The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is the core postsecondary education data collection program for the NCES. It is a single, comprehensive system designed to encompass all institutions and educational organizations whose primary purpose is to provide postsecondary education. For additional information see http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds.
Dear Institutional Executive:

The National Center for Education Statistics is pleased to provide you with your institution’s annual IPEDS Data Feedback Report. The report compares data provided by your institution in 2007-08 through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to data for a similar group of institutions. Like last year, your institution was given the opportunity to select its own comparison group. We strongly encourage institutions to take advantage of the opportunity to select the other institutions to which they want to be compared in the report, as they generally find the report more informative. If your institution did not submit its own group, IPEDS identified a comparison group for you (see the list toward the back of this report for the institutions in your comparison group).

I also encourage you to visit the IPEDS Executive Peer Tool (ExPT) at http://nces.ed.gov/ipedspas/ExPT/. Not only can you download a PDF of this report as it was sent to you, you can also select a different comparison group and recreate the full report in the PDF format. In addition, there are a number of additional figures available in the ExPT that are not included in your original report such as enrollments by student level, admissions and test scores, and more finance figures.

Thank you for all of your efforts to support IPEDS throughout the data collection process. Without your support and the high quality data that your institution provides, these reports would not be possible. Should you have any comments on how we can improve the Data Feedback Report and ExPT, please send them to ipedsdatafeedback@ed.gov.

Best regards,

Elise S. Miller
IPEDS Program Director

What Is the Purpose of This Report?

The IPEDS Data Feedback Report is intended to provide institutions a context for examining the data they submitted to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). Our goal is to produce a report that is useful to institutional executives and that may help improve the quality and comparability of IPEDS data.

What Is in This Report?

The figures provided in this report are those suggested by the IPEDS Technical Review Panel. They were developed to provide selected indicators and data elements for your institution and a comparison group of institutions. The figures are based on data collected during the 2007-08 IPEDS collection cycle and are the most recent data available. Additional information about these indicators is provided in the Methodological Notes at the end of the report. Following the figures is a list of the institutions in your comparison group and the criteria used for their selection. Please refer to “Comparison Group” in the Methodological Notes for more information.

What Is IPEDS?

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is a system of survey components that collects data from all institutions in the United States and other jurisdictions, such as Puerto Rico, whose primary purpose is to provide postsecondary education. IPEDS collects institution-level data on students (enrollment and graduation rates), student charges, program completions, faculty, staff, and finances. Each year nearly 6,700 postsecondary institutions provide information to the U.S. Department of Education through IPEDS. These data are used at the federal and state level for policy analysis and development; at the institutional level for benchmarking and peer analysis; and by students and parents, through the College Navigator (http://collegenavigator.ed.gov/), to aid in the college search process. For more information about IPEDS, see http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds.

Would You Like to Do More Analysis of Your IPEDS Data?

The information in this report can be produced for a different comparison group using the IPEDS Executive Peer Tool (ExPT) at http://nces.ed.gov/ipedspas/ExPT. If you would like to make comparisons on a wider range of IPEDS variables, or do additional types of analyses, the IPEDS Data Center is available at http://nces.ed.gov/ipedspas. In both systems, you may select your own comparison group. Through the ExPT, you may also print additional copies of this report.

Selected Figures

These figures are based on 2007-08 IPEDS data submitted by your institution, Southwest Tennessee Community College, and the comparison group listed later in this report. The number of institutions in the comparison group from which the median is derived is shown as *(N = x)* in the labels or in the legend at the bottom of the figure.

Southwest Tennessee Community College
Figure 1. Unduplicated 12-month headcount, total FTE enrollment (academic year 2006-07), and full- and part-time fall enrollment (Fall 2007)

Figure 2. Percent of all students enrolled, by race/ethnicity, and percent who are women: Fall 2007

Figure 3. Academic year tuition and required fees for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates: 2005-06–2007-08

Figure 4. Percent of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students receiving financial aid, by type of aid: 2006-07

NOTE: For details on calculating full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, see Calculating FTE in the Methodological Notes at the end of this report. Total headcount, FTE, and full- and part-time fall enrollment include both undergraduate and postbaccalaureate students, when applicable. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


NOTE: Median values for the comparison group may not add to 100 percent. See “Use of Median Values for Comparison Group” in the Methodological Notes at the end of this report for how median values are determined. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


NOTE: The tuition and required fees shown here are the lowest reported from the categories of in-district, in-state, and out-of-state. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.

IPEDS DATA FEEDBACK REPORT

Figure 5. Types and average amounts of financial aid received by full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates: 2006-07

Type of aid

- Federal grants (N=15)
  - Amount: $2,847
- State and local grants (N=15)
  - Amount: $2,769
- Institutional grants (N=14)
  - Amount: $1,902
- Loans (N=12)
  - Amount: $2,411

NOTE: Average grant (or loan) values were calculated by dividing the total grants (or loans) awarded by the total number of recipients in each institution. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 6. Graduation rates by race/ethnicity

Graduation rates by race/ethnicity

- Graduation rate, overall
  - Native American (N=15)
  - White, non-Hispanic (N=15)
  - Black, non-Hispanic (N=15)
  - Hispanic (N=14)
  - Asian or Pacific Islander (N=14)
  - American Indian or Alaska Native (N=15)
  - Race/ethnicity unknown (N=10)
  - Nonresident alien (N=8)

NOTE: The graduation rates are the Student Right-to-Know (SRK) rates. For more information see the Methodological Notes at the end of the report. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 7. Graduation rate cohort as a percent of all undergraduates (Fall 2007); graduation rate and transfer-out rate (2004 cohort); and retention rates (Fall 2007)

Measure

- Graduation rate cohort as a percent of entering class
- Graduation rate, overall
- Transfer-out rate
- Full-time retention rate
- Part-time retention rate

NOTE: Graduation rate cohort includes all full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students. Entering class includes all students coming to the institution for the first time. Only institutions with a mission to prepare students to transfer are required to report transfers out. Graduation and transfer-out rates are the Student Right-to-Know rates. 4-year schools report retention rates for students seeking a bachelor’s degree. For more information, see the Methodological Notes. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


Figure 8. Number of degrees or certificates awarded, by level: Academic year 2006-07

Level of award

- Associate’s degrees
- Certificates of 2 but less than 4 years
- Certificates of 1 but less than 2 years
- Certificates of less than 1 year

NOTE: N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.

Figure 9. Percent distribution of core revenues, by source: Fiscal year 2007

Figure 10. Core expenses per FTE enrollment, by function: Fiscal year 2007

Figure 11. Full-time equivalent staff by assigned position: Fall 2007

Figure 12. Average salaries of full-time instructional staff equated to 9-month contracts, by academic rank: Academic year 2007-08

NOTE: The comparison group median is based on those members of the comparison group that report finance data using the same accounting standards as the focus institution. Expenses per full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, particularly instruction, may be inflated because finance data includes all core expenses while FTE reflects credit activity only. For details on calculating FTE enrollment and a detailed definition of core expenses, see the Methodological Notes. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.


NOTE: Graduate assistants are not included in this figure. N is the number of institutions in the comparison group.

This custom comparison group for Southwest Tennessee Community College includes the following 15 institutions:

- Anne Arundel Community College (Arnold, MD)
- Central Piedmont Community College (Charlotte, NC)
- Delaware Technical and Community College-Owens (Georgetown, DE)
- Delgado Community College (New Orleans, LA)
- Florence-Darlington Technical College (Florence, SC)
- James H Faulkner State Community College (Bay Minette, AL)
- McLennan Community College (Waco, TX)
- Middle Georgia College (Cochran, GA)
- National Park Community College (Hot Springs, AR)
- Palm Beach Community College (Lake Worth, FL)
- Rose State College (Midwest City, OK)
- Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College (Mount Gay, WV)
- Southwest Mississippi Community College (Summit, MS)
- Southwest Tennessee Community College (Memphis, TN)
- Virginia Western Community College (Roanoke, VA)
Data Perturbation and Confidentiality

Four laws cover protection of the confidentiality of individually identifiable information collected by NCES: the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended; the E-Government Act of 2002; the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002; and the USA Patriot Act of 2001. Under law, public use data collected and distributed by NCES may be used only for statistical purposes. Any effort to determine the identity of any reported case is prohibited by law. In order to preserve individuals’ confidentiality, data in the Graduation Rates, Student Financial Aid, and Human Resources components of IPEDS are perturbed. Only perturbed data are available in the IPEDS Data Center and the ExPT; the perturbed data were used in creating this report.

Descriptions of Statistics Used in the Figures

Calculating FTE Enrollment

The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment used in this report is the sum of the institutions’ FTE undergraduate enrollment and FTE graduate enrollment (as calculated from or reported on the 2006-07 12-month Enrollment component) plus the estimated FTE of first-professional students. Undergraduate and graduate FTE are estimated using 12-month instructional activity (credit and/or contact hours). First-professional FTE is estimated by calculating the ratio of full-time to part-time first-professional students from the 2006 fall counts and applying this ratio to the 2006-07 12-month unduplicated headcount of first-professional students. The estimated number of full-time students is added to one-third of the estimated number of part-time students. See “Calculation of FTE Students (using instructional activity)” in the IPEDS Glossary at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/.

Calculating FTE for Staff

The full-time equivalent (FTE) of staff is calculated by summing the total number of full-time staff from the Employees by Assigned Position (EAP) section of the Human Resources component and adding one-third of the total number of part-time staff.

Cohort Determination for Reporting Student Financial Aid and Graduation Rates

Student cohorts for reporting Student Financial Aid and Graduation Rates data are based on the reporting type of the institution. For institutions that report based on an academic year (those operating on standard academic terms), student counts and cohorts are based on fall term data. Student counts and cohorts for program reporters (those that do not operate on standard academic terms) are based on unduplicated counts of students enrolled during a full 12-month period.

Core Expenses

Core expenses for public institutions (using the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards) include expenses for instruction, research, public service, academic support, institutional support, student services, operation and maintenance of plant, depreciation, scholarships and fellowships, other expenses, and nonoperating expenses. Core expenses for private, not-for-profit
and public institutions reporting under the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) standards include expenses for instruction, research, public service, academic support, student services, institutional support, net grant aid to students, and other expenses. For both FASB and GASB institutions, core expenses exclude expenses for auxiliary enterprises (e.g., bookstores, dormitories), hospitals, and independent operations. Expenses for operation and maintenance of plant for GASB institutions are included in other core expenses, but are allocated to each of the other functions for FASB institutions.

Core Revenues

Core revenues for public institutions reporting under GASB standards include tuition and fees; government appropriations (federal, state, and local); government grants and contracts; private gifts, grants, and contracts; investment income; other operating and nonoperating sources; and other revenues and additions. Core revenues for FASB (primarily private, not-for-profit) institutions include tuition and fees; government appropriations (federal, state, and local); government grants and contracts; private gifts, grants, and contracts; investment return; sales and services of educational activities; and other sources. Core revenues for private, for-profit institutions reporting under FASB standards include tuition and fees; government appropriations (federal, state, and local); government grants and contracts; private gifts and contracts; net investment income; sales and services of educational activities; and other sources. In general, core revenues exclude revenues from auxiliary enterprises (e.g., bookstores, dormitories), hospitals, and independent operations.

Equate Instructional Staff Salaries (Salaries Equated to 9-Month Contracts)

Total salary outlays for full-time instructional staff (by rank) on 11/12-month contracts were adjusted to 9/10-month outlays by multiplying the outlay for 11/12-month contracted instructional staff by .8182. The “equated” outlays were then added to the outlays for 9/10-month instructional staff to determine an average salary for each rank. Salaries for instructional staff on less-than-9-month contracts are not included.

Graduation Rates and Transfer-out Rate

Graduation rates are those developed to satisfy the requirements of the Student Right-to-Know (SRK) Act and are defined as the total number of individuals from a given cohort of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates who completed a degree or certificate within 150 percent of normal time (for the degree or certificate) before the ending status date of August 31, 2007, divided by the entire cohort of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates minus any allowable exclusions. Institutions are permitted to exclude from the initial cohort students who died or were totally and permanently disabled; those who left school to serve in the armed forces or were called to active duty; those who left to serve with a foreign aid service of the federal government, such as the Peace Corps; and those who left to serve on an official church mission. Transfer-out rate is the total number of students from the cohort who are known to have transferred out of the reporting institution within the same time period, divided by the same adjusted cohort. Only institutions with a mission that includes preparing students to transfer are required to report transfers out.

Retention Rates

Full-time retention rates are defined as the number of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who enter the institution for the first time in the fall and who return to the same institution the following fall (as either full or part time), divided by the total number of full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates in the fall of first entrance. Part-time retention rates are similarly defined. For 4-year institutions offering a bachelor’s degree, this rate is reported only for those students seeking a bachelor’s degree. For less than 4-year institutions, the rate is calculated for all degree/certificate-seeking students.

Total Entering (Undergraduate-Level) Students

Total entering (undergraduate-level) students are all students coming into the institution for the first time. This includes students who initially attended the prior summer term and returned again in the fall; all first-time, first-year students; students transferring into the institution at any undergraduate level for the first time; both full-time and part-time students; and all degree/certificate-seeking as well as non-degree/certificate-seeking students. Only degree-granting institutions report total entering students.

Tuition and Required Fees

Tuition is defined as the amount of money charged to students for instructional services; required fees are those fixed sum charges to students for items not covered by tuition that are required of such a large proportion of all students that the student who does not pay the charge is an exception. The amounts used in this report are for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates and are those used by the financial aid office to determine need. For institutions that have differential tuition rates for in-district or in-state students, the lowest tuition rate is used in the figure.

Additional Methodological Information

Additional methodological information on the IPEDS components can be found in the publications available at http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=010#011. Additional definitions of variables used in this report can be found in the IPEDS online glossary available at http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/.

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