**College Scorecard**

**Purpose:**

Increases transparency in postsecondary institutions.

Aims to empower students and families to evaluate college performance and success rates.

**Main Features:**

Helps users compare college costs and outcomes.

Provides data on:

Institutions as a whole.

Specific fields of study within institutions.

**Data Sources:**

Federal reporting from institutions.

Information on federal financial aid.

Tax data.

Primarily targets institutions receiving federal financial aid.

All data is available via the Scorecard data webpage and API.

IPEDS - Integrated Post Secondary Education Data System

NSLDS - National Student Loan Data System

OPE ID - https://ceds.ed.gov/CEDSElementDetails.aspx?TermId=15203.

(US Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education OPE)

Identification number used by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) to identify schools that have Program Participation Agreements (PPA) so that its students are eligible to participate in Federal Student Financial Assistance programs under Title IV regulations. This is a 6-digit number followed by a 2-digit suffix used to identify branches, additional locations, and other entities that are part of the eligible institution.

Format

Integer - exactly 8 digits

**Institution Coverage:**

Covers all active IPEDS institutions participating in Title IV programs.

Some non-Title IV institutions are also included if they meet specific criteria.

A consumer-facing subset is displayed on the official website for currently operating undergraduate institutions.

**Data Handling:**

Most data come directly or is derived from the IPEDS.

Some colleges provide combined data for multiple IPEDS institutions, known as “parent” and “child” institutions.

**Accuracy and Privacy:**

\*Data mainly available for Title IV recipients (students with federal grants/loans).

\*Data reported individually to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) but published at aggregate institutional level.

\*Some institutions report data at campus level (8-digit OPE ID), but site data is at institution level (6-digit OPE ID).

\*Institutions with common 6-digit OPEID get the same outcome data for all branches.

\*NSLDS and Treasury data is privacy-protected; non-compliant data labeled as "Privacy Suppressed".

\*Steps taken to ensure yearly data stability; data often pooled across two years.

\*Data for institutions with <30 students in the denominator is suppressed for representativeness.

**Root - Basic Data Information:**

\*Data provided at UNITID level (unique ID for postsecondary institutions from IPEDS).

\*OPEID is a 6 or 8-digit number used by U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) and Federal Student Aid Office (FSA) to identify eligible institutions for federal aid.

\*UNITID can represent aggregation of several OPEIDs or part of an OPEID.

**OPEID and UNITID Crosswalk:**

\*Collaboration between the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and Federal Student Aid (FSA) office to create a mapping between IPEDS IDs (UNITID) and FSA IDs (OPEID).

\*History of institutions is included going back to 2000-01 academic year.

\*Crosswalks were created combining FSA Postsecondary Education Participants System (PEPS) data with IPEDS reporting data.

\*Unmatched entities labeled as “No Match”.

\*Some IPEDS units didn't match Title IV entities from PEPS; these are listed under “UNITIDs Not Matched”.

**Currently Operating Boolean:**

\*Institutions labeled as “currently operating” by FSA are noted with a 1.

\*Institutions not operating or have closed/merged are noted with a 0.

\*This data element appears only in the latest Scorecard data file.

**About the Institution:**

**Scorecard & API Elements:**

Identifiers

Location

Degree type and profile

Programs offered

Academic profile of students

Mostly available through IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System)

**Details From IPEDS:**

Institution Name (INSTNM)

Alias:Variations or acronyms of the institution's name.

Location:

Address: CITY, STABBR, ZIP

Geographic Coordinates: LATITUDE and LONGITUDE

**URL Information:**

Homepage: INSTURL

Net price calculator: NPCURL

**Main Campus/Branch:**

Main campus indicator: MAIN (1 for main campus, 0 for not main campus)

Number of branch campuses: NUMBRANCH

**Title IV Eligibility Type:**

Categories based on Title IV participation (e.g., OPEFLAG=1 for participation, OPEFLAG=2 for branch campus, etc.)

**Accrediting Agency:**

Institutional accreditor: ACCREDAGENCY

PEPS code of the accreditor: ACCREDCODE

**Degree Type:**

Highest award level: HIGHDEG

Level of institution (e.g., 4-year, 2-year, or less-than-2-year): ICLEVEL

Predominant undergraduate award: PREDDEG

**Institution Type:**

Governance structure (Public, Private Nonprofit, or Private For-Profit): CONTROL

**Carnegie Classifications:**

Basic classification: CCBASIC

Undergraduate profile: CCUGPROF

Size and setting classification: CCSIZSET

**Special Mission or Religious Affiliation:**

Minority-serving institutions indicators (e.g., HBCU, PBI, TRIBAL)

Religious affiliation: RELAFFIL

**Distance-Only:**

Institutions identified as offering only distance education: DISTANCEONLY

**Institution Revenues/Expenses:**

Net tuition revenue per FTE student: TUITFTE

Instructional expenditures per FTE student: INEXPFTE

Average faculty salary: AVGFACSAL

**Heightened Cash Monitoring 2 (HCM2):**

A method to oversee cash management for institutions with serious financial or federal compliance issues.

**Academics**

Describes academic offerings at institutions.

**Dev-category academics:**

Academic Areas Offered: Provided as integers.

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP): Classifies academic disciplines.

PCIP[01-54]: Percentage of degrees awarded per CIP code category.

CIP[01-54][CERT1/CERT2/ASSOC/BACHL/CERT4]: Identifies academic areas' offerings and distance education availability.

Data source: IPEDS Completions component, covers 12-month period ending June 30.

College Scorecard provides more detailed field of study data.

Number of Programs Offered: Information on the number of programs and six largest programs.

Data source: IPEDS Institutional Characteristics.

Includes program duration and associated costs.

**Admissions**

Provides admissions rate and SAT/ACT scores of students.

**Dev-category admissions:**

Open Admission Policy: Institutions accepting all or most students, captured by OPENADMP.

Admission Rate: ADM\_RATE (per campus) and ADM\_RATE\_ALL (across all campuses).

SAT and ACT Scores: 25th and 75th percentiles data provided. Changes in SAT scoring format in March 2016 are mentioned.

Admissions considerations indicator: ADMCON7.

**Costs**

Provides costs to students for context on access, affordability, and outcomes.

**Dev-category cost:**

Average Cost of Attendance: Includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, and living expenses.

Different data available for academic year and program-year institutions.

Cost components derived from IPEDS Institutional Characteristics and Student Financial Aid (SFA).

Average Net Price: Cost of attendance minus grant/scholarship aid.

Weighted average for public (PUB) and private (PRIV) colleges. Specific data for different income brackets provided.

Data source: IPEDS Institutional Characteristics and Student Financial Aid (SFA).

**Notes:**

Distance education program: Complete coursework available through distance education.

Net price data doesn't cover periods before 2009.

Information provided is up to the version: April 2023.