



Demystifying IPEDS

EWA Higher Ed Seminar



Photo by stein egil liland:



Major Systems

We can find data in various systems, both federal and state. Often it depends on what question you're trying to answer which tool will be the best and quickest.

Note: A plug for understanding your state data platforms as well as things like where to grab the Common Data Set response from the colleges you care about.

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

College Scorecard

Debt • Net Price • Salary Outcomes

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Navigator

Need that get single fact or number? Fact checking something basic?

<https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

IPEDS

A potpourri

Enrollment • Salaries • Faculty
Stats • Financial Aid • Outcomes
Rates



Over Time

TODAY'S PLAN

Quick Recap of IPEDS

Go over the basics of extracting data

Throw that into a spreadsheet

Do a tiny bit of analysis that might help us for a story



What is IPEDS?

An interrelated set of surveys conducted by the U.S. Department of Education annually of every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid program

[All the components and their collection schedule.](#)

[Media Primer from the department.](#)



12-month Enrollment (E12)



Academic Libraries (AL)



Admissions (ADM)



Completions (C)



Fall Enrollment (EF)



Finance (F)



Graduation Rates (GR)



Graduation Rates 200% (GR200)



Human Resources (HR)



Institutional Characteristics (IC)



Outcome Measures (OM)



Student Financial Aid (SFA)



What's Great About It?

- 1 Comprehensive
- 2 Consistent (ish)
- 3 Longitudinal

What's Not So Great?

- 1 Self-Reported
- 2 Complicated
- 3 Obscure ... until you publish

Trend Generator

A quick plug for a tool that is way easier than digging into the full data set and often gets you the quick stat you may need.

[The IPEDS Trend Generator.](#)



Change question ▾



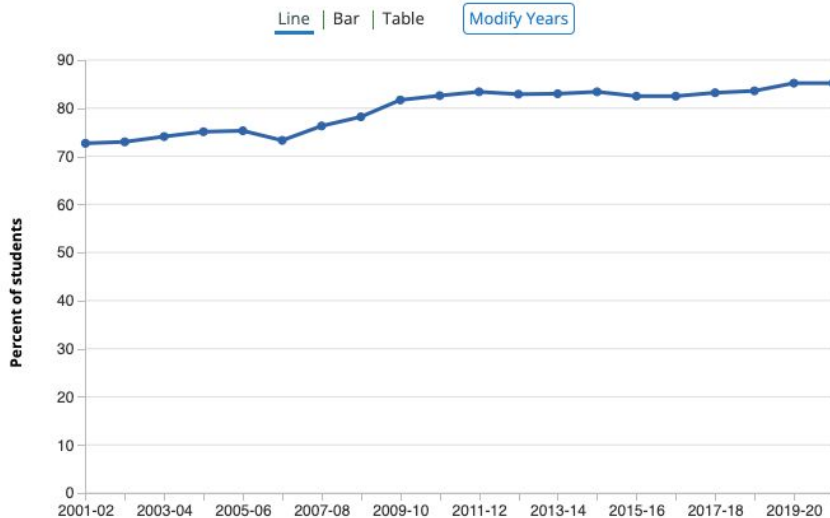
Financial Aid: What is the percent of full-time, first-time students awarded financial aid?

[BUILD TABLE](#)

**In year 2020-21, the percent of full-time, first-students receiving any financial aid was 85.2%.
This is based on 5,573 institutions.**

[LIMIT RESULTS](#)

Percent of full-time, first-time students receiving financial aid





Getting Raw Data on Institutions

Select Institutions

You can do this by name, by ID number, by uploading a file, or by filtering on certain characteristics.



1

Select Variables

This is where things can get complicated. Have a plan before you start clicking around.



2

Output the Data

You've got a couple of options, depending on what you're planning on doing next.



3



Type of question IPEDS could help you answer

How has the gender split among undergraduates shifted in the last generation at colleges in my city?



Type of question IPEDS could help you answer

Do low-income students graduate at the same rate as other students at my state's public universities?



Type of question IPEDS could help you answer

In my city, what do all the residential colleges say is the cost of room and board — and has that kept pace with inflation since 2010?



Type of question IPEDS could help you answer

Does the big university I cover have more tenured female professors than the three places it thinks of as its competitors?



Get in touch

More questions? Need some help?

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