

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2019-20 to 2021-22

Appendix D: Directed Questions

OMB No. 1850-0582 v.24

Submitted by:

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March 2019
revised June 2019

Introduction

This document presents specific topics for which NCES would like to obtain input from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data submitters and stakeholders. Please note that in addition to these specific questions, public comments are encouraged on all of the proposed changes.

Duplicative or Similar Federally Reported Data

NCES would like to explore opportunities to decrease the overall reporting burden for institutions that report to the annual IPEDS survey. While NCES is mandated to collect and disseminate data at all levels of postsecondary education, we are interested in learning more about places your institution is reporting similar or duplicative information to other federal agencies, offices, or programs. Based on initial input from the field, NCES is focusing our questions on two IPEDS survey components: Finance and Human Resources. We are also interested in ways that the information reported for the Student Financial Aid component may be similar or duplicative to information reported directly to Federal Student Aid or the Veterans' Administration. To help NCES investigate possible partnerships with other agencies, offices, or programs with the goal of reducing overall institution reporting burden, we seek your assistance in providing the following information:

Part 1: Finance survey component

- a. Identify any federal agency(ies), office(s), or program(s) to which you are reporting similar or duplicative data.
- b. Provide the name of any collection(s)/survey(s)/program(s) to which you are providing the similar or duplicative data.
- c. Provide the sections or items from the IPEDS Finance survey component that are similar to the other agency/office/program collection(s).

Part 2: Human Resources survey component

- a. Identify any federal agency(ies), office(s), or program(s) to which you are reporting similar or duplicative data.
- b. Provide the name of any collection(s)/survey(s)/program(s) to which you are providing the similar or duplicative data.
- c. Provide the sections or items from the IPEDS Human Resources survey component that are similar to the other agency/office/program collection(s).

Part 3: Student Financial Aid survey component

- a. Identify any federal agency(ies), office(s), or program(s) to which you are reporting similar or duplicative data.
- b. Provide the name of any collection(s)/survey(s)/program(s) to which you are providing the similar or duplicative data.
- c. Provide the sections or items from the IPEDS Human Resources survey component that are similar to the other agency/office/program collection(s).

Part 4: Other areas of duplication

Are there other reports your institution makes to the federal government that collect the same or much of the same data that are collected by IPEDS? If so, please provide information about where you are reporting duplicative data.

Clarification for the term ‘Recognized Postsecondary Credential’

NCES is replacing the term ‘formal award’ with the term ‘recognized postsecondary credential’. The new term more accurately reflects current law, as well as terminology used by the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA).

NCES received multiple comments during the 60-day comment period that expressed concern that the definition that is proposed, which is based on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA), may exclude certain programs that enroll students with intellectual disabilities from being reported to the IPEDS and also limit their inclusion in other NCES surveys.

NCES wants to ensure that these students are included in the IPEDS and other NCES surveys, while still using a more appropriate and measurable term that is in line with the law and other offices within the Department such as FSA. NCES is proposing a change to the definition and an FAQ to help ensure that students are included. To help NCES refine this new term and provide institutions with appropriate guidance, we seek your comment on the changes below.

Part 1 – Definition of ‘recognized postsecondary credential’

Definition proposed during 60-day comment period:

A recognized postsecondary credential is awarded in recognition of an individual’s attainment of measurable technical or industry/occupational skills necessary to obtain employment or advance within an industry/occupation. These technical or industry/occupational skills generally are based on standards developed or endorsed by employers or industry associations. This definition is drawn from Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Definition being proposed during 30-day comment period:

A recognized postsecondary credential includes any credential that is received after completion of a program that is eligible for Title IV federal student aid or that is awarded in recognition of an individual’s attainment of measurable technical or industry/occupational skills necessary to obtain employment or advance within an industry/occupation. These technical or industry/occupational skills generally are based on standards developed or endorsed by employers or industry associations. ~~This definition is drawn from Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).~~

Part 2 – Addition of a general FAQ related to the term ‘recognized postsecondary credential’

Q: What types of credentials should be included in IPEDS?

A: Institutions are required to report both Title IV eligible and non-Title IV eligible degrees, certificates, and other recognized postsecondary credentials to the IPEDS.

- Any credential that is received after completion of a program that is eligible for Title IV federal student aid needs to be included in IPEDS reporting.
- Credentials that are awarded to recognize an individual’s attainment of measurable technical or industry/occupational skills necessary to obtain employment or advance within an industry/occupation.