

# **Fall Enrollment (EF) First Time Students Tutorial Script 2024-25 Data Collection**

This tutorial discusses first-time degree- or certificate-seeking students and their impact on various IPEDS survey components. First-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduates are students with no prior postsecondary experience and have enrolled in a postsecondary institution with the intent of earning a degree, certificate or other recognized postsecondary credential.

Students who enroll for the first time in the preceding summer term and students entering with advanced standing by earning college credits before graduating from high school are also considered first-time students.

Data on first-time, degree- or certificate-seeking students are collected in multiple IPEDS components. In particular, information reported in the Institutional Characteristics component is used to determine survey questions in the subsequent sections.

For example, in the Cost (CST) survey component, institutions with full-time, first-time degree- or certificate-seeking students will report cost of attendance data, as well as information on financial aid and an average net price will be calculated from these figures. Any institution that enrolls first-time, degree- or certificate-seeking students will also report enrollment and retention rates in the Fall Enrollment component. Finally, data reported in Fall Enrollment are used to determine the Graduation Rates survey cohort for the corresponding year.

For more information on the material presented in this tutorial, please contact the IPEDS Help Desk.