This README file provides a description of the data and programs used to generate the results in the paper "Semester or Quarters? The Effect of the Academic Calendar of Postsecondary Student Outcomes." Please contact Justinna Xu, jxu557@wisc.edu with any questions.

Replication data and do file can be found at the GitHub repository project ID: **econ_580_assignment_2**. To run any of the programs, one will first have to change the file path at the top of the do files.

Description of the data

Publicly available data

- The main analysis uses the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data. These data are administered by the US Department of Education and were downloaded from the National Center for Education Statistics in 2018: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/.

  These data are used to produce the results in Tables 1-3 and Figures 1-2, as well as Table 1-3 New and Figure 1-2 New.

Software requirements

Stata: The institution-level analysis was last run with Stata 17.0. All programs were last run on 02/23/2024.

User-written Stata commands to download:

  - outreg2 (as of 02/23/2024)
  - sutex (as of 02/23/2024)
  - coefplot (as of 02/23/2024)
  - reghdfe (as of 02/23/2024)
  - boottest (as of 02/23/2024)

Description of the programs

Replication Part

The following programs clean the data for the main analysis (the institution-level analysis).

Master_Create_IPEDS.do: This program creates the cleaned IPEDS data for the main analysis. The resulting dataset is ipeds_cleaned_final.dta. The program: (1) cleans and merges the six IPEDS files on enrollment, graduation rates, tuition, faculty, finances, and calendar system, and (2) generates relative time indicators (pre- and post-semester adoption) for the event studies.

Master_Create_IPEDS.do calls in the following sub-programs:

- **directorycreate1_2018.do:**
  - This file cleans the years 1987-2016 of directory files by calling in the sub-programs directory1987.do-directory2016.do and merge all the years to create directorymaster1_2018.dta.
- **facultycreate1_2018.do:** 1990-2016
  - This file cleans the years 1990-2016 of faculty files by calling in the sub-programs

faculty1990.do- faculty2016.do and merge all the years to create facultymaster1_2018.

- **gradcreate1_2018.do:** 1991-2010
  - This file cleans the years 1991-2010 of graduation files by calling in the sub-programs grad1991.do-grad2010.do and merge all the years to create gradmaster1_2018.dta.
- **institutioncreate1_2018.do:** 1986-2016
  - This file cleans the years 1986-2016 of institution files by calling in the sub-programs institution1986.do-institution2016.do and merge all the years to create institutionmaster1_2018.dta.
- **revenuecreate1_2018.do:**
  - This file cleans the years 1991-2016 of the cost and revenue files by calling in the sub-programs publicrevenues1997.do-publicrevenues2016.do (publicrevenues2015 is missing), privaterevenues1997.do-privaterevenues2016.do, costs1991.do-costs1996.do, revenues1991.do-revenues1996.do. and merges all the years to create revenuesmaster1_2018.dta.
- **tuitioncreate1_2018.do:** 1990-2016
  - This file cleans the years 1990-2016 of tuition files by calling in the sub-programs tuition1990.do- tuition2016.do and merge all the years to create tuitionmaster1_2018.dta.

The following programs produce the results for the main analysis (institution-level analysis).

- **IPEDS_Analysis_Tables.do:** This generates:
  - Table 1, Output files: table_1.text
  - Table 2, Output files: table_2.text; table_2_means.text
  - Table 3, Output files: table_3a.text, table_3b.text
- **IPEDS_Analysis_Figures.do:** This generates:
  - Figure 1, Output files: figure_1.pdf
  - Figure 2, Output files: figure_2a.pdf, figure_2b.pdf

Extend Replication Part (Extend 2 Years)

The following programs clean the data for the main analysis (the institution-level analysis).

Master_Create_IPEDS_New.do: This program creates the cleaned IPEDS data for the main analysis. The resulting dataset is ipeds_cleaned_final_new.dta. The program: (1) cleans and merges the six IPEDS files on enrollment, graduation rates, tuition, faculty, finances, and calendar system, and (2) generates relative time indicators (pre- and post-semester adoption) for the event studies.

Master_Create_IPEDS_New.do calls in the following sub-programs:

- **directorycreate1_2018_new.do:**
  - This file cleans the years 1987-2018 of directory files by calling in the sub-programs directory1987.do-directory2018.do and merge all the years to create directorymaster1_2018_new.dta.
- **facultycreate1_2018_new.do:** 1990-2018

- This file cleans the years 1990-2018 of faculty files by calling in the sub-programs faculty1990.do- faculty2018.do and merge all the years to create facultymaster1_2018_new.

- **gradcreate1_2018_new.do:** 1991-2012
  - This file cleans the years 1991-2012 of graduation files by calling in the sub-programs grad1991.do-grad2012.do and merge all the years to create gradmaster1_2018_new.dta.

- **institutioncreate1_2018_new.do:** 1986-2018
  - This file cleans the years 1986-2018 of institution files by calling in the sub-programs institution1986.do-institution2018.do and merge all the years to create institutionmaster1_2018_new.dta.

- **revenuecreate1_2018_new.do:**
  - This file cleans the years 1991-2018 of the cost and revenue files by calling in the sub-programs publicrevenues1997.do-publicrevenues2018.do, privaterevenues1997.do-privaterevenues2018.do, costs1991.do-costs1996.do, revenues1991.do-revenues1996.do. and merges all the years to create revenuesmaster1_2018_new.dta.

- **tuitioncreate1_2018_new.do:** 1990-2018
  - This file cleans the years 1990-2018 of tuition files by calling in the sub-programs tuition1990.do- tuition2018.do and merge all the years to create tuitionmaster1_2018_new.dta.

The following programs produce the results for the main analysis (institution-level analysis).

- **IPEDS_Analysis_Tables.do:** This generates:
  - Table 1, Output files: table_1.text
  - Table 2, Output files: table_2.text; table_2_means.text
  - Table 3, Output files: table_3a.text, table_3b.text

- **IPEDS_Analysis_Figures_New.do:** This generates:
  - Figure 1, Output files: figure_1_new.pdf
  - Figure 2, Output files: figure_2a_new.pdf, figure_2b_new.pdf