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*Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Millersville, PA*



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>.

October 01, 2008

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/ipeds/pas/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.

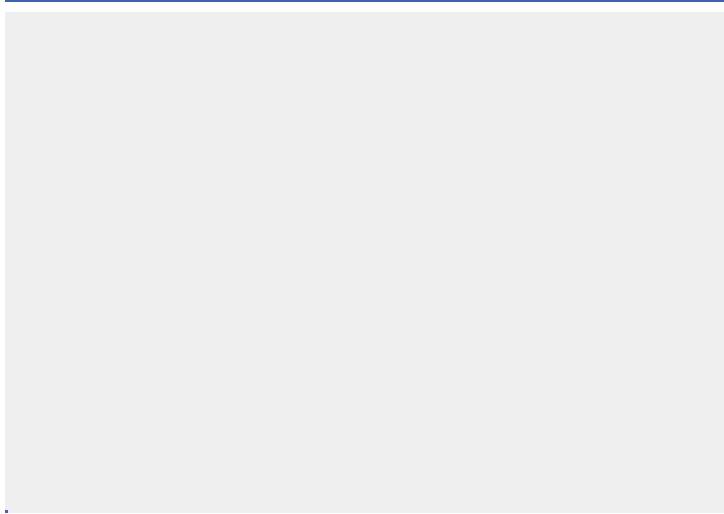
Best regards,



Elise S. Miller
IPEDS Program Director



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Using some of your institution's characteristics, a group of comparison institutions was selected for you. The characteristics include Carnegie Classification of Masters Colleges and Universities (larger programs), public and enrollment of a similar size. This comparison group includes the following 32 institutions:

- ▶ Arkansas State University-Main Campus (State University, AR)
- ▶ Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg, PA)
- ▶ Bridgewater State College (Bridgewater, MA)
- ▶ California State University-Bakersfield (Bakersfield, CA)
- ▶ Central Connecticut State University (New Britain, CT)
- ▶ CUNY College of Staten Island (Staten Island, NY)
- ▶ CUNY Lehman College (Bronx, NY)
- ▶ Kutztown University of Pennsylvania (Kutztown, PA)
- ▶ Lamar University (Beaumont, TX)
- ▶ Murray State University (Murray, KY)
- ▶ Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago, IL)
- ▶ Northern Michigan University (Marquette, MI)
- ▶ Northwestern State University of Louisiana (Natchitoches, LA)
- ▶ Radford University (Radford, VA)
- ▶ Rowan University (Glassboro, NJ)
- ▶ Saginaw Valley State University (University Center, MI)
- ▶ Salem State College (Salem, MA)
- ▶ Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Slippery Rock, PA)
- ▶ Sonoma State University (Rohnert Park, CA)
- ▶ Southeast Missouri State University (Cape Girardeau, MO)
- ▶ Southern University and A & M College (Baton Rouge, LA)
- ▶ Tarleton State University (Stephenville, TX)
- ▶ Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN)
- ▶ The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (Chattanooga, TN)
- ▶ University of Central Missouri (Warrensburg, MO)
- ▶ University of Louisiana at Monroe (Monroe, LA)
- ▶ University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth (North Dartmouth, MA)
- ▶ University of West Georgia (Carrollton, GA)
- ▶ University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (La Crosse, WI)
- ▶ University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (Whitewater, WI)
- ▶ Valdosta State University (Valdosta, GA)
- ▶ William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)

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The statistics and indicators in this report are based on data supplied by institutions to IPEDS during the 2007-08 survey year. Once the data submissions were locked by the institution's keyholder (and others), they were reviewed by the Help Desk and migrated to the IPEDS Peer Analysis System. Response rates for 2007-08 exceeded 99 percent for most surveys. Detailed response tables are included in the appendices to the IPEDS First Looks. See <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds> under "publications."

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Comparison group data are included to provide a context for interpreting your institution's statistics. If your institution did not define a Custom Comparison Group for this report by June 30, 2008, NCES selected a comparison group for you based on the institutional characteristics detailed immediately above the listing of the comparison group institutions. (If the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education was used as an institutional characteristic in the definition of a comparison group, the 2005 Basic version was used.) The comparison group used in this report may not reflect your institution's peer group or you may wish to compare your institution to multiple groups of institutions. The Executive Peer Tool (ExPT) (see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipedspas/expt>) can be used to produce the figures in this report for different groups of institutions.

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The value for the focus institution is compared to the median value for the comparison group for each statistic included in the figure. If more than one statistic is presented in a figure, the median values are determined separately for each indicator or statistic. Where percent distributions are presented, median values may not add to 100 percent. Through the ExPT, users have access to all of the data used to create the figures included in this report.

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If a statistic is not reported for your institution, the omission indicates that the statistic is not relevant to your institution and the data were not collected.

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All IPEDS data are subject to imputation for nonresponse—both total (institutional) nonresponse and partial (item) nonresponse. Imputed values are included for both your institution and any institutions in your comparison group. For example, if an institution in your comparison group did not complete the Fall Enrollment component, NCES imputed the data for that institution AND the imputed data were used in determining the median values for each comparison group statistic.

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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.

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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

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.

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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 grants 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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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