

Outcome Measures (OM) Survey Component Overview Tutorial Script 2021-22 Data Collection Cycle

On behalf of the National Center for Education Statistics, NCES, and the Association for Institutional Research, AIR, welcome to this online tutorial on reporting to the IPEDS Outcome Measures Survey Component, also called OM. The OM component is designed to provide consumers, policymakers and researchers context for and an additional success measures to the graduation rates calculated for the purposes of the Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990. It was developed in response to recommendations from the U.S. Department of Education's report from the Committee on Measures of Student Success and RTI International's convenings of IPEDS Technical Review Panels. The Committee on Measures of Student Success recommended that the Department of Education broaden the coverage of student graduation data to reflect the diverse student populations at two-year institutions and improve the collection of student progression and completion data.

In response, the Department released an action plan for improving measures of post-secondary student success in support of the administration's college completion agenda and based on those recommendations. Several IPEDS Technical Review Panel meetings were convened to discuss how the IPEDS collection could address the action plan. Together the panel suggested that the definition of degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students for IPEDS reporting purposes be clarified and that additional outcome information be collected for first-time, part-time students and non-first-time students.

From these recommendations, IPEDS developed the Outcome Measures component which tracks the status of the following four undergraduate student cohorts at degree-granting institutions:

- First-time, full-time entering students
- First-time, part-time entering students
- Non-first-time, full-time entering students
- Non-first-time, part-time entering students

Data entry must be completed and considered final by the end of the collection period in mid-February, when the Keyholder locks their data. IPEDS coordinators have an additional two weeks to review the data and lock the survey component.

Data collected through the IPEDS surveys provide a basis for postsecondary education analysis and consumer information. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, requires that institutions that participate in federal student aid programs report data on enrollments, program completions, graduation rates, faculty and staff, finances, institutional costs, and student financial aid and stipulates, "...institutions will complete surveys conducted as part of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)...in a timely manner and to the satisfaction of the Secretary."

Institutions receiving Title IV funding (student financial aid) must complete the IPEDS surveys. Currently, there are over 6,000 institutions that submit IPEDS surveys, with a number doing so voluntarily. NCES is required to provide a list of noncompliant institutions to the Office of Federal Student Aid. Non-compliance can result in warnings and

costly fines, or even loss of Title IV funding. More information about fines can be found on the Statutory Requirements page (<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/ViewIPEDSStatutoryRequirement.aspx>).

It's always a good idea to begin the IPEDS reporting cycle early and seek help when needed from the IPEDS Help Desk. The knowledgeable Help Desk staff is eager to help. Response time may be longer near the end of the collection cycle. In addition, the IPEDS Use the Data page contains frequently asked questions, a link to the glossary, data tip sheets, an archive of survey instruments, and other relevant information. This concludes the tutorial for the Outcome Measures component.