts, veteran's benefits, employer aid (tuition reimbursement), and other monies (other than from relatives/friends) provided to students to meet expenses. This includes Title IV subsidized and unsubsidized loans made directly to students.

first-time student (undergraduate): A student attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. Includes students enrolled in academic or occupational programs. Also includes

students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term, as well as students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school).

full-time undergraduate student: A student enrolled for 12 or more semester credits, or 12 or more quarter credits, or 24 or more contact hours a week each term.

full-year cohort: The group of students entering at any time during the 12-month period September 1 through August 31 that is established for tracking and reporting Graduation Rate data for institutions that primarily offer occupational programs of varying lengths. Students must be full-time and first-time to be considered in the cohort.

graduation rate: The rate required for disclosure and/or reporting purposes under the Student Right-to-Know Act. This rate is calculated as the total number of completers within 150 percent of normal time divided by the adjusted cohort (revised cohort minus any allowable exclusions).

in-district student: A student who is a legal resident of the locality in which he/she attends school and thus is entitled to reduced tuition charges if offered by the institution.

in-district tuition: The tuition charged by the institution to those students residing in the locality in which they attend school. This may be a lower rate than in-state tuition if offered by the institution.

institutional grants: Scholarships and fellowships granted and funded by the institution and/or individual departments within the institution (i.e., instruction, research, public service) that may contribute indirectly to the enhancement of these programs. Includes scholarships targeted to certain individuals (e.g., based on state or jurisdiction of residence, major field of study, athletic team participation) for which the institution designates the recipient.

less-than-2-year institution: This group includes any postsecondary institution that only offers programs of less than 2 years' duration below the baccalaureate level, as well as occupational and vocational schools with programs that do not exceed 1,800 contact hours.

level of institution: A classification of whether an institution's programs are of at least 4 years' duration or beyond a baccalaureate level (4-year institution), at least 2 but less than 4 years (2-year institution), or less than 2 years (less-than-2-year institution).

loans to students: Any monies that must be repaid to the lending institution for which the student is the designated borrower. Includes all Title IV subsidized and unsubsidized loans and all institutionally and privately sponsored loans. Does not include PLUS and other loans made directly to parents.

net price: The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 defines institutional net price as "the average yearly price actually charged to full-time, first-time undergraduate students receiving student aid at an institution of higher education after deducting such aid." In IPEDS, the institutional net price of attendance is generated by subtracting the average amount of federal, state/local government, or institutional grant and scholarship aid from the average total cost of attendance. Total cost of attendance is the sum of published tuition and required fees (lower of in-district or in-state for public institutions), books and supplies, and the weighted average for room and board and other expenses. Cost of attendance data are collected in the Institutional Characteristics (IC) component of IPEDS, and financial aid data are collected in the Student Financial Aid (SFA) component of IPEDS.

nonresident alien: A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

normal time to completion: The amount of time necessary for a student to complete all requirements for a degree or certificate according to the institution's catalog. This is typically 4 years (8 semesters or trimesters, or 12 quarters, excluding summer terms) for a bachelor's degree in a standard term-based institution; 2 years (4 semesters or trimesters, or 6 quarters, excluding summer terms) for an associate's degree in a standard term-based institution; and the various scheduled times for certificate programs.

Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE): OPE formulates federal postsecondary education policy and administers programs that address critical national needs in support of its mission to increase access to quality postsecondary education.

postsecondary education: The provision of a formal instructional program whose curriculum is designed primarily for students beyond the compulsory age for high school. This includes programs whose purpose is academic, vocational, and continuing professional education, and excludes avocational and adult basic education programs.

postsecondary institution: An institution that has as its sole purpose, or one of its primary missions, the provision of postsecondary education. Postsecondary education is the provision of a formal instructional program whose curriculum is designed primarily for students beyond the compulsory age for high school. This includes programs whose purpose is academic, vocational, or continuing professional education and excludes avocational and adult basic education programs. For IPEDS, these institutions must be open to the public.

private for-profit institution: A private institution in which the individual(s) or agency in control receives compensation other than wages, rent, or other expenses for the assumption of risk.

private institution: An educational institution controlled by a private individual(s) or by a nongovernmental agency, usually supported primarily by other than public funds, and operated by other than publicly elected or appointed officials. These institutions may be either for-profit or nonprofit.

private nonprofit institution: A private institution in which the individual(s) or agency in control receives no compensation, other than wages, rent, or other expenses for the assumption of risk. These include both independent nonprofit schools and those affiliated with a religious organization.

Program Participation Agreement (PPA): A written agreement between a postsecondary institution and the Secretary of Education. This agreement allows institutions to participate in any of the Title IV student assistance programs other than the State Student Incentive Grant (SSIG) and the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership (NEISP) programs. The PPA conditions the initial and continued participation of an eligible institution in any Title IV program upon compliance with the General Provisions regulations, the individual program regulations, and any additional conditions specified in the program participation agreement that the Department of Education requires the institution to meet. Institutions with such an agreement are referred to as Title IV institutions.

public institution: An educational institution whose programs and activities are operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and which is supported largely by public funds.

race/ethnicity: Categories developed in 1997 by the Office of Management and Budget that are used to describe groups to which individuals belong or identify with. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. The designations are used to categorize U.S. citizens, resident aliens, and other eligible noncitizens.

Individuals are asked to first designate ethnicity as

- Hispanic or Latino or
- Not Hispanic or Latino

Second, individuals are asked to indicate all races that apply among the following:

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White

For reporting purposes, students who identify with more than one race are included in the Two or more races category.

resident alien (and other eligible noncitizens): A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States but who has been admitted as a legal immigrant for the purpose of obtaining permanent resident alien status and who holds one of the following: an alien registration card (Form I-551 or I-151), a Temporary Resident Card (Form I-688), or an Arrival-Departure Record (Form I-94) with a notation that conveys legal immigrant status such as Section 207 Refugee, Section 208 Asylee, Conditional Entrant Parolee, or Cuban-Haitian.

revised cohort: Initial cohort after revisions are made. This is the number from which graduation and transfer-out rates are calculated. Cohorts may be revised if an institution discovers that incorrect data were reported in an earlier year.

sector: One of nine institutional categories resulting from dividing the universe according to control and level. Control categories are public, nonprofit, and for-profit. Level categories are 4 years and higher (4-year institutions), at least 2 but less than 4 years (2-year institutions), and less than 2 years (less-than-2-year institutions). For example: sector 1 = public 4-year institutions; sector 2 = nonprofit 4-year institutions.

state and local government grants: State and local monies awarded to the institution under state and local student aid programs, including the state portion of State Student Incentives Grants (SSIG) (used for reporting Student Financial Aid data).

Student Right-to-Know Act: Also known as the “Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act” (P.L. 101-542), which was passed by Congress November 9, 1990. Title I, Section 103, requires institutions eligible for Title IV funding to disclose completion or graduation rates of certificate- or degree-seeking, full-time students entering an institution to all students and prospective students. Further, Section 104 requires each institution that participates in any Title IV program and is attended by students receiving athletically related student aid to annually submit a report to the Secretary of Education. This report is to contain, among other things, graduation/completion rates of all students as well as students receiving athletically related student aid by race/ethnicity and gender and by sport, and the average completion or graduation rate for the four most recent years. These data are also required to be disclosed to parents, coaches, and potential student athletes when the institution offers athletically related student aid. The Graduation Rates component of IPEDS was developed specifically to help institutions respond to these requirements.

subcohort: A predefined subset of the initial cohort or the revised cohort established for tracking purposes on the Graduation Rates component of IPEDS (e.g., athletic subcohort).

Title IV institution: An institution that has a written agreement with the Secretary of Education that allows the institution to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs (other than the State Student Incentive Grant [SSIG] and the National Early Intervention Scholarship and Partnership [NEISP] programs).

undergraduate student: A student enrolled in a 4- or 5-year bachelor's degree program, an associate's degree program, or a vocational or technical program below the baccalaureate level.

2-year institution: A postsecondary institution that offers one or more programs of at least 2 but less than 4 years' duration. Includes occupational and vocational schools with programs of at least 1,800 hours and academic institutions with programs of less than 4 years. Does not include bachelor's degree-granting institutions where the baccalaureate program can be completed in 3 years.

4-year institution: A postsecondary institution that offers one or more programs at or above the baccalaureate level or of at least 4 years' duration. Includes institutions that do not offer undergraduate programs but do offer programs at the postbaccalaureate certificate level or above. Also includes freestanding medical, law, or other professional schools.