

Feedback - Group G - Higher Education

TA: Nico Rojas

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General Comments.

- Overall, this project seems feasible. There is plenty of data available to examine "Higher Education Institutions within the US".
- It seems you have most of the elements that are required in the syllabus. See below for how to get the sports network data.
- I strongly agree with the point you raised in "the potential challenges section". To me, reducing complexity and defining what are the patterns you want to visualize is something you should tackle soon.
- "We are curious about how we can scope our visualizations (and whether we should)". Potentially, you could do three things:
 1. Choose one specific aspect/topic of Higher Ed (which can still be very broad!) like student aid, college admissions, or the financing of higher education.
 2. Trying to illustrate a general picture of the most important facts about higher education institutions in general.
 3. Put together a set of some more unrelated facts about the HE system. Even this, is a possibility, having a more coherent narrative in your project may help you to connect all your visualization and provide a clearer analysis of your data.
- I feel that reviewing some literature, like are already doing can be a good idea to brainstorm. In fact, from the Overview pdf in your folder, you could draw the lines of some of the main aspects of Higher ed¹. This could help you to orient your visualizations.
- Some other random thoughts: The director of the Economics and Education program at teachers college, Judith Scott-Clayton is an expert on financial aid. I encourage you to check [her website](#) and follow her on Twitter. The strike at Columbia by the UWS is tightly related to your data: rising tuition costs, high cost of living in New York, but stagnant financial aid. Teachers College also has a [Community College Research Center](#), you might find some useful information there too. Be strategic at defining your angle, don't over-spend time too.

¹If it helps, one book that has 3 chapters describing Higher Ed policy and institutions in the United States is [Economics and Education by Lovenheim and Turner](<https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us/product/Economics-of-Education/p/1319282202>).

Specific Comments

- A resource that I immediately think of when reading this project is the [R package developed by the Urban Institute](#). You can't only selectively download the data from the College Score Card, but also have data from IPEDS, finance, and other sources. The data is nicely harmonized over time and the documentation is organized to facilitate its use and save you some time. If I haven't convinced you enough, a couple of years ago there was a group that used the college scorecard data and started their presentation by highlighting how much time and effort it took them cleaning and doing some data wrangling.
- In the Urban Institute package you'll find the sport's network. It's on the IPEDS section. The idea sounds super-interesting.
- If you use the package, I recommend you to not try to download everything but filter a little bit using the options of the package. Sometimes it can be a little bit slow, so it's a good idea to have a cable connection when doing this.
- I suggest that you look into the search plugin from the leaflet extensions presented in the TA section from week 07. Eventually, this could be interesting interactivity in which you could search institutions on your map. Remember what the professor said: this could be useful for finding a job.
- In the literature you may get hints of some interesting time series.