

Technical Review Panel No. 29 Improvements to the Completions Survey

Final Actions

On December 8 and 9, 2009, RTI International, the contractor for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) web-based data collection system, convened a meeting of the IPEDS Technical Review Panel (TRP) in Washington, DC. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit further input from the postsecondary education community on improvements to the Completions survey component. The panel consisted of 45 individuals representing the federal government, state governments, institutions, data users, association representatives, and others. The TRP discussed ways that the data collected through the Completions component could be improved for future data collection years.

A summary of the TRP's suggestions was posted to the web for public comment following the meeting and left open for 30 days. The comment period closed on February 15, 2010. Comments were received from four interested parties. Based on TRP discussions, public comments from interested parties, and RTI recommendations, NCES has taken the actions listed below.

Summary of Changes to the Completions Survey Component

- Clarified instructions to specify that institutions should report completions of credit awards only. (Implementation Year: 2011-12)
- Added items to collect the unduplicated count of students who earned degrees or certificates, by race/ethnicity and gender. (Implementation Year: 2012-13 and Preview Year: 2011-12)
- Added items to collect the total number of students who earned degrees or certificates by (1) gender; (2) race/ethnicity, and (3) age*, for the following 7 award levels:
 - Less than 1-year certificate
 - At least 1- but less than 4-year certificate
 - Associate's degree
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Master's degree
 - Doctor's degree
 - Post-baccalaureate and Post-master's certificates

(Implementation Year: 2012-13 and Preview Year: 2011-12)

** Age categories are: under 18; 18-24; 25-39; 40 and above; and age unknown.*