

DATA DICTIONARY



This guide serves as a reference for terms encountered in **OSHE's NJ College & University Consumer Tool**. The dashboard was created in accordance with the Parent Student Consumer Information Act.

NOTE: Empty or null sections of the dashboard elements mean that the institution either did not enter any data, or the relevant student population was so small that it had to be redacted.

The Parent Student Consumer Information Act

This Act is issued by the New Jersey State Legislature and can be found at this website:
<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2020/S3683/bill-text?f=PL21&n=349>

It is intended to provide more information to New Jersey residents about the enrollment, graduation, and financial trends of colleges and universities. Most of the information is recorded at or before the 2022-2023 academic year. While different higher education institutions have their own definitions of the terms that make up this unit of time, the general pattern is the fall of the previous year through the summer of the subsequent year. For example, the 2022-2023 academic year includes the fall 2022, winter/spring 2023, and summer 2023 terms.

Graduation Rates for 2-year and 4-year Degrees

The graduation rate for first time, full-time undergraduate students is reported by students' race, ethnicity, and gender. Racial and ethnic identities are defined using the same guidelines as the federal Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Store (IPEDS), which can be found at <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-definitions>

The graduate rate percentages in this table show the graduates as a percentage of the initial cohort of students who enrolled in the fall 2016 term for bachelor's degrees, or the fall 2019 term for associate's degrees. Only students who enrolled for the first time at a given college or university with a full-time course load (e.g., first time, full-time students) are included. Of this initial group of students, the 100% graduation rates show the percent who earned an associate's degree within two years, or a bachelor's degree within four years. The 150% graduation rates show the percent of the incoming student cohort who earned an associate's degree within three years or a bachelor's degree within six years.

The graduates in the 100% total are also counted as part of the 150% total. For example, if 25% of a given cohort of bachelor's degree-seeking students graduates within four years, they are also included in the percentage of students who graduate within six years. In other words, the 150% graduation rate will always be larger than the 100% graduation rate for each student population.

Transfer Out Rates

This table shows the proportion of first time, full-time degree-seeking students who first enrolled in the fall 2021 term and who enrolled in another college or university before the fall 2022 term. The Total Transfer Out Rate shows this percentage for all students. The following graph shows the transfer rates for students according to their state residency: living in the State of New Jersey, or "in-state," or having a permanent address outside of New Jersey, or "out of state."

The two bars show the percentage of all students who transferred to a two-year degree-granting higher education institution, and the percentage of all students who transferred to a four-year degree-granting institution. Added together, these percentages represent the total transfer rate for students in these state residency groups. The total number of transfers to two and four-year degree institutions may not match the total number of transfer outs; this information is not available if an institution does not track where its transfer outs go on to attend.

Cost of Attendance

The cost of attendance is listed for first time, full-time undergraduate students as of the 2022-2023 academic year. The rows show different expense categories, including tuition and fees, living expenses, and books and supplies. The Student Residency Selector filter can be used to identify the costs for different student groups according to whether they live on or off campus, and whether their permanent residency is within the college or university's district, state, or elsewhere. For students who live off campus with their families, living expenses may not be calculated.

Cost Calculator Site

This link shows where the selected higher education institution has set up a website allowing prospective students or their parents to determine the total cost of attendance according to multiple factors.

Institutional Aid Summary Site

This link shows information about financial aid provided directly through the selected higher education institution. Institutions provided the URL for their websites that detail all the types of financial assistance they offer to students, including institutional support for student athletes.

Institutional Financial Aid Received

This table allows users to look up the financial aid offered directly by the higher education institution to its students. Because some institutional aid programs may be offered exclusively to student athletes, this information can be filtered for student athletes and student non-athletes. For both groups, this table shows the percent of undergraduate students enrolled full-time in the 2022-2023 academic year who received institutional aid. The average amount of institutional aid received by all undergraduate students enrolled full-time in the 2022-2023 academic year is also reported by comparing the amount of aid awarded to each student. For institutions that provide financial aid to student athletes, the average amount of athletic aid per student is also reported. All full-time undergraduate students enrolled at any point in the 2022-2023 academic year are included when deriving these average aid values on a per-student basis.

Faculty/Course Section Totals

This chart shows the percent value of all employed instructional staff members ("Employed Faculty %") and the percent of all course sections taught as of the fall 2022 term ("Course Sections Taught By %"). The fall term was chosen because higher education institutions use it to identify the total instructional staff for the IPEDS Human Resources survey. These percentages are divided across four major faculty employment categories. These categories were developed to include all personnel who could be designated faculty status according to their higher education institution, including administrative staff such as presidents, provosts, and librarians. Instructional staff status is defined by whether an employee has primary instruction or instruction combined with research and/or public service, as specified in the IPEDS Human Resources survey:

1. Full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty/instructional staff: Full-time staff members with faculty and instructional staff status. They are also tenured or eligible for tenure according to institutional guidelines.
2. Full-time non-tenure-track faculty/instructional staff: Full-time staff members with faculty and instructional staff status who are not eligible for tenure according to institutional guidelines.
3. Part-time faculty/instructional staff: Part-time staff members with faculty status. Instructional staff status may be held by these employees, but is not required. Employees who serve in this role while holding administrative duties may also be included here.
4. Other: Teaching assistants and non-faculty staff who served in instructional roles.

Median Debt Upon Leaving

These tables show the median amount of per-student loan debt after graduation. Loan debt is defined to include the total principal of all federal, state, institutional, and/or private loans used by students for their undergraduate education. The total values for all applicable students are used to calculate the median loan debt amount, or the expected middle amount of debt out of all student borrowers.

The cohorts of students include those who first enrolled as full-time students in the fall 2019 term seeking an associate's degree, or those who first enrolled as full-time students in the fall 2016 term seeking a bachelor's degree. The students are compared by several additional factors. The first is whether the student lived on-campus or commuted at the start of their studies. The second is time to graduation. This variable is represented in columns in the displayed table, showing graduates who earned a degree within 100% of the expected time (two years for an associate's degree and four years for a bachelor's degree), those who earned a degree within 150% of the expected time (three years for an associate's degree and six years for a bachelor's degree), and those who left their higher education institution without a degree by transferring out or withdrawing. Finally, these median values are calculated by different student populations.

The drop down menu on the right of the tables can be used to identify different student groups to compare their median debt. These groups include race and ethnicity as defined by IPEDS, sex, age when first enrolled at the higher education institution, and total family income. First-generation status, defined by whether the graduate had a parent or guardian who earned a bachelor's degree, is also included. Not all higher education institutions had access to loan data across all of these student identity variables, so some sections of this chart will be blank.

Supplemental Loan Debt Holders

These tables show the number of students who hold a form of supplemental loan debt, or any debt from a loan intended to cover the difference between the cost of attendance and other sources of funds, including other financial aid sources. These totals are derived from all students enrolled at any point in the 2022-2023 financial aid year, as defined by the selected higher education institution. The percentages show the proportion of these students with some form of supplemental loan debt.

The tables are divided by students' intended degree level (undergraduate, masters, and doctoral) and enrollment status as of the initial term of the selected aid year (full-time or part-time). In addition, the drop down menu can be used to select different student populations, which changes the student totals and percentages accordingly. Not all institutions could report this information for all student demographic identity variables, so some sections of this chart will be blank.

