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Academic vs Program Reporters Tutorial Script 2023-24 Data Collection Cycle

This tutorial explains the difference between academic and program reporters.

Your institution's reporting category is determined by its calendar system and influences the IPEDS survey components your institution will complete and how you will complete them.

Institutions are academic reporters if their predominant calendar system is semester, trimester, quarter, or 4-1-4. For example, students at academic reporting institutions most often enroll at established points throughout the year.

Institutions are program reporters if their predominant calendar system differs by program or they enroll continuously. Students at these institutions may enroll at any time throughout the year.

Whether an institution is an academic or program reporter determines how a number of data elements in the IPEDS survey are reported.

For tuition and cost of attendance, academic reporters provide data based on a full academic year. Program reporters report these data for the 6 largest programs, for the length of each program.

In the Student Financial Aid component, academic reporters report financial aid for an academic year while program reporters report financial aid for the academic year of the largest program.

In Fall Enrollment, academic reporters report data as of the institution's official fall reporting date, or October 15. Program reporters, on the other hand, report for the 3-month period from August through October.

Finally, the student cohorts used in the Graduation Rates and Student Financial Aid components are a fall cohort for academic reporters, and a full-year cohort for program reporters.

For the Outcome Measures survey a full-year cohort from July 1st to June 30th will be used for all academic degree granting institutions.

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