

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Student Financial Aid Survey Student Categories Tutorial Script 2024-25 Data Collection

On behalf of the Institute of Education Science's, IES, National Center for Education Statistics, NCES, and the Association for Institutional Research, AIR, welcome to this tutorial on the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, or IPEDS, Student Financial Aid Survey, also called SFA. The purpose of this tutorial is to explain the student category for which financial aid data is collected in Section 1 of the SFA Survey. After completing this tutorial, you will be able to:

1. Describe the students included in the main category—all undergraduate students—and each subset of undergraduates for whom IPEDS data is collected in Section 1 of the SFA Survey; and
2. Identify and list similarities and differences between the student counts and financial aid award amounts reported to IPEDS for these students.

Section 1: Part A of the SFA Survey collects student counts on undergraduate students. The on-screen image helps illustrate how the main category and three subsets are related.

- All undergraduate students is the main category and the subsets are different data disaggregations of undergraduate students.
- The first subset, or data disaggregation, includes undergraduates who are degree/certificate-seeking students.
- The second subset, or data disaggregation, includes undergraduates who are non-degree/certificate-seeking students.
- The third subset, or data disaggregation, includes undergraduates who are full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking students only.

Although the subsets overlap with the main category, there are distinct differences between them. All undergraduates—the main category—includes all degree and certificate seeking undergraduates as well as all non-degree and non-certificate seeking undergraduates enrolled at the institution for all attendance statuses regardless of program of study or courses enrolled. Financial aid amounts for all undergraduates are reported in Section 1: Part B of the SFA Survey.

The first data disaggregation of all undergraduates, or subset 1, includes only degree and certificate-seeking undergraduate students. Financial aid award amounts for these students are also reported in Section 1: Part B of the SFA Survey.

The second data disaggregation of all undergraduates, or subset 2, includes only non-degree and non-certificate-seeking undergraduate students. Financial aid award amounts for these students are reported in Section 1: Part B of the SFA Survey too.

Financial aid amounts reported for all undergraduates—the main category, subset 1—degree and certificate seeking undergraduates, and subset 2—non-degree and non-certificate seeking undergraduates include:

- Grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, the institution, and other sources known to the institution;
- Federal Pell Grants; and
- Federal loans to students.

The remaining data disaggregation—subset 3—includes full-time, first-time degree and certificate seeking undergraduate students only. Financial aid amounts for these students are reported in Section 1: Part C of the SFA Survey. Financial aid awards reported for these students include:

- Disaggregated student counts and aid award amounts for grant or scholarship aid from the federal government, state/local government, the institution, and other sources known to the institution; and
- Disaggregated student loan amounts, which includes private loans.

A complete list of financial aid programs to include for IPEDS reporting purposes is provided in the SFA Survey instructions.

This concludes the tutorial on the IPEDS SFA Survey undergraduate student category. You should be able to list the main category and the three subsets of students for whom financial aid is reported in Section 1 of the SFA Survey, and discuss similarities and differences between the financial aid award student counts and award amounts reported to IPEDS for these students.

Remember, each part in Section 1 of the SFA Survey requests different student counts and/or award amounts for types of aid to undergraduate students. See the SFA Survey detailed instructions for a description of what to report for each data item requested.

If you have questions about reporting data to IPEDS or the IPEDS Data Collection System, contact the IPEDS Data Collection Help Desk at (877) 225-2568 or send an email to Help Desk staff at ipedshelp@rti.org. For assistance using IPEDS data tools, contact the IPEDS Data Use Help Desk at (866) 558-0658 or ipedstools@rti.org.