

Reporting Race and Ethnicity Data in IPEDS

Tutorial Script

2023-24 Data Collection

On behalf of the National Center for Education Statistics, NCES, and the Association for Institutional Research, AIR, welcome to this tutorial on Reporting Race and Ethnicity Data in IPEDS.

The new options for reporting race/ethnicity were implemented for IPEDS starting with the 2009-10 data collection cycle. Data on race/ethnicity is reported in five IPEDS surveys that collect data on race/ethnicity categories – Fall Enrollment, Human Resources, Completions, 12-Month Enrollment, and Graduation Rates. The new categories were established by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997, for use by all federal agencies. The IPEDS data collection follows the final guidance on race/ethnicity reporting from the Department of Education.

IPEDS implemented the new race/ethnicity reporting over three collection cycles. In 2009-10, institutions had 3 options for reporting race and ethnicity: using the new standards with 9 categories; using the old standards with 7 categories; or using a mixed approach with 14 different categories.

Starting in the 2010-11, the new race/ethnicity categories were required for the Fall Enrollment and Human Resources surveys but remained optional for Completions, 12-Month Enrollment, and Graduation Rates.

With the 2011-12 collection cycle, the new categories were mandatory for all IPEDS components. During the transitional collections in 2009-10 and 2010-11, IPEDS reporters were presented a screening question to determine the method that would be used to report racial and ethnic data for each impacted survey component.

Institutions were not required to use the same reporting options for all surveys. For example, if the human resources department had already converted to the new categories but that information had not yet been collected from students, reporters could provide H-R data using the new categories and provide student data using the old categories.

The 9 current IPEDS race and ethnicity reporting categories are:

- ✓ U.S. Nonresident (Nonresident alien prior to the 2022-23 collection cycle)
- ✓ Hispanic or Latino
- ✓ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ✓ Asian
- ✓ Black or African American
- ✓ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ✓ White
- ✓ Two or more races, and
- ✓ Race and ethnicity unknown

The reporting categories are DIFFERENT from the categories that institutions use to collect the race and ethnicity information from individuals. To collect this information, the institution must use a

2-question format that first asks whether the individual is Hispanic or Latino, and then asks a second question that allows them to identify one or more races.

NCES added guidance in the 2022-23 collection cycle to help institutions determine how to report undocumented students and students that are part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program. The intention is to allow institutions to include these students in racial and ethnic categories, while not requiring institutions to track undocumented or DACA students. The updated guidance is to report racial/ethnic designations only for United States citizens, residents, and other eligible non-citizens. The category of eligible noncitizens includes all students who completed high school or a GED equivalency within the United States, including DACA and undocumented students, and who were not on an F-1 non-immigrant student visa at the time of high school graduation.

By using this language, institutions will report racial/ethnic data on all students that attended a high school within the United States that were not on an F-1 non-immigrant student visa at the time of high school graduation. There is no need for institutions to determine whether the student is undocumented or participating in the DACA program to report this information to IPEDS.

Institutions should not need to resurvey students to provide this information unless they have not previously asked the race/ethnic questions of all students that attended a high school within the United States that were not on an F-1 non-immigrant student visa at the time of high school graduation.

Remember to begin submitting your IPEDS surveys early. During the last week of the collection period, the number of calls to the Help Desk significantly increases, resulting in longer wait times. Contact the IPEDS Help Desk with any questions or problems. Thank you.