

## Common Data Set Definitions

Items preceded by an asterisk (\*) represent definitions agreed to among publishers which do not appear on the CDS document but may be present on individual publishers' surveys.

Additional guidance for some terms, particularly those common with the IPEDS survey, may be found [here](https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/public/glossary):  
<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/public/glossary>

Plan under which each student is assigned to a faculty member or a trained adviser, who, through regular meetings, helps the student plan and implement immediate and long-term academic and vocational goals.

Completion of a college program of study in fewer than the usual number of years, most often by attending summer sessions and carrying extra courses during the regular academic term

Applicant who is offered admission to a degree-granting program at your institution.

Admission assistance, support, orientation, and other services expressly for adults who have started college for the first time, or who are re-entering after a lapse of a few years.

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and maintaining tribal affiliation or community attachment.

An individual who has fulfilled the institution's requirements to be considered for admission (including payment or waiving of the application fee, if any) and who has been notified of one of the following actions: admission, nonadmission, placement on waiting list, or application withdrawn (by applicant or institution).

That amount of money that an institution charges for processing a student's application for acceptance. This amount is creditable toward tuition and required fees, nor is it refundable if the student is not admitted to the institution.

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

An award that normally requires at least two but less than four years of full-time equivalent college work.

An award (baccalaureate or equivalent degree, as determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education) that normally requires at least four years but more than five years of full-time equivalent college-level work. This includes ALL bachelor's degrees conferred in a five-year cooperative (work-study plan) program. (A cooperative plan provides for alternate class attendance and employment in business, industry, or government; thus, it allows students to combine actual work experience with their college studies.) Also, it includes bachelor's degrees in which the normal 0(r)-4.4 (m) 007 TDo c-prmn eamn sr c-07 .3 (i)-104TDo c-mn kxn e c(r)-4.4 (0(r)-4p c)11 (-4 (m) e-10.7 edr)-4.4 ( )JT-5. TDn th-mn ee students (e.g., engineering or art majors), unless they constitute the majority of students at your institution.



: A doctor's degree that is conferred upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice. The degree is awarded after a period of study such that the total time to the degree, including both pre-professional and professional preparation, equals at least six full-time equivalent academic years. Some of these degrees were formerly classified as "first-professional" and may include: Chiropractic (D.C. or D.C.M.); Dentistry (D.D.S. or D.M.D.); Law (L.L.B. or J.D.); Medicine (M.D.); Optometry (O.D.); Osteopathic Medicine (D.O); Pharmacy (Pharm.D.); Podiatry (D.P.M., Pod.D., D.P.); or, Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.), and others, as designated by the awarding institution.

: A doctor's degree that does not meet the definition of a doctor's degree - research/scholarship or a doctor's degree - professional practice.

Program in which students may complete two undergraduate programs of study simultaneously.

A program through which high school students may enroll in college courses while still enrolled in high school. Students are not required to apply for admission to the college in order to participate.

An admission plan that allows students to apply and be notified of an admission decision well in advance of the regular notification dates. If admitted, the candidate is not committed to enroll; the student may reply to the offer under the college's regular reply policy.

A policy under which students who have not completed high school are admitted and enroll full time in college, usually after completion of their junior year.

A plan that permits students to apply and be notified of an admission decision (and financial aid offer if applicable) well in advance of the regular notification date. Applicants agree to accept an offer of admission and, if admitted, to withdraw their applications from other colleges. There are three possible decisions for early decision applicants: admitted, denied, or not admitted but forwarded for consideration with the regular applicant pool, without prejudice.

A course of study designed specifically for students whose native language is not English.

Any arrangement between a student and a college that permits study for a semester or more at another college without extending the amount of time required for a degree.

Free or low cost on-campus primary and preventive health care available to students.

A document certifying the successful completion of a prescribed secondary school program of studies, or the attainment of satisfactory scores on the Tests of General Educational Development (GED), or another state-specified examination.

A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Any special program for very able students offering the opportunity for educational enrichment, independent study, acceleration, or some combination of these.

Academic work chosen or designed by the student with the approval of the department concerned, under an instructor's supervision, and usually undertaken outside of the regular classroom structure.

The tuition charged by institutions to those students who meet the state's or institution's residency requirements.

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Student groups that facilitate cultural dialogue, support a diverse campus, assist international students in acclimation and creating a social network.

Any short-term, supervised work experience usually related to a student's major field, for which the student earns academic credit. The work can be full- or part-time, on- or off-campus, paid or unpaid.

Center offering assistance through tutors, workshops, computer programs, or audiovisual equipment in reading, writing, math, and skills such as taking notes, managing time, taking tests.

Free or low cost legal advice for a range of issues (personal and other).

Program in which a student earns undergraduate degrees in two separate fields, one in a

A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who has been admitted as a legal immigrant for the purpose of obtaining permanent resident status (and who holds either a registration card [Form I-551 or I-151], a Temporary Resident Card [Form I-688], or an Arrival-Departure Record [Form I-94] with a notation that conveys legal immigrant status, such as Section 207 Refugee, Section 208 Asylee, Conditional Entrant Parolee or Cuban-Haitian).

: One-on-one or group counseling with trained professionals for students who want to explore personal, educational, or vocational issues.

An award that requires completion of an organized program of study requiring 18 credit hours beyond the bachelor's; designed for persons who have completed a baccalaureate degree but do not meet the requirements of academic degrees carrying the title of master.

An award that requires completion of an organized program of study of 24 credit hours beyond the master's degree but does not meet the requirements of academic degrees at the doctoral level.

Includes the following three IPEDS definitions for postsecondary awards, certificates, and diplomas of varying durations and credit/contact/clock hour requirements:

***Less Than 1 Academic Year*** Requires completion of an organized program of study at the postsecondary level (below the baccalaureate degree) in less than 1 academic year (2 semesters or 3 quarters) or in less than 900 clock hours by a student enrolled full-time.

One-on-one or group counseling with trained professionals for students who want to explore religious problems or issues.

Instructional courses designed for students deficient in the general competencies necessary for a regular postsecondary curriculum and educational setting.

Fixed sum charged to students for items not covered by tuition and required of such a large proportion of



