

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Enrollment						
	Degree Program and Progress						
1	Degree Program	Undergraduate, non-degree program Undergraduate certificate or diploma Associate's degree program Bachelor's degree program Graduate, not in a degree program Post-baccalaureate certificate program Master's degree program Post-master's certificate Doctoral degree – research/scholarship Doctoral degree – professional practice Doctoral degree – other	Type of degree program enrolled during study year. (NPSAS: specified as "during last term enrolled;" Longitudinal: specified as "highest degree program enrolled over entire academic year")	Enrollment in Postsecondary Award type	01 - Postsecondary award, certificate, or diploma of less than 1 academic year 02 - Postsecondary award, certificate, or diploma of at least 1 but less than 2 academic years 03 - Associate's Degree 04 - Postsecondary award, certificate, or diploma of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years 05 - Bachelor's Degree 06 - Postbaccalaureate Certificate 07 - Master's Degree 08 - Post-Master's Certificate 17 - Doctor's Degree-Research/Scholarship 18 - Doctor's Degree-Professional Practice 19 - Doctor's Degree-Other	An indicator of the award level in which the person is currently enrolled.	Combined with other NCES sample survey data elements (types of associate’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees), this NCES sample survey data element provides much more detail than the associated CEDS data element (which is basically a replication of IPEDS, we believe). In addition, the CEDS data element does not allow for students that are not enrolled in any award-conferring program but does discriminate a bit among subbaccalaureate certificate programs. If NCES’s standardized administrative record collection included the number of credits required to complete subbaccalaureate certificate programs (in addition to the program types and clock hours questions already asked), its data elements would permit creation of an exhaustive and very detailed derived variable(s). Such a scheme might be something that CEDS would like to emulate.
2	Associate’s Type <i>(Only applicable if degree program is Associate's)</i>	AA, AS, general education, transfer program AA, AS, occupational or technical program	If enrolled in associates degree program (degree type) during study year, type of associates degree program.				
3	Master’s Type <i>(Only applicable if degree program is Master's)</i>	Master of Science (MS) Master of Arts (MA) Master of Education (MEd) or Teaching (MAT) Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Public Administration (MPA) Master of Social Work (MSW) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Master of Public Health (MPH) Master of Divinity (MDiv) Other master's degree program not listed	If enrolled in masters degree program (degree type) during study year, type of masters degree program.				<div>Key <div></div> No comparable variable</div>

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
4	Doctoral Type <i>(Only applicable if degree program is Doctoral)</i>	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Doctor of Education (EdD) Doctor of Science or Engineering Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Doctor of Business or Public Administration (DBA, DPA) Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) Doctor of Theology (ThD) Law (JD, LLB) Medicine or Osteopathic Medicine (MD, DO) Dentistry (DDS, DMD) Chiropractic (DC, DCM) Pharmacy (PharmD) Optometry (OD) Podiatry (DPM, DP, PodD) Veterinary medicine (DVM)					
5	Class Level	1st Year/Freshman 2nd Year/Sophomore 3rd Year/Junior 4th Year/Senior 5th Year or Higher Undergraduate Undergraduate (unclassified) Student with advanced degree taking undergraduate courses 1st Year Graduate 2nd Year Graduate 3rd Year Graduate Beyond 3rd Year Graduate	Class level during study year. (NPSAS: specified as "during last term enrolled;" Longitudinal: specified as "highest class level over entire academic year")				
6	Expected to complete degree requirements by [6/30/??] ?	Does not expect to complete by 6/30/20?? Yes, expects to complete by 6/30/20??	Indicates whether the student expected to have completed the requirements for their current degree program on or before June 30, [study year]. Completion of the requirements means all required classes have been taken and passed and sufficient credit or clock hours have been earned. Some students may not yet have been awarded their degree or certificate by the institution, even though the requirements have been completed.				

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	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
7	Cumulative (unweighted) GPA		Institutions can use 4 point scale rounded to at least 2 decimal places or 100 point scale rounded to at least one decimal place.	Grade Point Average Cumulative		A measure of average performance in all courses taken by a person during his or her school career as determined for record-keeping purposes. This is obtained by dividing the total grade points received by the total number of credits attempted. This usually includes grade points received and credits attempted in his or her current school as well as those transferred from schools in which the person was previously enrolled.	NCES sample surveys specify two possible scales, CEDS specifies no scale. Both may want to consider adding an additional element for institutions to specify the scale used.
	Baccalaureate Degree (<i>Only applicable for graduate students</i>)						
8	Received baccalaureate degree?	No, has not received baccalaureate degree Yes, has received baccalaureate degree	For graduate students, indicates whether the student received a baccalaureate degree.	Academic Award Level Conferred	01 - Postsecondary award, certificate, or diploma of less than 1 academic year 02 - Postsecondary award, certificate, or diploma of at least 1 but less than 2 academic years 03 - Associate's Degree 04 - Postsecondary award, certificate, or diploma of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years 05 - Bachelor's Degree 06 - Postbaccalaureate Certificate 07 - Master's Degree 08 - Post-Master's Certificate 17 - Doctor's Degree-Research/Scholarship 18 - Doctor's Degree-Professional Practice 19 - Doctor's Degree-Other	An indicator of the category of award conferred by a college, university, or other postsecondary education institution as official recognition for the successful completion of a program of study.	Unlike NCES sample surveys data element, CEDS data element is not specific to graduate students and applied only to the reporting institution rather than degrees earned prior to enrollment at the prior institution.
9	Month Received (<i>mm</i>)		For graduate students who received a baccalaureate degree, the month in which the baccalaureate degree was received.	Academic Award Date		The year, month and day or year and month on which the academic award was conferred.	NCES sample surveys collect dates in two separate data elements to ensure consistency in date format.
10	Year Received (<i>yyyy</i>)		For graduate students who received a baccalaureate degree, the year in which the baccalaureate degree was received.				

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Major (<i>Only complete one</i>)						
11	CIP code		The 6 digit CIP Code of the student's major. CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) codes are used by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for field of study reporting, assessment, and tracking.	Classification of Instructional Program Code		A six-digit code in the form xx.xxxx that identifies instructional program specialties within educational institutions.	NCES sample surveys and CEDS are consistent.
12	Current Major		Major during study year.				
13	Undeclared	Yes No	Indicates whether the major is undeclared during the study year.				
	Initial Enrollment						
14	First Enrolled at this Institution Month (<i>mm</i>)		The month in which the student first ever enrolled at institution.	Entry Date into Postsecondary		The year, month and day on which a person entered and began to receive instructional services at a postsecondary institution for the first time after completing high school (or its equivalent).	NCES sample surveys collect dates in two separate data elements to ensure consistency in date format.
15	First Enrolled at this Institution Year (<i>yyyy</i>)		The year in which the student first ever enrolled at institution.				
16	First-time Beginning Student?	Yes No	An FTB is enrolled in college for the first time at this institution during NPSAS academic year, has not completed a postsecondary class at this or any other postsecondary institutions prior to first day of NPSAS academic year; and, with the exception of advanced placement (AP) or international baccalaureate (IB) credits and any other postsecondary credit earned prior to high school completion, did not transfer credits into this institution.	First Time Postsecondary Student	Yes No	A person who has no prior postsecondary experience attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level since completing high school (or its equivalent). This includes persons enrolled in academic or occupational programs. It also includes persons enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term, and persons who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school).	NCES sample surveys and CEDS are consistent.
17	Transferred Credits from Another Institution?	Yes No	Indicates whether the student transferred any credits from another postsecondary institution.				

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Number of Required Clock Hours <i>(Only applicable for clock hour programs)</i>						
18	For Program		The total length in clock/contact hours of the clock hour program in which the student is enrolled.	Program Length Hours; Program Length Hours Type	NA; Credit Contact	The normal length in credit/contact hours of a person's program as published in the institution's catalogue, website, or other official documents.; The type of hours (credit or contact) by which the normal length of a program of study is measured.	See comparison note in line 1 for suggested addition to NCES data elements: number of credits required to complete program, for subbaccalaureate certificate programs only.
19	Per Week		The number of hours (lab and classroom) required per week for the clock hour program in which the student is enrolled.				
	Tuition Charged <i>(Only applicable for enrollment from 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012)</i>						
20	Total Tuition and mandatory fees charged		The amount CHARGED for tuition (prior to any discounts or waivers) and mandatory fees (including out-of-district and out-of-state fees) for the period(s) in which the student was enrolled during the study year.	Comprehensive Fee		A single fixed amount of money charged by an institution that covers tuition, required fees, room, and board. For some institutions, this amount may also cover books and supplies.	The NCES sample surveys data element does not include room and board, whereas CEDS does and may also include books and supplies.
21	Residency for Tuition Purposes	InState - In-state OutOfState - Out-of-state	Indicates whether the student was classified as an in-state student or out-of-state student for tuition purposes.	Tuition Residency Type	InDistrict - In-district InState - In-state OutOfState - Out-of-state NoDifferential - No differential tuition based on residency	A person's residency status for tuition purposes.	NCES sample surveys data element does not specify "in-district" or "no differential," whereas CEDS data element does. NCES sample surveys may want to adopt CEDS options.

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	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Enrollment status & Number of hours enrolled per term						
22	[Term Name 1-12 (Start Date – End Date)]	01 - Full-time 02 - Less than full-time but at least half-time 03 - Less than half-time	<p>In NPSAS, Indicates whether the student was classified as full-time, less than full-time but at least half-time, or less than half-time for each period of enrollment during the study year.</p> <p>ELS FAFS collected enrollment intensity on annual basis, with categories full-time, less than full-time but always at least half-time, less than half-time, or some combination of these (mixed enrollment).</p> <p>For both NPSAS and FAFS, the definition of "full time" varies across institutions and may vary from definition used for financial aid purposes (generally 12+ credit hours). It might be worth asking institutions to define full time, especially in light of recent advocacy-driven research emphasizing that 12 credits per term is not sufficient to earn degrees "on time."</p> <p>In addition, some institutions enroll all students in exactly one course per brief term, which means 100% of students are nominally enrolled full time. In NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12, some institutions reported implausibly high percentages of students enrolled for 12 out of 12 months.</p>	Postsecondary Enrollment Status	01 - Full-time 02 - Less than full-time but at least half-time 03 - Less than half-time	An indication of the student's enrollment status for a particular term as defined by the institution	Neither NCES sample surveys nor CEDS define "full-time" or "half-time" for institutions. Should they?
23	Hours [Term 1-12]		The number of units for credit the student was enrolled for each period of enrollment during the study year. Institutions are asked to report credits in denomination used by institution (clock hours, credit hours, or course credits) without converting, even in cases such as institutions that award one credit per course.				

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	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Placement Tests						
24	[Placement Test 1-5]	ACT (Math, Reading, English, Writing) SAT (Math, Critical Reading, Writing) ACCUPLACER (Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, College-Level Math, Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, WritePlacer) ASSET (Numerical Skills, Elementary Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Geometry, Reading Skills, Writing Skills) COMPASS (Pre-Algebra, Algebra, College Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Reading, Writing Skills, Writing e-Write) Institution Developed Placement Test (Math, Reading or Writing) Other (Math 1-3, Reading 1-3)	The type of placement test taken by a student for remedial course placement. Institutions are instructed not to report on exams used solely for standard or advanced course placement.	Assessment type AND Assessment Academic Subject AND Assessment Purpose AND Assessment Title		The category of an assessment based on format and content; The description of the academic content or subject area (e.g., arts, mathematics, reading, or a foreign language) being evaluated; The reason for which an assessment is designed or delivered; The title or name of the assessment.	Unlike CEDS, NCES sample surveys do not collect information on placement tests used for purposes other than remedial course placement.
25	[Placement Test 1-5] Month (mm)		The month a placement test was taken by a student for remedial course placement.				
26	[Placement Test 1-5] Year (yyyy)		The year a placement test was taken by a student for remedial course placement.				
27	[Placement Test 1-5] Score		The score on a placement test taken by a student for remedial course placement.	Assessment Subtest Result Score Value		A meaningful raw score, derived score, or statistical expression of the performance of a person on an assessment. The type of result is indicated by the Metric Type element. The results can be expressed as a number, percentile, range, level, etc. The score relates to all scored items or a sub test scoring one aspect of performance on the test. This value may or may not correspond to one or more Performance Levels.	NCES sample surveys data element does not specify the type of score, whereas CEDS includes additional data element that indicates the metric type. NCES sample surveys may want to conform to CEDS to yield more useful data.

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Aid Awarded						
	Budget						
28	Local residence	On-campus or school-owned housing Off-campus without parents Off-campus with parents	The student's residency arrangement as indicated by the institution for student budget purposes.	Campus Residency Type	OnCampus - On campus OffCampusWFamily - Off campus, with family OffCampusWOFamily - Off campus, without family Unknown - Unknown	A person's residency arrangement as defined in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).	NCES sample surveys and CEDS are consistent.
29	Tuition/fees		The estimated cost of tuition and required fees for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Tuition - Published		The published tuition for first time, full-time undergraduate students (lower of in-district or in-state for public institutions). Tuition may be charged per term, per course, per credit or per program.	NCES sample surveys collect actual tuition and fees CHARGED (line 20 above), and this data element, BUDGETED tuition and fees. The CEDS data element (same in lines 20 and 29) do not. In addition, for all budget data elements, NCES sample surveys ask for individual-student-level data, whereas CEDS specifies averages or other aggregations at the institution level.
30	Books/supplies		The estimated cost of books/supplies for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Books and supplies		The average cost for books and supplies for a typical student for an entire academic year (or program). Does not include unusual costs for special groups of students (e.g., engineering or art majors) unless they constitute the majority of students at an institution.	For all budget data elements, NCES sample surveys ask for individual-student-level data, whereas CEDS specifies averages or other aggregations at the institution level.
31	Room and board		The estimated cost of room and board for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Room Charges; Board Charges		The charges assessed students for an academic year for the maximum meal plan available.; The charges for an academic year for rooming accommodations for a typical student sharing a room with one other student.	NCES sample surveys data element aggregates room and board, CEDS collects separate estimates. For all budget data elements, NCES sample surveys ask for individual-student-level data, whereas CEDS specifies averages or other aggregations at the institution level.

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	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
32	Health insurance		The estimated cost of health insurance for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Other Student Expenses		The amount of money (estimated by the financial aid office) needed by a person to cover expenses such as laundry, transportation, and entertainment.	Whereas NCES data elements disaggregate health insurance, transportation, and computer technology from other student expenses, CEDS aggregates them into one estimate. For all budget data elements, NCES sample surveys ask for individual-student-level data, whereas CEDS specifies averages or other aggregations at the institution level.
33	Transportation		The estimated cost of transportation for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
34	Computer technology		The estimated cost of computer technology for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
35	All other expenses		The estimated cost of any other expenses for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
36	Total cost of attendance		The estimated total cost of attendance for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Price of Attendance		The total amount institutions estimate that undergraduate-level full-time, first-time degree-seeking students will pay to attend before financial aid is considered. This price includes tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, and certain other designated expenses such as transportation. These estimates are the average amounts used by the financial aid office to determine a student’s financial aid.	For all budget data elements, NCES sample surveys ask for individual-student-level data, whereas CEDS specifies averages or other aggregations at the institution level.
37	Budget period	Full-time, full-year Full-time, one term Part-time, full-year Part-time, one term Other	The enrollment status and period during the study year for which reported student budget amounts apply.				

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	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Federal Aid						
38	Pell grant		The whole dollar amounts of federal financial aid awarded to the student within each program for the study year.	Financial Aid Award Type; Financial Aid Award Amount	PellGrants - Pell grants OtherFederalGrants - Other federal grants FederalScholarships - Federal scholarships FederalSubsidizedLoans - Federal subsidized loans FederalUnsubsidizedLoans - Federal unsubsidized loans ParentPLUSLoans - Parent PLUS loans FederalWorkStudy - Federal work study	The classification of financial aid awarded to a person for the academic term/year.; The amount of financial aid awarded to a person for the term/year.	Both NCES sample surveys and CEDS collect amounts for the following specific federal aid programs: Pell grants, Parent PLUS loans, and federal work study. NCES sample surveys also collect amounts for the following additional federal programs: Subsidized and Unsubsidized Direct (Stafford) loans, Graduate PLUS loans, Perkins loans, federal health professions loans, federal health professions disadvantaged loans; TEACH grants, SEOG grants, Iraq and Afghanistan Service grants; and veterans' benefits. In CEDS, aid received through these programs would be reported in the aggregated categories of other federal grants and the federal subsidized/unsubsidized loan aggregations. Federal scholarships (Robert C. Byrd Scholarships) have not been funded since FY2010.
39	Subsidized Stafford/Direct Loan						
40	Unsubsidized Stafford/Direct Loan						
41	Parent PLUS loan						
42	Graduate PLUS loan						
43	Federal TEACH grant						
44	Perkins loan						
45	Federal SEOG grant						
46	Federal work-study						
47	Iraq & Afghanistan Service grant						
48	Veteran benefits						
49	Federal health professions loan						
50	Federal health professions disadvantaged loan						

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	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	State Aid						
51	[State aid program 1]	9 categories of state aid: Need-based grant	For up to three state financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	Financial Aid Award Type; Financial Aid Award Amount	StateAndLocalGrants - State and local grants StateAndLocalScholarships - State and local scholarships StateLoans - State loans StateWork - State work	The classification of financial aid awarded to a person for the academic term/year.; The amount of financial aid awarded to a person for the term/year.	NCES disaggregates state from other nonfederal government aid; CEDS aggregates state and local aid. It's not clear how the scholarship categories in CEDS map or do not map onto the grants categories in the NPSAS sample surveys. CEDS does not identify vocational rehab/training funding specifically—are these funds aggregated with grants?
52	[State aid program 2]	Merit-based grant					
53	[State aid program 3]	Grant based on both need and merit					
54	[State aid program 4]	Grant - categorical					
55	[State aid program 5]	Loan					
56	[State aid program 6]	Work-study					
57	[State aid program 7]	Vocational rehab/training					
58	[State aid program 8]	Grant - classified as institutional					
59	[State aid program 9]	Loan repayment/scholarship					
60	[State aid program 10]	(Institutions do not see the categories for types of state aid. They just see the names of the 12 most common state programs. Former MPR staff prepare/revise the state aid programs list for each round of NPSAS. The list includes a classification of the type of program which we include in the data.)					
61	[State aid program 11]						
62	[State aid program 12]						

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	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Institution Aid						
63	[Institution aid program 1]	9 categories of institution aid: Grants/scholarship - need based Grants/scholarship - merit based Grants/scholarship - need and merit based Athletic scholarship Tuition waiver Work-study RA/Tutor/Advisor stipend Loan Other	For up to three institution financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	Financial Aid Award Type; Financial Aid Award Amount	InstitutionalGrants - Institutional grants Assistantships - Assistantships InstitutionalScholarships - Institutional scholarships InstitutionalLoans - Institutional loans OtherOnCampusWork - Other on-campus work	The classification of financial aid awarded to a person for the academic term/year.; The amount of financial aid awarded to a person for the term/year.	NCES disaggregates merit- and need-based aid where possible and also disaggregates tuition waivers and athletic scholarships; CEDS does not. CEDS disaggregates grants from scholarships but the distinction between the two is not clear. Also unclear where CEDS puts tuition waivers and whether NCES sample surveys' "RA/Tutor/Advisor stipend" category maps directly onto CEDS "Assistantships" category.
64	[Institution aid program 2]						
65	[Institution aid program 3]						
66	[Institution aid program 4]						
67	[Institution aid program 5]						
68	[Institution aid program 6]						
69	[Institution aid program 7]						
70	[Institution aid program 8]						
71	[Institution aid program 9]						
72	[Institution aid program 10]						
73	[Institution aid program 11]						
74	[Institution aid program 12]						
	Graduate Aid <i>(Only applicable for graduate students)</i>						
75	Graduate fellowship/scholarship		For up to three graduate financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	Financial Aid Award Type; Financial Aid Award Amount	OtherFederalGrants - Other federal grants InstitutionalGrants - Institutional grants OtherGrants - Other grants Assistantships - Assistantships FederalScholarships - Federal scholarships InstitutionalScholarships - Institutional scholarships OtherScholarships - Other scholarships InstitutionalLoans - Institutional loans OtherOnCampusWork - Other on-campus work	The classification of financial aid awarded to a person for the academic term/year.; The amount of financial aid awarded to a person for the term/year.	Although NCES sample surveys distinguish graduate aid from undergraduate aid, CEDS does not. This would be an issue for students who are both undergraduate and graduate students at the same institution in the same year. NCES sample surveys disaggregate various types of assistantships and tuition waivers; CEDS does not. CEDS also does not specify institutional work-study. CEDS does not specify "federal traineeships" as NCES sample surveys do. It's not clear where CEDS would classify this aid.
76	Graduate Federal fellowship						
77	Graduate Federal traineeship						
78	Graduate teaching assistantship/stipend						
79	Graduate research assistantship/stipend						
80	Other graduate assistants/tutors/readers stipends						
81	Graduate student tuition waivers						
82	Graduate faculty/staff tuition waivers						
83	Graduate institutional work study						
84	Graduate institutional loan						

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	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Government/Private Aid						
85	Scholarships/grants from private organizations		For up to three government/private financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	Financial Aid Award Type; Financial Aid Award Amount	PrivateGrants - Private grants OtherGrants - Other grants Assistantships - Assistantships PrivateScholarships - Private scholarships OtherScholarships - Other scholarships PrivateLoans - Private loans OtherOnCampusWork - Other on-campus work	The classification of financial aid awarded to a person for the academic term/year.; The amount of financial aid awarded to a person for the term/year.	NCES sample surveys disaggregate six types of aid (employer-paid tuition, ROTC/armed forces grants, WIA/job training/vocational rehabilitation, BIA grants, scholarships/grants from outside state agency, and DC tuition assistance grant) that CEDS does not specify. CEDS disaggregates private scholarships, private grants, other scholarships, and other grants--Distinctions among these categories are not clear.
86	Employer paid tuition						
87	ROTC/armed forces grants						
88	WIA/job training/vocational rehabilitation						
89	Bureau of Indian Affairs grants						
90	Scholarships/grants from outside state agency						
91	Private loans						
92	DC tuition assistance grant						
	Other/Specify Aid						
93	Other aid [1-5] name	Aid name is a text field that describes the type of aid (e.g., John Q. Smith Foundation Scholarship, University Honors Fellowship, Kiwanis Scholars Program).	For up to 5 additional awards, the name, type, source, and amount of any additional financial aid awarded for the study year.	Financial Aid Award Type; Financial Aid Award Amount	OtherGrants - Other grants Assistantships - Assistantships OtherScholarships - Other scholarships OtherLoans - Other loans OtherOnCampusWork - Other on-campus work	The classification of financial aid awarded to a person for the academic term/year.; The amount of financial aid awarded to a person for the term/year.	NCES sample surveys distinguish among need, merit, and need/merit combined grants and also specify employee waivers and athletic scholarships. CEDS does not, but does distinguish between grants and scholarships, though the nature of that distinction is not clear.
94	Other aid [1-5] type	Aid types are Grant - need, Grant - merit only, Grant need & merit, Waiver, Loan, Work/assistantship, Employee waiver, Athletic scholarship, and Other.					
95	Other aid [1-5] source	Aid sources are federal, state, institutional, and other/outside.					
96	Other aid [1-5] amount						
	Key derived variables						
	Price of Attendance						
97	Tuition and fees paid (TUITION2)		For students who attended only one institution, the tuition as reported by institutions, edited and adjusted for attendance status if necessary. If tuition data were not available from institutions, tuition data were taken from the most recent IPEDS report and adjusted for attendance status.				

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	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
98	Non-tuition expense budget (BUDNONAJ)		For students who attended only one institution, the sum of books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses.				
99	Total price of attendance (BUDGETAJ)		The sum of tuition and fees (TUITION2), plus total non-tuition expenses (BUDNONAJ).				
100	Grants from all sources (TOTGRT)		The sum of all federal grants, state grants, institutional grants, and outside grants including employer tuition reimbursements and grants from private sources.				
101	Total aid amount (TOTAID)		The sum of all types of aid or the sum of aid from all sources, including Parent PLUS loans.				
102	Net price after all grants (NETCST3)		The total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus total grants (TOTGRT).				
103	Out-of-pocket net price (NETCST1)		Total price of attendance (BUDGETAJ) minus all financial aid (TOTAID)				
	Need						
104	Expected Family Contribution (EFC)		Composite estimate of the federal Expected Family Contribution (EFC) used in need analysis.				
105	Aid subject to federal EFC limitation (EFCAID)		The total amount of financial aid that is subject to federal EFC limitations if the student received need-based federal aid (FEDNEED).				
106	Student budget minus EFC (SNEED1)		The student's total need for need-based financial aid.				
107	Student budget minus EFC minus total aid (SNEED2)		The remaining need after all financial aid (need-based and non-need- based) received.				
108	Student budget minus EFC minus federal grants (SNEED3)		The remaining need after all federal grants. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and minus federal grants (TFEDGRT).				

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
109	Student budget minus EFC minus federal grants (SNEED4)		The remaining need after all grants and federal need-based aid. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and minus aid subject to the federal EFC limitation (EFCAID).				
110	Student budget minus EFC minus all grants (SNEED5)		The remaining need after all grant aid. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and minus total grants (TOTGRT).				
111	Student budget minus EFC, federal and state grants (SNEED7)		The remaining need after federal and state grant aid. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus expected family contribution (EFC), and minus federal (TFEDGRT) and state (STGTAMT) grants.				
112	Student budget minus EFC & federal, state, and other grants (SNEED8)		The remaining need after all federal, state, and other grants. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), minus federal (TFEDGRT), state (STGTAMT), and outside (OTHGTAMT) grants.				
113	Student budget minus EFC & all aid except private loans (SNEED9)		The remaining need after all financial aid received except private loans. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus expected family contribution (EFC), and minus all financial aid received except private loans (TOTAID8).				

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Enrollment						
114	Undergraduate degree program (UGDEG)	Certificate <					

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
117	Graduate degree programs (GRADGPG)	Not in a degree program Master of Science (MS) Master of Arts (MA) Master of Education or Teaching Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Public Admin or Policy Master of Social Work (MSW) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Master of Public Health (MPH) Other master's degree program Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Doctor of Education (EdD) Doctor of Science or Engineering Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Doctor of Business or Public Admin Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) Doctor of Theology (ThD) Other Doctor's degree Ministry or Divinity Law (LLB or JD) Medicine or Osteopathic Medicine Dentistry (DDS, DMD) Chiropractic (DC, DCM) Pharmacy (PharmD) Optometry (OD) Podiatry (DPM, DP, PodD) Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Other professional practice doctoral degree Post-baccalaureate certificate	The detailed graduate and doctor's degree professional practice program in which the student was enrolled in the study year. Uses student interview as primary data source. Missing values are imputed. The categories changed between NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12.				
118	Class Level (UGLVL1)	1st year undergraduate 2nd year undergraduate 3rd year undergraduate 4th year undergraduate 5th year undergraduate Unclassified undergraduates	Undergraduate class level during the study year. Gives priority to the student-recorded class level. If not available, the order of priority was student interview, then the federal financial aid application, and then the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) federal loan records.				

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
119	Class Level for loans (UGLVL2)	1st year undergraduate 2nd year undergraduate 3rd year undergraduate 4th year undergraduate 5th year undergraduate Unclassified undergraduates	Undergraduate class level for loans during the study year. Gives priority to the highest class level reported in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) on a federal student loan taken out in study year for consistency with borrowing limits for Direct (Stafford) loans, and should be used for the analysis of student loans by class level.				
120	Graduate class level (GRADLVL)	Not in a degree program First year Second year Third year Fourth year or higher	Graduate class level during the study year. Based on student interview, student records, CPS, and NSLDS, in that order.				
121	Completed degree program in study year (PROGSTAT)	No Yes	Indicates whether the student completed a certificate or degree during the study year. Uses interview as primary source.				
122	Grade point average (GPA)		Student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) for the study year. Uses student interview as secondary source.				
	Financial Aid						
123	Federal Pell grant (PELLAMT)		Total amount of federal Pell grants received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				
124	Direct Subsidized loans (STAFSUB)		Total amount of Federal Direct Subsidized loans (also known as subsidized Stafford loans) received during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				
125	Direct Unsubsidized loans (STAFUNSB)		Total amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans (also known as unsubsidized Stafford loans) received during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
126	Direct PLUS loans to parents (PLUSAMT)		Total amount of federal Direct PLUS loans to parents received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				
127	Direct PLUS loans to graduate students (GPLUSAMT)		Total amount of Direct PLUS loans to graduate students received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				
128	Perkins loan (PERKAMT)		Total amount of federal Perkins loans received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as secondary data source.				
129	Federal work-study (TFEDWRK)		<p>NPSAS:12--Total amount of federal work-study received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.</p> <p>ELS FAFS has separate entries for federal work-study awarded (how much could be earned) and disbursed (how much was actually earned).</p>				
130	Veterans' benefits (VETBEN)		Total amount of federal veterans' benefits received during the study year. Uses the student interview as the primary data source and student records as the secondary source.				
131	State grants total (STGTAMT)		Total amount of state grants, scholarships, and fellowships received during the study year.				
132	Institutional grants total (INGRTAMT)		Total amount of all institutional grants received during the study year.				
133	Graduate fellowship amount (GRINFEL)		Total amount of graduate fellowships or grants from institutional sources received during the study year. Uses interview as primary data source.				

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
134	Graduate teaching assistantship amount (GRTEAMT)		Total amount of graduate teaching assistantships received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
135	Graduate research assistantship amount (GRRESAMT)		Total amount of graduate research assistantships received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
136	Other graduate assistantship amount (GRGRDAMT)		Total amount of graduate assistantships other than research or teaching assistantships received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
137	Institutional work-study (INSTWRK)		Total amount of all institutionally sponsored work-study received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
138	Private source grants (PRIVAID)		Total amount of grants and scholarships from private outside sources received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
139	Employer aid (includes college staff) (EMPLYAMT)		Total amount of aid received from employers during the study year. Derived variable EMPLYAMT uses the interview as the primary data source. Derived variable EMPLYAM3 use interview as secondary data source. In NPSAS:12, there were numerous cases of apparent double-counting of amounts for graduate students where institutional grants and tuition waivers were also apparently reported as employer aid.				
140	Veterans' benefits and Department of Defense (VADODAMT)		Total amount of federal veterans' benefits and military tuition grants (including ROTC) received during the study year. Uses the student interview as the primary data source and student records as the secondary data source. Military benefits (other than veterans' benefits) are rare.				

Table 2: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and Common Education Data Standards Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Common Education Data Standards			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
141	Private (alternative) loans (PRIVLOAN)		Total amount of private or alternative loans received during the study year. Uses student records as the secondary data source, but most positive values are based on the interview. Private loans are believed to be significantly underreported by institutions because institutions typically lack records of private loans. Private loans could be overreported by students who may confuse private student loans with bank loans for other purposes such as homes and vehicles.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Enrollment						
	Degree Program and Progress						
1	Degree Program	Undergraduate, non-degree program Undergraduate certificate or diploma Associate's degree program Bachelor's degree program Graduate, not in a degree program Post-baccalaureate certificate program Master's degree program Post-master's certificate Doctoral degree – research/scholarship Doctoral degree – professional practice Doctoral degree – other	Type of degree program enrolled during study year. (NPSAS: specified as "during last term enrolled"; Longitudinal: specified as highest degree program enrolled over entire academic year)	Degrees offered by institution; number of degrees awarded	Certificate/diploma Associate degrees Bachelor's degrees Postbachelor's certificates Master's degrees Post-Master's certificates Doctoral degrees – research/scholarship Doctoral degrees – professional practice Doctoral degrees – other	An award conferred by a college, university, or other postsecondary education institution as official recognition for the successful completion of a program of studies.	NCES sample surveys collect the student-level degree program, whereas the College Board collects degrees offered by institution.
2	Associate’s Type <i>(Only applicable if degree program is Associate's)</i>	AA, AS, general education, transfer program AA, AS, occupational or technical program	If enrolled in associates degree program (degree type) during study year, type of associates degree program.				
3	Master’s Type <i>(Only applicable if degree program is Master's)</i>	Master of Science (MS) Master of Arts (MA) Master of Education (MEd) or Teaching (MAT) Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Public Administration (MPA) Master of Social Work (MSW) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Master of Public Health (MPH) Master of Divinity (MDiv) Other master's degree program not listed	If enrolled in masters degree program (degree type) during study year, type of masters degree program.				<div>Key <div></div> No comparable variable</div>

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
4	Doctoral Type <i>(Only applicable if degree program is Doctoral)</i>	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Doctor of Education (EdD) Doctor of Science or Engineering Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Doctor of Business or Public Administration (DBA, DPA) Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) Doctor of Theology (ThD) Law (JD, LLB) Medicine or Osteopathic Medicine (MD, DO) Dentistry (DDS, DMD) Chiropractic (DC, DCM) Pharmacy (PharmD) Optometry (OD) Podiatry (DPM, DP, PodD) Veterinary medicine (DVM)	If enrolled in doctoral degree program (degree type) during study year, type of doctoral degree program.				
5	Class Level	1st Year/Freshman 2nd Year/Sophomore 3rd Year/Junior 4th Year/Senior 5th Year or Higher Undergraduate Undergraduate (unclassified) Student with advanced degree taking undergraduate courses 1st Year Graduate 2nd Year Graduate 3rd Year Graduate Beyond 3rd Year Graduate	Class level during study year. (NPSAS: specified as "during last term enrolled"; Longitudinal: specified as highest class level over entire academic year)	Total full and part time, first-time, first-year freshmen men and women		First-time, first-year (freshman) student: A student attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. Includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term. Also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school).	NCES sample surveys collect the student-level class level for all sampled students, whereas the College Board variable is aggregate and institution-level, and only includes the number of FTBs.
6	Expected to complete degree requirements by [6/30/??] ?	Does not expect to complete by 6/30/20?? Yes, expects to complete by 6/30/20??	Indicates whether the student expected to have completed the requirements for their current degree program on or before June 30, [study year]. Completion of the requirements means all required classes have been taken and passed and sufficient credit or clock hours have been earned. Some students may not yet have been awarded their degree or certificate by the institution, even though the requirements have been completed.				
7	Cumulative (unweighted) GPA		Institutions can use 4 point scale rounded to at least 2 decimal places or 100 point scale rounded to at least one decimal place.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Baccalaureate Degree (<i>Only applicable for graduate students</i>)						
8	Received baccalaureate degree?	No, has not received baccalaureate degree Yes, has received baccalaureate degree	For graduate students, indicates whether the student received a baccalaureate degree.	Number of degrees awarded	Certificate/diploma Associate degrees Bachelor's degrees Postbachelor's certificates Master's degrees Post-Master's certificates Doctoral degrees – research/scholarship Doctoral degrees – professional practice Doctoral degrees – other	An award conferred by a college, university, or other postsecondary education institution as official recognition for the successful completion of a program of studies.	NCES sample surveys collect the student-level baccalaureate degree status for graduate students, whereas the College Board variable is an aggregate, institution-level number of degrees awarded.
9	Month Received (<i>mm</i>)		For graduate students who received a baccalaureate degree, the month in which the baccalaureate degree was received.				
10	Year Received (<i>yyyy</i>)		For graduate students who received a baccalaureate degree, the year in which the baccalaureate degree was received.				
	Major (<i>Only complete one</i>)						
11	CIP code		The 6 digit CIP Code of the student's major. CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) codes are used by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for field of study reporting, assessment, and tracking.				
12	Current Major		Major during study year.				
13	Undeclared	Yes No	Indicates whether the major is undeclared during the study year.				
	Initial Enrollment						
14	First Enrolled at this Institution Month (<i>mm</i>)		The month in which the student first ever enrolled at institution.				
15	First Enrolled at this Institution Year (<i>yyyy</i>)		The year in which the student first ever enrolled at institution.				
16	First-time Beginning Student?	Yes No	Indicates whether the student is a first-time beginning student (FTB) for the study year. An FTB is enrolled in college for the first time at this institution during NPSAS academic year, has not completed a postsecondary class at this or any other postsecondary institutions prior to first day of NPSAS academic year; and, with the exception of advanced placement (AP) or international baccalaureate (IB) credits and any other postsecondary credit earned prior to high school completion, did not transfer credits into this institution.	Total full and part time, first-time, first-year freshmen men and women		First-time, first-year (freshman) student: A student attending any institution for the first time at the undergraduate level. Includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer term. Also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school).	NCES sample surveys collect the student-level FTB status, whereas the College Board collects at institution-level, cut by enrollment status and gender.

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
17	Transferred Credits from Another Institution?	Yes No	Indicates whether the student transferred any credits from another postsecondary institution.	Does your institution enroll transfer students?	Yes No	A student entering the institution for the first time but known to have previously attended a postsecondary institution at the same level (e.g., undergraduate). The student may transfer with or without credit.	NCES sample surveys collect specifically whether or not a student transferred credits to an institution, whereas the College Board asks if school enrolls transfer students.
	Number of Required Clock Hours <i>(Only applicable for clock hour programs)</i>						
18	For Program		The total length in clock/contact hours of the clock hour program in which the student is enrolled.				
19	Per Week		The number of hours (lab and classroom) required per week for the clock hour program in which the student is enrolled.				
	Tuition Charged <i>(Only applicable for enrollment from 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012)</i>						
20	Total Tuition and mandatory fees charged		The amount CHARGED for tuition (prior to any discounts or waivers) and mandatory fees (including out-of-district and out-of-state fees) for the period(s) in which the student was enrolled during the study year.	Undergraduate full-time tuition, required fees, room and board		The typical tuition, required fees, and room and board for a full-time undergraduate student for the FULL academic year (30 semester or 45 quarter hours for institutions that derive annual tuition by multiplying credit hour cost by number of credits).	NCES sample surveys collect student-level actual tuition and fees charged, whereas the College Board collects the typical tuition and fees for a full time UG and also includes room and board.
21	Residency for Tuition Purposes	InState - In-state OutOfState - Out-of-state	Indicates whether the student was classified as an in-state student or out-of-state student for tuition purposes.	Public institutions - tuition In-district; In-state (out-of-district); Out-of-state		In-state tuition: The tuition charged by institutions to those students who meet the state’s or institution’s residency requirements.; Out-of-state tuition: The tuition charged by institutions to those students who do not meet the institution’s or state’s residency requirements.	NCES sample surveys collect student-level residency status for tuition purposes, whereas the College Board collects the typical tuition charged to in-state and out-of-state students.

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Enrollment status & Number of hours enrolled per term						
22	[Term Name 1-12 (Start Date – End Date)]	01 - Full-time 02 - Less than full-time but at least half-time 03 - Less than half-time	<p>In NPSAS, Indicates whether the student was classified as full-time, less than full-time but at least half-time, or less than half-time for each period of enrollment during the study year.</p> <p>ELS FAFS collected enrollment intensity on annual basis, with categories full-time, less than full-time but always at least half-time, less than half-time, or some combination of these (mixed enrollment).</p> <p>For both NPSAS and FAFS, the definition of "full time" varies across institutions and may vary from definition used for financial aid purposes (generally 12+ credit hours). It might be worth asking institutions to define full time, especially in light of recent advocacy-driven research emphasizing that 12 credits per term is not sufficient to earn degrees "on time."</p> <p>In addition, some institutions enroll all students in exactly one course per brief term, which means 100% of students are nominally enrolled full time. In NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12, some institutions reported implausibly high percentages of students enrolled for 12 out of 12 months.</p>	The number of full-time and part time students enrolled as of the institution's official fall reporting date or as of October 15.		Full-time student (undergraduate): A student enrolled for 12 or more semester credits, 12 or more quarter credits, or 24 or more contact hours a week each term.; Part-time student (undergraduate): A student enrolled for fewer than 12 credits per semester or quarter, or fewer than 24 contact hours a week each term.	NCES sample surveys collect student-level enrollment status for each period of enrollment during the study year, whereas the College Board collects aggregate number of fall enrolled students, cut by enrollment status.
23	Hours [Term 1-12]		The number of units for credit the student was enrolled for each period of enrollment during the study year. Institutions are asked to report credits in denomination used by institution (clock hours, credit hours, or course credits) without converting, even in cases such as institutions that award one credit per course.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Placement Tests						
24	[Placement Test 1-5]	ACT (Math, Reading, English, Writing) SAT (Math, Critical Reading, Writing) ACCUPLACER (Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, College-Level Math, Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, WritePlacer) ASSET (Numerical Skills, Elementary Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Geometry, Reading Skills, Writing Skills) COMPASS (Pre-Algebra, Algebra, College Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Reading, Writing Skills, Writing e-Write) Institution Developed Placement Test (Math, Reading or Writing) Other (Math 1-3, Reading 1-3)	The type of placement test taken by a student for remedial course placement. Institutions are instructed to not report on exams solely used for standard or advanced course placement.	Please indicate which tests your institution uses for placement (e.g., state tests):	SAT ACT SAT Subject Tests AP CLEP Institutional Exam State Exam (specify):		NCES sample surveys collect student-level placement test details and is specific to remedial/developmental course placement, whereas the College Board collects institution-level use of placement test types.
25	[Placement Test 1-5] Month (mm)		The month a placement test was taken by a student for remedial course placement.				
26	[Placement Test 1-5] Year (yyyy)		The year a placement test was taken by a student for remedial course placement.				
27	[Placement Test 1-5] Score		The score for a placement test taken by a student for remedial course placement.				
	Aid Awarded						
	Budget						
28	Local residence	On-campus or school-owned housing Off-campus without parents Off-campus with parents	The student's residency arrangement as indicated by the institution for student budget purposes.	Local residence	Residents Commuters (living at home) Commuters (not living at home)		NCES sample surveys collect student-level residency status for budgeting purposes, whereas the College Board collects aggregate number of residents and commuters.
29	Tuition/fees		The estimated cost of tuition and required fees for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
30	Books/supplies		The estimated cost of books/supplies for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Books and supplies		Estimated expenses for a typical full-time, full-year undergraduate student	NCES sample surveys collect student-level budget estimates, whereas the College Board collects typical expenses for full-time, full-year undergraduate student at the institution level.
31	Room and board		The estimated cost of room and board for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Room only; Board only; Room and board total			
32	Health insurance		The estimated cost of health insurance for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Other expenses			
33	Transportation		The estimated cost of transportation for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Transportation			
34	Computer technology		The estimated cost of computer technology for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Other expenses			
35	All other expenses		The estimated cost of any other expenses for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.	Other expenses			
36	Total cost of attendance		The estimated total cost of attendance for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
37	Budget period	Full-time, full-year Full-time, one term Part-time, full-year Part-time, one term Other	The enrollment status and period during the study year for which reported student budget amounts apply.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Federal Aid						
38	Pell grant		The whole dollar amounts of federal financial aid awarded to the student within each program for the study year.	Scholarships/Grants Self help Other		Total Need-based (Include non-need-based aid used to meet need) federal dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates; Total Non-need-based (Exclude non-need-based aid used to meet need.) federal dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates	NCES sample surveys collect student-level amounts awarded for the 12 most common federal aid programs, whereas the College Board collects aggregate federal dollar amounts awarded and cuts by need based vs. non-need and full-time vs. less than full-time degree seeking students.
39	Subsidized Stafford/Direct Loan						
40	Unsubsidized Stafford/Direct Loan						
41	Parent PLUS loan						
42	Graduate PLUS loan						
43	Federal TEACH grant						
44	Perkins loan						
45	Federal SEOG grant						
46	Federal work-study						
47	Iraq & Afghanistan Service grant						
48	Veteran benefits						
49	Federal health professions loan						
50	Federal health professions disadvantaged loan						
	State Aid						
51	[State aid program 1]	9 categories of state aid: Need-based grant Merit-based grant Grant based on both need and merit Grant - categorical Loan Work-study Vocational rehab/training Grant - classified as institutional Loan repayment/scholarship (Institutions do not see the categories for types of state aid. They just see the names of the 12 most common state programs. Former MPR staff prepare/revise the state aid programs list for each round of NPSAS. The list includes a classification of the type of program which we include in the data.)	For up to three state financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	Scholarships/Grants Self help		Total Need-based (Include non-need-based aid used to meet need) state dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates; Total Non-need-based (Exclude non-need-based aid used to meet need.) state dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates; All states, not only the state in which your institution is located	NCES sample surveys collect student-level amounts awarded for the 12 most common state aid programs, whereas the College Board collects aggregate state dollar amounts awarded and cuts by need based vs. non-need and full-time vs. less than full-time degree seeking students.
52	[State aid program 2]						
53	[State aid program 3]						
54	[State aid program 4]						
55	[State aid program 5]						
56	[State aid program 6]						
57	[State aid program 7]						
58	[State aid program 8]						
59	[State aid program 9]						
60	[State aid program 10]						
61	[State aid program 11]						
62	[State aid program 12]						

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Institution Aid						
63	[Institution aid program 1]	9 categories of institution aid: Grants/scholarship - need based Grants/scholarship - merit based Grants/scholarship - need and merit based Athletic scholarship Tuition waiver Work-study RA/Tutor/Advisor stipend Loan Other	For up to three institution financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	Scholarships/Grants Self help		Total Need-based (Include non-need-based aid used to meet need) institution dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates; Total Non-need-based (Exclude non-need-based aid used to meet need.) institution dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates; Institutional: Endowed scholarships, annual gifts and tuition funded grants, awarded by the college, excluding athletic aid and tuition waivers.	NCES sample surveys collect student-level amounts awarded for the 12 most common institution aid programs, whereas the College Board collects aggregate institution dollar amounts awarded and cuts by need based vs. non-need and full-time vs. less than full-time degree seeking students.
64	[Institution aid program 2]						
65	[Institution aid program 3]						
66	[Institution aid program 4]						
67	[Institution aid program 5]						
68	[Institution aid program 6]						
69	[Institution aid program 7]						
70	[Institution aid program 8]						
71	[Institution aid program 9]						
72	[Institution aid program 10]						
73	[Institution aid program 11]						
74	[Institution aid program 12]						
	Graduate Aid (Only applicable for graduate students)						
75	Graduate fellowship/scholarship		For up to three graduate financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.				
76	Graduate Federal fellowship						
77	Graduate Federal traineeship						
78	Graduate teaching assistantship/stipend						
79	Graduate research assistantship/stipend						
80	Other graduate assistants/tutors/readers						
81	Graduate student tuition waivers						
82	Graduate faculty/staff tuition waivers						
83	Graduate institutional work study						
84	Graduate institutional loan						

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Government/Private Aid						
85	Scholarships/grants from private organizations		For up to three government/private financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	Scholarships/Grants		Total Need-based (Include non-need-based aid used to meet need) scholarships/grants from external sources (e.g., Kiwanis, National Merit), not awarded by the college, dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates; Total Non-need-based (Exclude non-need-based aid used to meet need) scholarships/grants from external sources (e.g., Kiwanis, National Merit), not awarded by the college, dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates	NCES sample surveys collect student-level amounts awarded for the 12 most common government/private aid programs, whereas the College Board collects aggregate government/private aid dollar amounts awarded and cuts by need based vs. non-need and full-time vs. less than full-time degree seeking students.
86	Employer paid tuition						
87	ROTC/armed forces grants						
88	WIA/job training/vocational rehabilitation						
89	Bureau of Indian Affairs grants						
90	Scholarships/grants from outside state agency						
91	Private loans						
92	DC tuition assistance grant						
	Other/Specify Aid						
93	Other aid [1-5] name	Aid name is a text field that describes the type of aid (e.g., John Q. Smith Foundation Scholarship, University Honors Fellowship, Kiwanis Scholars Program).	For up to 5 additional awards, the name, type, source, and amount of any additional financial aid awarded for the study year.	Other (parent loans, tuition waivers, athletic awards)		Total Need-based (Include non-need-based aid used to meet need) other (parent loans, tuition waivers, athletic awards) dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates; Total Non-need-based (Exclude non-need-based aid used to meet need) other (parent loans, tuition waivers, athletic awards) dollar amounts awarded to enrolled full-time and less than full-time degree-seeking undergraduates	NCES sample surveys collect student-level amounts awarded for programs such as parent loans, tuition waivers, and athletic awards and distinguishes between source (federal, state, institution, government/private), whereas the College Board collects aggregate dollar amounts awarded for such programs and cuts by need based vs. non-need and full-time vs. less than full-time degree seeking students.
94	Other aid [1-5] type	Aid types are Grant - need, Grant - merit only, Grant need & merit, Waiver, Loan, Work/assistantship, Employee waiver, Athletic scholarship, and Other.					
95	Other aid [1-5] source	Aid sources are federal, state, institutional, and other/outside.					
96	Other aid [1-5] amount						
	Key derived variables						
	Price of Attendance						
97	Tuition and fees paid (TUITION2)		For students who attended only one institution, the tuition as reported by institutions, edited and adjusted for attendance status if necessary. If tuition data were not available from institutions, tuition data were taken from the most recent IPEDS report and adjusted for attendance status.	Tuition and Fees - Published; Tuition and Fees - Net		Reports averages for full time undergraduate students for both published and net categories	Estimates from NCES sample surveys are generated from student-level data, whereas the College Board averages institution-level data for full-time, full-year undergraduate students.
98	Non-tuition expense budget (BUDNONAJ)		For students who attended only one institution, the sum of books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
99	Total price of attendance (BUDGETAJ)		The sum of tuition and fees (TUTION2), plus total non-tuition expenses (BUDNONAJ).	Average Net Price		Includes average tuition and fees and room and board only, for full time undergraduate students for both published and net categories	Both include tuition, fees, room, and board. College Board does not include other costs that NCES derived variable does include.
100	Grants from all sources (TOTGRT)		The sum of all federal grants, state grants, institutional grants, and outside grants including employer tuition reimbursements and grants from private sources.				
101	Total aid amount (TOTAID)		The sum of all types of aid or the sum of aid from all sources, including Parent PLUS loans.				
102	Net price after all grants (NETCST3)		The total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus total grants (TOTGRT).				
103	Out-of-pocket net price (NETCST1)		Total price of attendance (BUDGETAJ) minus all financial aid (TOTAID)				
	Need						
104	Expected Family Contribution (EFC)		Composite estimate of the federal Expected Family Contribution (EFC) used in need analysis.				
105	Aid subject to federal EFC limitation (EFCAID)		The total amount of financial aid that is subject to federal EFC limitations if the student received need-based federal aid (FEDNEED).				
106	Student budget minus EFC (SNEED1)		The student's total need for need-based financial aid.				
107	Student budget minus EFC minus total aid (SNEED2)		The remaining need after all financial aid (need-based and non-need- based) received.				
108	Student budget minus EFC minus federal grants (SNEED3)		The remaining need after all federal grants. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and minus federal grants (TFEDGRT).				
109	Student budget minus EFC minus federal grants (SNEED4)		The remaining need after all grants and federal need-based aid. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and minus aid subject to the federal EFC limitation (EFCAID).				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
110	Student budget minus EFC minus all grants (SNEED5)		The remaining need after all grant aid. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and minus total grants (TOTGRT).				
111	Student budget minus EFC, federal and state grants (SNEED7)		The remaining need after federal and state grant aid. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus expected family contribution (EFC), and minus federal (TFEDGRT) and state (STGTAMT) grants.				
112	Student budget minus EFC & federal, state, and other grants (SNEED8)		The remaining need after all federal, state, and other grants. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), minus federal (TFEDGRT), state (STGTAMT), and outside (OTHGTAMT) grants.				
113	Student budget minus EFC & all aid except private loans (SNEED9)		The remaining need after all financial aid received except private loans. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus expected family contribution (EFC), and minus all financial aid received except private loans (TOTAID8).				
	Enrollment						
114	Undergraduate degree program (UGDEG)	Certificate Associate's degree Bachelor's degree Not in a degree program or other	Undergraduate student's degree program during the study year. Based on student interview, student records, and CPS, in that order. Not imputed. For undergraduates, defaults to highest degree offered at institution level (BA at 4-year institutions, AA at 2-year institutions, and certificate at less-than-2-year institutions), if any source indicates such. Precludes BA or AA at less-than-2-year institutions and doctoral degree at non-doctorate-granting institutions, but does not preclude BA at 2-year institutions. Small number of missing values set to "no degree" for undergraduates and "other" for grad students.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
115	Associate's degree type (UGDEGAA)	Not working on an associate's degree AA, AS, general education or transfer AAS, occupational or technical program	Associate's degree type during the study year for students who were working on an associate's degree (UGDEG=2). Uses student interview as primary data source and CPS as tertiary data source. Missing values are imputed.				
116	Graduate programs (GRADPGM)	Not in a degree program Business administration (MBA) Education (any master's) Other master of arts (MA) Other master of science (MS) Other master's degree PhD except in education Education (any doc/post-BA/ post-MA certificate) Other doctoral degree Medicine (MD) Other health science degree Law (LLB or JD) Theology (MDiv, MHL, BD) Other professional practice doctoral degree Post-baccalaureate certificate	The general type of graduate and doctor's degree-professional practice programs in which the student was enrolled during the study year. Uses student interview as primary data source. Missing values are imputed. The categories changed between NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
117	Graduate degree programs (GRADGPG)	Not in a degree program Master of Science (MS) Master of Arts (MA) Master of Education or Teaching Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Public Admin or Policy Master of Social Work (MSW) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Master of Public Health (MPH) Other master's degree program Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Doctor of Education (EdD) Doctor of Science or Engineering Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Doctor of Business or Public Admin Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) Doctor of Theology (ThD) Other Doctor's degree Ministry or Divinity Law (LLB or JD) Medicine or Osteopathic Medicine Dentistry (DDS, DMD) Chiropractic (DC, DCM) Pharmacy (PharmD) Optometry (OD) Podiatry (DPM, DP, PodD) Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Other professional practice doctoral degree Post-baccalaureate certificate	The detailed graduate and doctor's degree professional practice program in which the student was enrolled in the study year. Uses student interview as primary data source. Missing values are imputed. The categories changed between NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12.				
118	Class Level (UGLVL1)	1st year undergraduate 2nd year undergraduate 3rd year undergraduate 4th year undergraduate 5th year undergraduate Unclassified undergraduates	Undergraduate class level during the study year. Gives priority to the student-recorded class level. If not available, the order of priority was student interview, then the federal financial aid application, and then the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) federal loan records.				
119	Class Level for loans (UGLVL2)	1st year undergraduate 2nd year undergraduate 3rd year undergraduate 4th year undergraduate 5th year undergraduate Unclassified undergraduates	Undergraduate class level for loans during the study year. Gives priority to the highest class level reported in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) on a federal student loan taken out in study year for consistency with borrowing limits for Direct (Stafford) loans, and should be used for the analysis of student loans by class level.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
120	Graduate class level (GRADLVL)	Not in a degree program First year Second year Third year Fourth year or higher	Graduate class level during the study year. Based on student interview, student records, CPS, and NSLDS, in that order.				
121	Completed degree program in study year (PROGSTAT)	No Yes	Indicates whether the student completed a certificate or degree during the study year. Uses interview as primary source.				
122	Grade point average (GPA)		Student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) for the study year. Uses student interview as secondary source.				
	Financial Aid						
123	Federal Pell grant (PELLAMT)		Total amount of federal Pell grants received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.	Pell Grant program		Data from Policy, Budget, and Analysis Staff, U.S. Department of Education. Other data are from Federal Pell Grant End-of-Year Reports and from the Federal Student Aid Data Center (http://studentaid.ed.gov/data-center).	Different data sources could lead to differences in estimates.
124	Direct Subsidized loans (STAFSUB)		Total amount of Federal Direct Subsidized loans (also known as subsidized Stafford loans) received during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.	Federal Direct Subsidized loans		Source: NSLDS	NCES sample survey estimates collected and derived at student level. College Board estimates collected and reported at national level.
125	Direct Unsubsidized loans (STAFUNSB)		Total amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans (also known as unsubsidized Stafford loans) received during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.	Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans		Source: NSLDS	NCES sample survey estimates collected and derived at student level. College Board estimates collected and reported at national level.
126	Direct PLUS loans to parents (PLUSAMT)		Total amount of federal Direct PLUS loans to parents received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.	Federal Direct PLUS loans to parents		Source: NSLDS	NCES sample survey estimates collected and derived at student level. College Board estimates collected and reported at national level.
127	Direct PLUS loans to graduate students (GPLUSAMT)		Total amount of Direct PLUS loans to graduate students received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.	Federal Direct PLUS loans to graduate students		Source: NSLDS	NCES sample survey estimates collected and derived at student level. College Board estimates collected and reported at national level.
128	Perkins loan (PERKAMT)		Total amount of federal Perkins loans received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as secondary data source.	Federal Perkins loans		Source: US Dept of Education	NCES sample survey estimates collected and derived at student level. College Board estimates collected and reported at national level.

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
129	Federal work-study (TFEDWRK)		<p>NPSAS:12--Total amount of federal work-study received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.</p> <p>ELS FAFS has separate entries for federal work-study awarded (how much could be earned) and disbursed (how much was actually earned).</p>	Federal work-study		Source: US Dept of Education	NCES sample survey estimates collected and derived at student level. College Board estimates collected and reported at national level.
130	Veterans' benefits (VETBEN)		Total amount of federal veterans' benefits received during the study year. Uses CPS as primary data source and interview as tertiary data source.	Veterans' benefits		Benefits are payments for postsecondary education and training to veterans and their dependents, including the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance program established in 2009-10 and all programs established earlier. Some of these funds also cover living expenses and other education-related costs. The Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants program began in 2010-11. These grants provide non-need-based grants for students whose parent or guardian was a member of the Armed Forces who died in Iraq or Afghanistan as a result of performing military service after Sept. 11, 2001. College Board collects data at the national level from the U.S. Veterans Administration.	Different units of analysis and sources of data.
131	State grants total (STGTAMT)		Total amount of state grants, scholarships, and fellowships received during the study year.	State Grant programs		Estimates based on an annual College Board survey of all states.	Different units of analysis and sources of data.
132	Institutional grants total (INGRTAMT)		Total amount of all institutional grants received during the study year.	Institutional grants		Estimates based on IPEDS data, information from NPSAS, and data from the College Board’s Annual Survey of Colleges. College Board does differentiate graduate from undergraduate level.	Different units of analysis and sources of data.
133	Graduate fellowship amount (GRINFEL)		Total amount of graduate fellowships or grants from institutional sources received during the study year. Uses interview as primary data source.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
134	Graduate teaching assistantship amount (GRTEAMT)		Total amount of graduate teaching assistantships received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
135	Graduate research assistantship amount (GRRESAMT)		Total amount of graduate research assistantships received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
136	Other graduate assistantship amount (GRGRDAMT)		Total amount of graduate assistantships other than research or teaching assistantships received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
137	Institutional work-study (INSTWRK)		Total amount of all institutionally sponsored work-study received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
138	Private source grants (PRIVAITD)		Total amount of grants and scholarships from private outside sources received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.	Private and Employer grants		Estimates based on data included in NPSAS and on National Scholarship Providers Association surveys of major private student grant providers, supplemented by information from annual reports of selected scholarship providers and data from institutional financial aid offices.	
139	Employer aid (includes college staff) (EMPLIAMT)		Total amount of aid received from employers during the study year. Derived variable EMPLIAMT uses the interview as the primary data source. Derived variable EMPLIAM3 use interview as secondary data source. In NPSAS:12, there were numerous cases of apparent double-counting of amounts for graduate students where institutional grants and tuition waivers were also apparently reported as employer aid.	Private and Employer grants		Estimates based on data included in NPSAS and on National Scholarship Providers Association surveys of major private student grant providers, supplemented by information from annual reports of selected scholarship providers and data from institutional financial aid offices.	NCES collects, derives, and reports estimates at the student-level from students and disaggregates employer aid from other sources of aid. College Board relies its own survey in addition to NCES sample survey data and does not distinguish between employer aid and other private sources of grant aid.
140	Veterans' benefits and Department of Defense (VADODAMT)		Total amount of federal veterans' benefits and military tuition grants (including ROTC) received during the study year. Uses CPS as primary data source and interview as tertiary data source. Military benefits (other than veterans' benefits) are rare.				In addition to veterans' benefits described in line 130 above, the College Board collects data on military aid from the DOD. These data are not disaggregated from other federal aid data, however, and are not collected or reported at the student level.

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			College Board			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
141	Private (alternative) loans (PRIVLOAN)		Total amount of private or alternative loans received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source, but most positive values are based on the interview. Private loans are believed to be significantly underreported by institutions because institutions typically lack records of private loans. Private loans are believed to be overreported by students who may confuse private student loans with bank loans for other purposes such as homes and vehicles.	Loan totals		Nonfederal loans from private lenders are included in some tables as an important source of funding for students, but are not considered financial aid because they provide no subsidy to students. College Board collects data from the Consumer Bankers Association, MeasureOne, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and major credit unions and their associations.	Different units of analysis and sources of data.
142				Education tax benefits		Education tax credits and deductions	College Board collects data from Income Tax Returns and IRS Statistics of Income at a national level.

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			National Association of State Student Grant Aid Programs			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Data element	Option Set	Definition	
	Enrollment						
	Degree Program and Progress						
1	Degree Program	Undergraduate, non-degree program Undergraduate certificate or diploma Associate's degree program Bachelor's degree program Graduate, not in a degree program Post-baccalaureate certificate program Master's degree program Post-master's certificate Doctoral degree – research/scholarship Doctoral degree – professional practice Doctoral degree – other	Type of degree program enrolled during study year. (NPSAS: specified as "during last term enrolled"; Longitudinal: specified as highest degree program enrolled over entire academic year) Also see related derived variable UGDEG, below.				
2	Associate’s Type <i>(Only applicable if degree program is Associate's)</i>	AA, AS, general education, transfer program AA, AS, occupational or technical program	If enrolled in associates degree program (degree type) during study year, type of associates degree program Also see related derived variable UGDEGAA, below				
3	Master’s Type <i>(Only applicable if degree program is Master's)</i>	Master of Science (MS) Master of Arts (MA) Master of Education (MEd) or Teaching (MAT) Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Public Administration (MPA) Master of Social Work (MSW) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Master of Public Health (MPH) Master of Divinity (MDiv) Other master's degree program not listed	If enrolled in masters degree program (degree type) during study year, type of masters degree program Also see related derived variables GRADGPG and GRADPGM, below.				<div>Key <div></div> No comparable variable</div>

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
4	Doctoral Type <i>(Only applicable if degree program is Doctoral)</i>	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Doctor of Education (EdD) Doctor of Science or Engineering Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Doctor of Business or Public Administration (DBA, DPA) Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) Doctor of Theology (ThD) Law (JD, LLB) Medicine or Osteopathic Medicine (MD, DO) Dentistry (DDS, DMD) Chiropractic (DC, DCM) Pharmacy (PharmD) Optometry (OD) Podiatry (DPM, DP, PodD) Veterinary medicine (DVM)	If enrolled in doctoral degree program (degree type) during study year, type of doctoral degree program Also see related derived variables GRADGPG and GRADPGM, below.				
5	Class Level	1st Year/Freshman 2nd Year/Sophomore 3rd Year/Junior 4th Year/Senior 5th Year or Higher Undergraduate Undergraduate (unclassified) Student with advanced degree taking undergraduate courses 1st Year Graduate 2nd Year Graduate 3rd Year Graduate Beyond 3rd Year Graduate	Class level during study year. (NPSAS: specified as "during last term enrolled;" Longitudinal: specified as "highest class level over entire academic year") Also see related derived variables UGLVL1, UGLVL2, and GRADLVL, below.				
6	Expected to complete degree requirements by [6/30/??] ?	Does not expect to complete by 6/30/20?? Yes, expects to complete by 6/30/20??	Indicates whether the student expected to have completed the requirements for their current degree program on or before June 30, [study year]. Completion of the requirements means all required classes have been taken and passed and sufficient credit or clock hours have been earned. Some students may not yet have been awarded their degree or certificate by the institution, even though the requirements have been completed. Also see related derived variable PROGSTAT, below.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
7	Cumulative (unweighted) GPA		Institutions can use 4 point scale rounded to at least 2 decimal places or 100 point scale rounded to at least one decimal place. Also see related derived variable GPA, below.				
	Baccalaureate Degree (<i>Only applicable for graduate students</i>)						
8	Received baccalaureate degree?	No, has not received baccalaureate degree Yes, has received baccalaureate degree	For graduate students, indicates whether the student received a baccalaureate degree.				
9	Month Received (<i>mm</i>)		For graduate students who received a baccalaureate degree, the month in which the baccalaureate degree was received.				
10	Year Received (<i>yyyy</i>)		For graduate students who received a baccalaureate degree, the year in which the baccalaureate degree was received.				
	Major (<i>Only complete one</i>)						
11	CIP code		The 6 digit CIP Code of the student's major. CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) codes are used by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) for field of study reporting, assessment, and tracking.				
12	Current Major		Major during study year.				
13	Undeclared	Yes No	Indicates whether the major is undeclared during the study year.				
	Initial Enrollment						
14	First Enrolled at this Institution Month (<i>mm</i>)		The month in which the student first ever enrolled at institution.				
15	First Enrolled at this Institution Year (<i>yyyy</i>)		The year in which the student first ever enrolled at institution.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
16	First-time Beginning Student?	Yes No	Indicates whether the student is a first-time beginning student (FTB) for the study year. An FTB is enrolled in college for the first time at this institution during NPSAS academic year, has not completed a postsecondary class at this or any other postsecondary institutions prior to first day of NPSAS academic year; and, with the exception of advanced placement (AP) or international baccalaureate (IB) credits and any other postsecondary credit earned prior to high school completion, did not transfer credits into this institution.				
17	Transferred Credits from Another Institution?	Yes No	Indicates whether the student transferred any credits from another postsecondary institution.				
	Number of Required Clock Hours <i>(Only applicable for clock hour programs)</i>						
18	For Program		The total length in clock/contact hours of the clock hour program in which the student is enrolled.				
19	Per Week		The number of hours (lab and classroom) required per week for the clock hour program in which the student is enrolled.				
	Tuition Charged <i>(Only applicable for enrollment from 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012)</i>						
20	Total Tuition and mandatory fees charged		The amount CHARGED for tuition (prior to any discounts or waivers) and mandatory fees (including out-of-district and out-of-state fees) for the period(s) in which the student was enrolled during the study year.				
21	Residency for Tuition Purposes	InState - In-state OutOfState - Out-of-state	Indicates whether the student was classified as an in-state student or out-of-state student for tuition purposes.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
	Enrollment status & Number of hours enrolled per term						
22	[Term Name 1-12 (Start Date – End Date)]	01 - Full-time 02 - Less than full-time but at least half-time 03 - Less than half-time	<p>In NPSAS, Indicates whether the student was classified as full-time, less than full-time but at least half-time, or less than half-time for each period of enrollment during the study year.</p> <p>ELS FAFS collected enrollment intensity on annual basis, with categories full-time, less than full-time but always at least half-time, less than half-time, or some combination of these (mixed enrollment).</p> <p>For both NPSAS and FAFS, the definition of "full time" varies across institutions and may vary from definition used for financial aid purposes (generally 12+ credit hours). It might be worth asking institutions to define full time, especially in light of recent advocacy-driven research emphasizing that 12 credits per term is not sufficient to earn degrees "on time."</p> <p>In addition, some institutions enroll all students in exactly one course per brief term, which means 100% of students are nominally enrolled full time. In NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12, some institutions reported implausibly high percentages of students enrolled for 12 out of 12 months.</p>				
23	Hours [Term 1-12]		<p>The number of units for credit the student was enrolled for each period of enrollment during the study year.</p> <p>Institutions are asked to report credits in denomination used by institution (clock hours, credit hours, or course credits) without converting, even in cases such as institutions that award one credit per course.</p>				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
	Placement Tests						
24	[Placement Test 1-5]	ACT (Math, Reading, English, Writing) SAT (Math, Critical Reading, Writing) ACCUPLACER (Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra, College-Level Math, Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, WritePlacer) ASSET (Numerical Skills, Elementary Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Geometry, Reading Skills, Writing Skills) COMPASS (Pre-Algebra, Algebra, College Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Reading, Writing Skills, Writing e-Write) Institution Developed Placement Test (Math, Reading or Writing) Other (Math 1-3, Reading 1-3)	The type of placement test taken by a student for remedial course placement. Institutions are instructed to not report on exams solely used for standard or advanced course placement.				
25	[Placement Test 1-5] Month (mm)		The month a placement test was taken by a student for remedial course placement.				
26	[Placement Test 1-5] Year (yyyy)		The year a placement test was taken by a student for remedial course placement.				
27	[Placement Test 1-5] Score		The score for a placement test taken by a student for remedial course placement.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
	Aid Awarded						
	Budget						
28	Local residence	On-campus or school-owned housing Off-campus without parents Off-campus with parents	The student's residency arrangement as indicated by the institution for student budget purposes. For overall student budget and components thereof, institutions are asked to report amounts as they pertain to each individual student, or if there is no budget specifically for a given student, the standard budget for that category of student. If the student was enrolled at different attendance statuses during the NPSAS study period (e.g., full time in term 1 and part time in term 2), the institution is asked to report the budget for one full time term.				
29	Tuition/fees		The estimated cost of tuition and required fees for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
30	Books/supplies		The estimated cost of books/supplies for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
31	Room and board		The estimated cost of room and board for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
32	Health insurance		The estimated cost of health insurance for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
33	Transportation		The estimated cost of transportation for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
34	Computer technology		The estimated cost of computer technology for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
35	All other expenses		The estimated cost of any other expenses for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
36	Total cost of attendance		The estimated total cost of attendance for an individual student, determined and used by the institution for financial aid budgeting purposes.				
37	Budget period	Full-time, full-year Full-time, one term Part-time, full-year Part-time, one term Other	The enrollment status and period during the study year for which reported student budget amounts apply.				
	Federal Aid						
38	Pell grant		The whole dollar amounts of federal financial aid awarded to the student within each program for the study year.	Federal programs (administered by state agency) dollars awarded by student enrollment and undergraduate vs. graduate status		Listed federal programs are LEAP/SLEAP, GEAR UP, Robert C. Byrd Scholarships, Christa McAuliffe Scholarships, Paul Douglas, and Other. Some of these categories are outdated since they are no longer funded. There is no overlap between NASSGAP and NPSAS federal programs.	NASSGAP collects only aggregate amounts for a few federal aid programs awarded state agencies, whereas NCES sample surveys collect student-level amounts awarded for the 12 most common federal aid programs.
39	Subsidized Stafford/Direct Loan						
40	Unsubsidized Stafford/Direct Loan						
41	Parent PLUS loan						
42	Graduate PLUS loan						
43	Federal TEACH grant						
44	Perkins loan						
45	Federal SEOG grant						
46	Federal work-study						
47	Iraq & Afghanistan Service grant						
48	Veteran benefits						
49	Federal health professions loan						
50	Federal health professions disadvantaged loan						

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
	State Aid						
51	[State aid program 1]	9 categories of state aid: Need-based grant Merit-based grant Grant based on both need and merit Grant - categorical Loan Work-study Vocational rehab/training Grant - classified as institutional Loan repayment/scholarship (Institutions do not see the categories for types of state aid. They just see the names of the 12 most common state programs. Former MPR staff prepare/revise the state aid programs list for each round of NPSAS. The list includes a classification of the type of program which we include in the data.)	For up to three state financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	State program type categories: Grant, loan, work-study, tuition waiver, loan assumption or forgiveness, conditional grant or loan State aid program total dollars disbursed, expenditure dollars by institution type, dollars awarded by student enrollment and undergraduate vs. graduate status			NASSGAP collects aggregate amounts disbursed, expended, and awarded for state aid programs, whereas NCES sample surveys collect student-level amounts awarded for the 12 most common state aid programs.
52	[State aid program 2]						
53	[State aid program 3]						
54	[State aid program 4]						
55	[State aid program 5]						
56	[State aid program 6]						
57	[State aid program 7]						
58	[State aid program 8]						
59	[State aid program 9]						
60	[State aid program 10]						
61	[State aid program 11]						
62	[State aid program 12]						
	Institution Aid						
63	[Institution aid program 1]	9 categories of institution aid: Grants/scholarship - need based Grants/scholarship - merit based Grants/scholarship - need and merit based Athletic scholarship Tuition waiver Work-study RA/Tutor/Advisor stipend Loan Other	For up to three institution financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.				
64	[Institution aid program 2]						
65	[Institution aid program 3]						
66	[Institution aid program 4]						
67	[Institution aid program 5]						
68	[Institution aid program 6]						
69	[Institution aid program 7]						
70	[Institution aid program 8]						
71	[Institution aid program 9]						
72	[Institution aid program 10]						
73	[Institution aid program 11]						
74	[Institution aid program 12]						

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
	Graduate Aid <i>(Only applicable for graduate students)</i>						
75	Graduate fellowship/scholarship		For up to three graduate financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	State/Private/Federal programs (administered by state agency) dollars awarded (\$) by student enrollment and undergraduate vs. graduate status			NASSGAP only collects aggregate amounts for a few state/private/federal aid programs awarded state agencies to graduate students, whereas NCES sample surveys collect student-level amounts awarded for the 12 most common graduate aid programs.
76	Graduate Federal fellowship						
77	Graduate Federal traineeship						
78	Graduate teaching assistantship/stipend						
79	Graduate research assistantship/stipend						
80	Other graduate assistants/tutors/readers stipends						
81	Graduate student tuition waivers						
82	Graduate faculty/staff tuition waivers						
83	Graduate institutional work study						
84	Graduate institutional loan						
	Government/Private Aid						
85	Scholarships/grants from private organizations		For up to three government/private financial aid awards, the whole dollar amounts awarded to the student for the study year.	Private programs (administered by state agency) name, type (grant/scholarship, loan, work study), and dollars awarded			NASSGAP only collects aggregate amounts for a few private aid programs awarded state agencies, whereas NCES sample surveys collect student-level amounts awarded for the 12 most common private aid programs.
86	Employer paid tuition						
87	ROTC/armed forces grants						
88	WIA/job training/vocational rehabilitation						
89	Bureau of Indian Affairs grants						
90	Scholarships/grants from outside state agency						
91	Private loans						
92	DC tuition assistance grant						

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued							
	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
	Other/Specify Aid						
93	Other aid [1-5] name	Aid name is a text field that describes the type of aid (e.g., John Q. Smith Foundation Scholarship, University Honors Fellowship, Kiwanis Scholars Program).	For up to 5 additional awards, the name, type, source, and amount of any additional financial aid awarded for the study year.				
94	Other aid [1-5] type	Aid types are Grant - need, Grant - merit only, Grant need & merit, Waiver, Loan, Work/assistantship, Employee waiver, Athletic scholarship, and Other.					
95	Other aid [1-5] source	Aid sources are federal, state, institutional, and other/outside.					
96	Other aid [1-5] amount						
	Key derived variables						
	Price of Attendance						
97	Tuition and fees paid (TUITION2)		For students who attended only one institution, the tuition as reported by institutions, edited and adjusted for attendance status if necessary. If tuition data were not available from institutions, tuition data were taken from the most recent IPEDS report and adjusted for attendance status.				
98	Non-tuition expense budget (BUDNONAJ)		For students who attended only one institution, the sum of books and supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses.				
99	Total price of attendance (BUDGETAJ)		The sum of tuition and fees (TUITION2), plus total non-tuition expenses (BUDNONAJ).				
100	Grants from all sources (TOTGRT)		The sum of all federal grants, state grants, institutional grants, and outside grants including employer tuition reimbursements and grants from private sources.				
101	Total aid amount (TOTAID)		The sum of all types of aid or the sum of aid from all sources, including Parent PLUS loans.				
102	Net price after all grants (NETCST3)		The total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus total grants (TOTGRT).				
103	Out-of-pocket net price (NETCST1)		Total price of attendance (BUDGETAJ) minus all financial aid (TOTAID)				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
	Need						
104	Expected Family Contribution (EFC)		Composite estimate of the federal Expected Family Contribution (EFC) used in need analysis.				
105	Aid subject to federal EFC limitation (EFCAID)		The total amount of financial aid that is subject to federal EFC limitations if the student received need-based federal aid (FEDNEED).				
106	Student budget minus EFC (SNEED1)		The student's total need for need-based financial aid.				
107	Student budget minus EFC minus total aid (SNEED2)		The remaining need after all financial aid (need-based and non-need- based) received.				
108	Student budget minus EFC minus federal grants (SNEED3)		The remaining need after all federal grants. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and minus federal grants (TFEDGRT).				
109	Student budget minus EFC minus federal grants (SNEED4)		The remaining need after all grants and federal need-based aid. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and minus aid subject to the federal EFC limitation (EFCAID).				
110	Student budget minus EFC minus all grants (SNEED5)		The remaining need after all grant aid. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus Expected Family Contribution (EFC), and minus total grants (TOTGRT).				
111	Student budget minus EFC, federal and state grants (SNEED7)		The remaining need after federal and state grant aid. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus expected family contribution (EFC), and minus federal (TFEDGRT) and state (STGTAMT) grants.				
112	Student budget minus EFC & federal, state, and other grants (SNEED8)		The remaining need after all federal, state, and other grants. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), minus federal (TFEDGRT), state (STGTAMT), and outside (OTHGTAMT) grants.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
113	Student budget minus EFC & all aid except private loans (SNEED9)		The remaining need after all financial aid received except private loans. Equal to the total student budget (BUDGETAJ) minus expected family contribution (EFC), and minus all financial aid received except private loans (TOTAID8).				
	Enrollment						
114	Undergraduate degree program (UGDEG)	Certificate Associate's degree Bachelor's degree Not in a degree program or other	Undergraduate student's degree program during the study year. Based on student interview, student records, and CPS, in that order. Not imputed. For undergraduates, defaults to highest degree offered at institution level (BA at 4-year institutions, AA at 2-year institutions, and certificate at less-than-2-year institutions), if any source indicates such. Precludes BA or AA at less-than-2-year institutions and doctoral degree at non-doctorate-granting institutions, but does not preclude BA at 2-year institutions. Small number of missing values set to "no degree" for undergraduates and "other" for grad students.				
115	Associate's degree type (UGDEGAA)	Not working on an associate's degree AA, AS, general education or transfer AAS, occupational or technical program	Associate's degree type during the study year for students who were working on an associate's degree (UGDEG=2). Uses student interview as primary data source and CPS as tertiary data source. Missing values are imputed.				
116	Graduate programs (GRADPGM)	Not in a degree program Business administration (MBA) Education (any master's) Other master of arts (MA) Other master of science (MS) Other master's degree PhD except in education Education (any doc/post-BA/post-MA certificate) Other doctoral degree Medicine (MD) Other health science degree Law (LLB or JD) Theology (MDiv, MHL, BD) Other professional practice doctoral degree	The general type of graduate and doctor's degree-professional practice programs in which the student was enrolled during the study year. Uses student interview as primary data source. Missing values are imputed. The categories changed between NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
117	Graduate degree programs (GRADGPG)	Not in a degree program Master of Science (MS) Master of Arts (MA) Master of Education or Teaching Master of Business Administration (MBA) Master of Public Admin or Policy Master of Social Work (MSW) Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Master of Public Health (MPH) Other master's degree program Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Doctor of Education (EdD) Doctor of Science or Engineering Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Doctor of Business or Public Admin Doctor of Fine Arts (DFA) Doctor of Theology (ThD) Other Doctor's degree Ministry or Divinity Law (LLB or JD) Medicine or Osteopathic Medicine Dentistry (DDS, DMD) Chiropractic (DC, DCM) Pharmacy (PharmD) Optometry (OD) Podiatry (DPM, DP, PodD) Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Other professional practice	The detailed graduate and doctor's degree professional practice program in which the student was enrolled in the study year. Uses student interview as primary data source. Missing values are imputed. The categories changed between NPSAS:08 and NPSAS:12.				
118	Class Level (UGLVL1)	1st year undergraduate 2nd year undergraduate 3rd year undergraduate 4th year undergraduate 5th year undergraduate Unclassified undergraduates	Undergraduate class level during the study year. Gives priority to the student-recorded class level. If not available, the order of priority was student interview, then the federal financial aid application, and then the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) federal loan records.				
119	Class Level for loans (UGLVL2)	1st year undergraduate 2nd year undergraduate 3rd year undergraduate 4th year undergraduate 5th year undergraduate Unclassified undergraduates	Undergraduate class level for loans during the study year. Gives priority to the highest class level reported in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) on a federal student loan taken out in study year for consistency with borrowing limits for Direct (Stafford) loans, and should be used for the analysis of student loans by class level.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
120	Graduate class level (GRADLVL)	Not in a degree program First year Second year Third year Fourth year or higher	Graduate class level during the study year. Based on student interview, student records, CPS, and NSLDS, in that order.				
121	Completed degree program in study year (PROGSTAT)	No Yes	Indicates whether the student completed a certificate or degree during the study year. Uses interview as primary source.				
122	Grade point average (GPA)		Student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) for the study year. Uses student interview as secondary source.				
	Financial Aid						
123	Federal Pell grant (PELLAMT)		Total amount of federal Pell grants received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				
124	Direct Subsidized loans (STAFSUB)		Total amount of Federal Direct Subsidized loans (also known as subsidized Stafford loans) received during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				
125	Direct Unsubsidized loans (STAFUNSB)		Total amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized loans (also known as unsubsidized Stafford loans) received during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				
126	Direct PLUS loans to parents (PLUSAMT)		Total amount of federal Direct PLUS loans to parents received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				
127	Direct PLUS loans to graduate students (GPLUSAMT)		Total amount of Direct PLUS loans to graduate students received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as primary data source.				
128	Perkins loan (PERKAMT)		Total amount of federal Perkins loans received at all institutions attended during the study year. Uses NSLDS as secondary data source.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
129	Federal work-study (TFEDWRK)		NPSAS:12--Total amount of federal work-study received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source. ELS FAFS has separate entries for federal work-study awarded (how much could be earned) and disbursed (how much was actually earned).				
130	Veterans' benefits (VETBEN)		Total amount of federal veterans' benefits received during the study year. Uses CPS as primary data source and interview as tertiary data source.				
131	State grants total (STGTAMT)		Total amount of state grants, scholarships, and fellowships received during the study year.				
132	Institutional grants total (INGRTAMT)		Total amount of all institutional grants received during the study year.				
133	Graduate fellowship amount (GRINFEL)		Total amount of graduate fellowships or grants from institutional sources received during the study year. Uses interview as primary data source.				
134	Graduate teaching assistantship amount (GRTEAAMT)		Total amount of graduate teaching assistantships received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
135	Graduate research assistantship amount (GRRESAMT)		Total amount of graduate research assistantships received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
136	Other graduate assistantship amount (GRGRDAMT)		Total amount of graduate assistantships other than research or teaching assistantships received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				

Table 3: Comparisons of NCES Postsecondary Sample Survey Data Elements and College Board Data Elements—Continued

	NCES Postsecondary Sample Surveys			Comparison Notes			Comparison Notes
	Data element	Option Set	Definition	Option Set	Definition		
137	Institutional work-study (INSTWRK)		Total amount of all institutionally sponsored work-study received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
138	Private source grants (PRIVAID)		Total amount of grants and scholarships from private outside sources received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source.				
139	Employer aid (includes college staff) (EMPLYAMT)		Total amount of aid received from employers during the study year. Derived variable EMPLYAMT uses the interview as the primary data source. Derived variable EMPLYAM3 use interview as secondary data source. In NPSAS:12, there were numerous cases of apparent double-counting of amounts for graduate students where institutional grants and tuition waivers were also apparently reported as employer aid.				
140	Veterans' benefits and Department of Defense (VADODAMT)		Total amount of federal veterans' benefits and military tuition grants (including ROTC) received during the study year. Uses CPS as primary data source and interview as tertiary data source. Military benefits (other than veterans' benefits) are rare.				
141	Private (alternative) loans (PRIVLOAN)		Total amount of private or alternative loans received during the study year. Uses interview as secondary data source, but most positive values are based on the interview. Private loans are believed to be significantly underreported by institutions because institutions typically lack records of private loans. Private loans are believed to be overreported by students who may confuse private student loans with bank loans for other purposes such as homes and vehicles.				