

Academic Data Collection Data Element Dictionary

Functional and Technical Definitions of Derived Variables

Last Update: October 2024

This document provides functional and technical definitions of commonly used derived variables. These variables are derived from data collected during the Academic Data Collection (ADC). Many of these derived variables are used in the [Semester Enrollment Report](#), [Credit Hour Reports](#), [USG by the Numbers](#) and other [reports](#) produced by the Research & Policy Analysis Office at USG.

For a full list of data elements collected during ADC see the “ADC Data Element Dictionary with Valid Values” found at https://www.usg.edu/research/data_collection_and_reporting_resources/academic_data_collection_and_reporting.

Contents

Note about Extraction	3
Age	5
Credit Hours Attempted Report Parameters	6
Credit Hour Inclusions and Exclusions	6
Course Credit Hours Attempted.....	6
Fund Group	7
Credit Levels	9
Degree Seeking	9
Enrolled	9
First Generation.....	10
Full-Time Equivalency	11
Full-time and Part-time Enrollment	11
IPEDS First-Time Freshman & SER Beginning Freshman	12
First Time Freshman IPEDS	12
Beginning Freshman SER.....	12
SER Race/Ethnicity.....	16
New Student.....	16
In-State	16
Out-of-State.....	16
Out-of-Country.....	16
Paying Full Tuition/Tuition Waived	17
Student Level Classification	17
Traditional and Non-Traditional Student.....	19
New Transfer.....	19
Undergraduate and Graduate Student	19

Note about Extraction

For students' data to be included in the Academic Data collection, there are required mappings that must be checked each collection and student criteria that must be met. The mappings and criteria are described below.

For every collection, check that all these mapping prerequisites are met:

- *Student Level* is mapped in SOAXREF with label RGTSVLV

EDI Cross-Reference Rules SOAXREF 9.3.23 (TDW1297)							
Cross-Reference Label: RGTSVLV Student Level Indicator							
CROSS-REFERENCE RULES							
Electronic Label *	Electronic Qualifier	Electronic Value *	EDI *	Web *	XML *	Banner Value	Description
RGTSVLV	1	US	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	US	Undergraduate Semester
RGTSVLV	2	US	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UC	Univ Coll / Associates
RGTSVLV	3	US	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UA	Undergrad Associates
RGTSVLV		GS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GS	Graduate Semester System

- *Registration Term* is mapped in SOAXREF with label RGTTERM and translated to the current Regents Term (or previous Regents Term for values pulled a term later)

EDI Cross-Reference Rules SOAXREF 9.3.23 (TDW1297)							
Cross-Reference Label: RGTTERM Report Year and Term (YYYYT)							
CROSS-REFERENCE RULES							
Electronic Label *	Electronic Qualifier	Electronic Value *	EDI *	Web *	XML *	Banner Value	Description
RGTTERM		20172	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	201608	Fall 2016
RGTTERM		20174	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	201702	Spring 2017
RGTTERM		20181	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	201705	Summer 2017
RGTTERM		20182	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	201708	Fall 2017

For a student to be selected in the Academic Data Collection these conditions must be met:

- The *Enrollment Status Code* value indicates the student should be included in the collection, meaning that the *Enrollment Status Code* Banner value is mapped in SOAXREF to HEADCNTY or CO. **All** *Enrollment Status Code* Banner values must be mapped to one of the valid values.

EDI Cross-Reference Rules SOAXREF 9.3.23 (TDW1297)							
Cross-Reference Label: RGTESTS Student Enrollment Status Code							
CROSS-REFERENCE RULES							
Electronic Label *	Electronic Qualifier	Electronic Value *	EDI *	Web *	XML *	Banner Value	Description
RGTESTS	1	HEADCNTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AW	Administratively Withdrawn
RGTESTS	10	HEADCNTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WF	Withdrawn - Failing
RGTESTS	11	HEADCNTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WP	Withdrawn - Payment
RGTESTS	12	HEADCNTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NS	No Show

- The sum of the student's *Course Credit Hours* must be greater than zero. For course credits hours to be counted towards the sum of course credits, the *Course Registration Status* must be mapped in SOAXREF with a label of RGTRSTS and translated to CNTENRLY. Credit hours from courses that do not meet these criteria will not count towards the credit hour sum.

ellucian EDI Cross-Reference Rules SOAXREF 9.3.23 (TDW1297)							
Cross-Reference Label: RGTRSTS Course Registration Status							Start Over
CROSS-REFERENCE RULES							
Electronic Label *	Electronic Qualifier	Electronic Value *	EDI *	Web *	XML *	Banner Value	Description
RGTRSTS	1	CNTENRLN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	Course Cancelled
RGTRSTS	10	CNTENRLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	W	Withdrawn Course - W
RGTRSTS	11	CNTENRLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WC	WD Course - W

- The student has a *Current Effective Term* record that has a major.
 - This means the student has a *Current Effective Term* record in SGASTDN that has Concurrent Curricula information setup with a LFST value of MAJOR
 - In the example screenshot below, the current effective term is Fall 2021.
 - In Banner, the LFST value comes from the 'Type' field, circled in red.
 - There must be a major set up in Banner, though this major is not checked against the DMA during the extraction

ellucian General Student SGASTDN 9.3.19 (TDW1297)																															
ID: Term: 202108 View Current/Active Curricula: Start Over																															
Learner Curricula Study Path Activities Veteran Comments Academic and Graduation Status, Dual Degree Miscellaneous																															
Curriculum / Field of Study																															
CURRICULUM																															
<div>Replace Update Duplicate Roll to Outcome Apply to Graduate</div> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Current</th> <th>Activity</th> <th>Key Sequence</th> <th>Term</th> <th>Term Description</th> <th>End Term</th> <th>End Term Description</th> <th>Catalog Term</th> <th>Catalog Term Description</th> <th>Priority</th> <th>Graduation Sequence</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ACTIVE</td> <td></td> <td>99</td> <td>202108</td> <td>Fall 2021</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>202108</td> <td>Fall 2021</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>										Current	Activity	Key Sequence	Term	Term Description	End Term	End Term Description	Catalog Term	Catalog Term Description	Priority	Graduation Sequence	ACTIVE		99	202108	Fall 2021			202108	Fall 2021	1	
Current	Activity	Key Sequence	Term	Term Description	End Term	End Term Description	Catalog Term	Catalog Term Description	Priority	Graduation Sequence																					
ACTIVE		99	202108	Fall 2021			202108	Fall 2021	1																						
Curriculum Status Details																															
Program	BA_HILUS	BA History - US History Conc		College	LA	School of Liberal Arts																									
Level	US	Undergraduate Semester System		Degree	BA	Bachelor of Arts																									
Campus				Start Date	End Date																										
FIELD OF STUDY																															
Attached Concentrations: Inactivate																															
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Current</th> <th>Activity</th> <th>Status</th> <th>Term</th> <th>Type</th> <th>Type Description</th> <th>Priority</th> <th>Catalog</th> <th>End Term</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ACTIVE</td> <td></td> <td>INPROGRESS</td> <td>202108</td> <td>MAJOR</td> <td>Major</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>202108</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>										Current	Activity	Status	Term	Type	Type Description	Priority	Catalog	End Term	ACTIVE		INPROGRESS	202108	MAJOR	Major		1	202108				
Current	Activity	Status	Term	Type	Type Description	Priority	Catalog	End Term																							
ACTIVE		INPROGRESS	202108	MAJOR	Major		1	202108																							
Field of Study																															
Field of Study	HILUS	History US History Conc		Start Date	End Date																										
Department				Rolled																											
Attached to Major																															
Full or Part Time																															
Record 1 of 1																															

Age

Functional Definition

The age of a student calculated as of a specific date in a given term using Date_of_Birth. Age can be calculated at Enrollment, Graduation, and Matriculation (age at matriculation is reported in the SER).

Technical Definition

- This variable calculates age based on the midpoint of a given term and the student's date of birth.
- Age at enrollment uses academic term, age at graduation uses graduation term, and age at matriculation uses matriculation term
- The midpoint of each term is as follows:
 - Summer: July 15th
 - Fall: October 15th
 - Spring: March 1st
- Age is calculated by taking the difference in months between the midpoint of a term and the date of birth then dividing by 12. This number is then truncated to have 0 decimal points. The resulting number is the student's age.

Example:

- Student Date of Birth: June 17th, 1981
- To calculate age as of Summer 2014 (20151):
 - Take difference in months between June 17th, 1981 and July 15th, 2014:
396.935483870968 months
 - Dividing by 12: 33.0779569892473
 - Truncating: student's age is 33

Credit Hours Attempted Report Parameters

Credit Hour Inclusions and Exclusions

This report displays the attempted credit hours by fund group and level. Student course enrollment information is combined with course catalog and course section information to determine which data are included in this report.

Credit hours are included if:

- Course Level:
 - INSTRUCTION_LEVEL <> 'NR'
 - SECTION_LOCATION_CODE <> 'C'

AND

- Student-course Level:
 - COURSE_ENROLLMENT_INDICATOR = 'CNTENRLY'

NOTE: Inclusion in Credit Hour Reports is NOT restricted based on ENROLLMENT_STATUS_CODE. Any student-course combination that meets the conditions listed above is included.

If the credit hour conditions listed above are not met, the credit hours are not included in credit hour reports. Hours that should not be included in the credit hour reports—including internships, co-ops, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, etc.—must have the appropriate designations assigned to prevent inaccurate reporting.

Course Credit Hours Attempted

Functional Definition

A unit of measure representing the equivalent of an hour (50 minutes) of instruction per week over the entire semester/term. It is applied toward the total number of credit hours needed for completing the requirements of a certificate or degree.

Technical Definition

The code accounts for courses that are worth variable credit hours using the following logic:

```
(case when c.credit_hrs_ind in ('TO', 'OR') then c.course_attempted_hrs  
else c.course_credit_hrs end)
```

Fund Group

Functional Definition

Fund Groups categorize courses by subject area for the Credit Hour Reports. There are six categories, which are listed below (Group 6 has been retired).

- Group 1: Law, Letters, Library Science, Psychology, and Social Sciences
- Group 2: Area Studies, Business, Communications, Education, Home Economics, Mathematics, Public Affairs, and Interdisciplinary Studies
- Group 3: Agriculture, Architecture, Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering, Fine and Applied Arts, Foreign Languages, Health Professions, Physical Sciences and Technologies
- Group 4: Remedial/Learning Support Programs
- Group 5: Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine
- Group 7: Military

Technical Definition

This variable categorizes courses into fund group levels. There are 7 fund group levels (6 groups are currently used). Groups are determined by a combination of four variables Section_Sponsorship_Ind (*retired field*), Course_Instruction_Level_Code, Course_Cip_Code and Term_Year).¹

NOTE: The fund groupings below were most recently revised in Summer 2020 to accommodate changes to the federal CIP list maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics. The descriptions below include historical information. Not all CIPs listed below are still valid for 2020; the non-valid values are shaded in gray.

NOTE: To be categorized in a fund group, only ONE of the bulleted conditions listed below the fund group must be met.

NOTE: The only NCES CIPs that are not assigned to fund groups are 53 (High School/Secondary Diplomas and Certificate) and 55 (Reserved).

Group 1 (Law, Letters, Library Sciences, Psychology, and Social Sciences)

- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 22, 23, 24, 25, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, 45
- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 54 and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2005

Group 2 (Area Studies, Business, Communications, Education, Home Economics, Mathematics, Public Affairs, and Interdisciplinary Studies)

- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 05, 09, 12, 13, 19, 21, 27, 30 (excluding the 4 and 6 digit CIP codes listed in Group 3), 31, 36, 37, 43, 44, 52 (excluding 520407 which is in Group 3)
- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 08 and Term_Year is less than or equal to 2004
- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 20 and Term_Year is less than or equal to 2004

¹ Term_Year refers to the academic term without the fifth digit. For instance, the academic terms 20191 (Summer 18), 20192 (Fall 18) and 20194 (Spring 19) correspond to Term_Year 2019.

Group 3 (Agriculture, Architecture, Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering, Fine and Applied Arts, Foreign Languages, Health Professions, Physical Sciences and Technologies)

- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 01 (see exception below), 03, 04, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 26 (see exception below), 40, 41, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 (see exception below)
 - Course_Cip_Code (4 and 6 digit) 260507, 5104, 5112, 5124 and Instruction_Level_Code equal to 80, and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2005 are in Group 5
 - Course_Cip_Code (4 digit) 5105, 5114 and Instruction_Level_Code equal to 80, and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2021 are in Group 5
 - Course_Cip_Code (6 digit) is equal to 018001 and Instruction_Level_Code equal to 80, and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2021 are in Group 5
 - Course_Cip_Code (4 and 6 digit) 5128, 5129, 510401, 511201, 511307, 512401 and Instruction_Level_Code equal to 80, 81, 82, and Term_Year is less than or equal to 2004 are in Group 5
- Course_Cip_Code is equal to 520407
- Course_Cip_Code is equal to 3008
- Course_Cip_Code (4 digit) is equal to 3001, 3006, 3016, 3018, 3024 and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2005.
- Course_Cip_Code (4 digit) is equal to 3035, 3038, 3039, 3041, 3043, 3070 and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2021.
- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 60 (excluding 6001, 6003 with Instruction_Level_Code equal to 80) and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2021.
- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 61 and Instruction_Level_Code not equal to 80, and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2021.
- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 02 and Term_Year is less than or equal to 2004
- Course_Cip_Code (6 digit) is 300101, 300601 and Term_Year is less than or equal to 2004.

Group 4 (Remedial/Learning Support Programs)

- Instruction_Level_Code is equal to 10
- Course_Cip_Code is equal to 32

Group 5 (Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine)

- Course_CIP_Code (6 digit) is equal to 260507 and Instruction_Level_Code is 80, and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2005
- Course_CIP_Code (4 digit) is equal to 5104, 5112, 5124, 6001, 6002, 6003, 6004, 6005 and Instruction_Level_Code is 80, and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2005
- Course_CIP_Code (4 digit) is equal to 5105, 5114 and Instruction_Level_Code is 80, and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2021
- Course_CIP_Code (6 digit) is equal to 018001 and Instruction_Level_Code is 80, and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2021
- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 61 and Instruction_Level_Code is 80, and Term_Year is greater than or equal to 2021.
- Course_CIP_Code (4 and 6 digit) is equal to 5128, 5129, 510401, 511201, 511307, 512401 and Instruction_Level_Code is 80, 81, 82, and Term_Year is less than or equal to 2004

Group 6 (retired field; 2008 and earlier)

- Section_Sponsorship_Ind is equal to S

Group 7 (Military)

- Course_Cip_Code (2 digit) is equal to 28, 29

Credit LevelsFunctional Definition

Credit Levels categorize courses by their “level of difficulty”. All courses are assigned a two-digit code indicating level of instruction. Lower level courses are those with Instruction Level Code of 10, 20, 21, 22. Upper level courses are those with Instruction Level Code of 30, 31, 32. Graduate/Professional courses are post-baccalaureate and have Instruction Level Code >=50.

Technical Definition

This code specifies which courses are considered Lower Level, Upper Level, and Grad/Prof.

- Lower Level: Fund Group 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and Course_Instruction_Level_Code equal to 10, 20, 21, 22
- Upper Level: Fund Group 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and Course_Instruction_Level_Code equal to 30, 31, 32
- Grad/Prof: Fund Group 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and Course_Instruction_Level_Code greater than or equal to 50.

Degree SeekingFunctional Definition

A student that is pursuing one of the following degrees: Certificate, Career Associate, Associate, Bachelor's, Master's, Education Specialist, Doctorate, or Professional. High school students enrolled in postsecondary courses for credit are not considered degree/certificate-seeking.

Technical Definition

A degree seeking student is defined as someone with Degree_Level_Code not equal to N, X.

EnrolledFunctional Definition

A student that is registered for credit hours greater than zero (Enrollment Status Code=HEADCNTY). Auditors are considered enrolled students. COOP students are not considered to be enrolled and should be coded with Enrollment Status Code = “CO.”

Technical Definition

A student is considered enrolled if Enrollment_Status_Code is equal to HEADCNTY. Auditors are included as enrolled students. COOP students are not included and should be coded as “CO.”

First Generation

Parental education is collected as a student attribute at admission and this attribute is used to determine if a student is first generation. There are two first generation definitions.

Definition 1

Functional Definition

A student is considered first generation if neither parent nor guardian has any college. If both parents have a high school diploma (or equivalent) or less OR one parent has a high school diploma (or equivalent) or less and the education level of the second parent is unknown or missing the student is classified as first generation. If the education level of both parents is unknown or missing, then the student is defaulted to NOT first generation. This definition was developed internally in 2016 for Complete College Georgia reporting purposes.

Technical Definition

A student is considered first generation if:

1. A record exists in the USGODS.PDC_ADMSTU_ATTRIBUTES_MIMIC table for a student in that term, at that institution where student_attribute_subtype = 'FIRST GENERATION' and student_attribute_code does not include the codes 'P1UN','P1BD','P1DD','P1MD','P1AD', 'P1CC', 'P1SC','P2UN','P2BD','P2DD','P2MD', 'P2AD', 'P2CC', or 'P2SC'
2. And a record does **not** exist in the USGODS.PDC_ADMSTU_ATTRIBUTES_MIMIC table for that student, term, and institution where student_attribute_subtype = 'FIRST GENERATION' and the student_attribute_code includes 'P1BD','P1DD','P1MD','P1AD', 'P1CC', 'P1SC','P2BD','P2DD','P2MD', 'P2AD', 'P2CC', or 'P2SC'

Definition 2

Functional Definition

A student is considered first generation if both parents have associate degrees or less (associate degree, certificate, some college no award, high school diploma or equivalent, less than high school) OR one parent has an associate degree or less and the education level of the second parent is unknown or missing. If at least one parent has a bachelor's degree or higher OR education level of both parents is unknown or missing, then the student is defaulted to NOT first generation. This definition was implemented in 2024 and is consistent with the definition in use by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)

Technical Definition

A student is considered First Generation (DOE definition) if:

1. A record exists in the USGODS.PDC_ADMSTU_ATTRIBUTES_MIMIC table for a student in that term, at that institution where student_attribute_subtype = 'FIRST GENERATION' and student_attribute_code does not include the codes 'P1UN','P1BD','P1DD','P1MD','P2UN','P2BD','P2DD', or 'P2MD'

2. And a record does **not** exist in the USGODS.PDC_ADMSTU_ATTRIBUTES_MIMIC table for that student, term, and institution where student_attribute_subtype = 'FIRST GENERATION' and the student_attribute_code is hnj'P1BD','P1DD','P1MD','P2BD','P2DD', or 'P2MD'

Full-Time Equivalency

Functional Definition

Undergraduate FTE: Count each full-time student as 1 (where full-time is defined as 12 or more hours attempted); Count all hours attempted for the remaining undergraduates and divide those hours by 12; Add the two numbers together.

Graduate and Professional FTE: Count each full-time student as 1 (where full-time is defined as 9 or more hours attempted); Count all hours attempted for the remaining Graduate and Professional students and divide those hours by 9; Add the two numbers together.

Total FTE: Add Graduate and Professional FTE to Undergraduate FTE.

Technical Definition

Full Time Equivalency is calculated for Undergraduates and Graduates/Professionals and then added together

- Undergraduate FTE: For students with Student_Level_Code less than 60, count each student with 12 or more hours attempted as 1. For students with less than 12 hours, sum these hours and divide by 12. Add the two numbers together.
- Graduate and Professional FTE: For students with Student_Level_Code equal to 60, 70, 72, 74, 76, 80, 90, count each student with 9 or more hours attempted (variable Inst_Term_Hrs_Attempted) as 1. For students with less than 9 hours sum these hours and divide by 9. Add the two numbers together.
- Total FTE: Add together Graduate and Professional FTE to Undergraduate FTE.

Full-time and Part-time Enrollment

Functional Definition

An undergraduate student enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in a given term is a full-time student. An undergraduate student enrolled in less than 12 hours is a part-time student.

A graduate student enrolled in 9 or more credit hours in a given term at the graduate level is a full-time student. A graduate student enrolled in less than 9 hours is a part-time student.

Technical Definition

This variable is calculated separately for Undergraduates and Graduates and for a given term.

Undergraduates:

- Full-Time: Student_Level_NBR less than 60 and attempted hours (Inst_Term_Hours_Attempted) is greater than or equal to 12.
- Part-Time: Student_Level_NBR less than 60 and attempted hours (Inst_Term_Hours_Attempted) is less than 12.

Graduates:

- Full Time: Student_Level_NBR greater than or equal to 60 and attempted hours (Inst_Term_Hours_Attempted) is greater than or equal to 9.
- Part Time: Student_Level_NBR greater than or equal to 60 and attempted hours (Inst_Term_Hours_Attempted) is less than 9.

IPEDS First-Time Freshman & SER² Beginning Freshman ³

Functional Definition

First Time Freshman IPEDS

A degree-seeking (Degree_Level_Code not equal to 'N' or 'X') undergraduate student (Student_Level_NBR equal to 10, 20, 30, 40) who matriculates to college for the first time in a fall term, or the preceding summer term. To be IPEDS FTF, the student must have a matriculation year equal to the enrollment year, and meet one of the following conditions:

- i. Does not have any valid transfer college records
- ii. Does have valid transfer college records but the Transfer_Attendance_Begin_Dt of the last transfer attendance record is less than or equal to the High_School_Graduation_Dt
- iii. Does have valid transfer college records but none have a Transfer_Attendance_End_Dt which is greater than the High_School_Graduation_Dt and less than June 01 of the matriculation year.

This definition is set forth by the National Center for Education Statistics, which maintains the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Condition (ii) allows for former dual enrollment students to be counted as FTF. Condition (iii) allows for students who enrolled at any college in the preceding summer to be counted as FTF.

Beginning Freshman SER

A degree-seeking (Degree_Level_Code not equal to 'N' or 'X') undergraduate student (Student_Level_NBR equal to 10, 20, 30, or 40) who matriculates to college for the first time in a summer, fall, or spring term. To be SER BF, the student must have a matriculation year and term equal to the enrollment year and term, and must meet one of the following conditions:

- i. Does not have any valid transfer college records
- ii. Does have valid transfer college records but the Transfer_Attendance_Begin_Dt of the last transfer attendance record is less than or equal to the High_School_Graduation_Dt

Conditions (ii) allow for former dual enrollment students to be counted as FTF.

Note: In Fall terms, where both IPEDS FTF and SER BF are calculated, the count of SER BF will be lower than IPEDS FTF, since the latter includes students enrolled in the preceding summer.

² SER = Semester Enrollment Report

³ Starting with the Fall 2022 term, this definition and logic were applied to construct IPEDS FTF and SER BF. For information on the definitions prior to Fall 2022, please reach out to RPA.

Technical Definition

For a student to be counted as a first-time freshman or beginning freshman, the student must be a first-time student, an undergraduate, and degree-seeking. These three parameters are defined in the table below.

Terminology	SER Beginning Freshman			IPEDS First Time Freshman (used in USG By the Numbers and IPEDS)		
FIRST-TIME STUDENT The definition of first time/ beginning depends on the following variables: Matriculation term and year, enrollment term and year, high school graduation dt, transfer college code, transfer attendance begin dt, transfer attendance end dt	<p>A student can be an SER BF in a Summer, Fall or Spring term (a student can only be counted as BF in one term). The student must have a matriculation year and term equal to the enrollment year and term, and meet any of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not have valid transfer college records <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does have valid transfer college records but the Transfer_Attendance_Begin_Dt of the last transfer attendance record is less than or equal to the High_School_Graduation_Dt 			<p>A student can be an IPEDS FTF in a Fall term only. The student must have a matriculation year equal to the enrollment year, and matriculation term in the Fall or preceding Summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not have valid transfer college records. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does have valid transfer college records but the Transfer_Attendance_Begin_Dt of the last transfer attendance record is less than or equal to the High_School_Graduation_Dt <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does have valid transfer college records but none have a Transfer_Attendance_End_Dt which is greater than the High_School_Graduation_Dt and less than June 01 of the matriculation calendar year. 		
UNDERGRADUATE The definition depends on student level.	BF students must be enrolled in the specified term with one of these Student Level Codes: 10, 20, 30, or 40, or historic codes 01, 02, 12, or 81. Note that students who were coded as vocational (05) were counted separately on the SER.			FTF students must be enrolled in fall term with one of these Student Level Codes: 10, 20, 30, or 40, or historic codes 01, 02, 12, or 81. The IPEDS FTF definition also included code 05 (no longer used).		
DEGREE-SEEKING The definition depends on degree level. Degree Level codes of N and X are excluded for both FTF definitions.	Bachelor	Associate	Certificate	Bachelor	Associate	Certificate
	Degree level code of B or historic code Q allowed	Degree level code of A or V	Degree level code of Z, C, or historic code E.	Degree level code of B or historic code Q	Degree level code of A or V.	Degree level code of Z, C, or historic code E.

IPEDS Race Ethnicity

Functional Definition

Race/ethnicity: Category used to describe groups to which individuals belong, identify with, or belong in the eyes of the community. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. A student that identifies as being of Hispanic ethnicity is classified as Hispanic. All students that are not Hispanic are classified as a specific race if they only indicate one race, and as Two or more races/multi-racial if they select more than one race.

American Indian or Alaska Native: A student having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and maintaining tribal affiliation or community attachment.

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

Black or African American: A student having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

Hispanic or Latino: A student of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: A student having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

Nonresident alien: A student who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

Race/ethnicity unknown: A category used to classify students whose race/ethnicity is not known and whom institutions are unable to place in one of the specified racial/ethnic categories.

White: A student having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Two or more races: A student having origins from two or more races.

Technical Definition

The race/ethnicity category designation is constructed following a series of logic steps using information from the variables New_Ethnicity_Code, Race (a series of indicators), and Race_Ethnicity_Code⁴. For IPEDS reporting, the Citizenship_Status_Code is used to determine non-resident alien status; this is not a race/ethnicity category but does override the race/ethnicity category. A nonresident alien is a person who is not a citizen or national of the United States, and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

The race/ethnicity logic is implemented in the following order:

- 1) New_Ethnicity_Code is evaluated. If New_Ethnicity_Code = 2, then student is designated Hispanic. For values of 0 or 1, continue to step 2.

⁴ Prior to Summer 2009, ethnicity and race were collected in a single data element called Race_Ethnicity_Code. Starting with Summer 2009, race and ethnicity were separated into two sets of variables: New_Ethnicity_Code and the Race indicators. The Academic Data Collection still collects Race_Ethnicity_Code, and this information is utilized if the New_Ethnicity_Code and the Race indicators do not identify an ethnicity/race. See [ADC DED](#) for more information on the history of these elements.

- 2) Each Race indicator is evaluated, if only one indicator has a value of Y, the student is assigned to that category. For example, if Asian_Ind = Y, then the student is designated as Asian. Otherwise, continue to step 3.
 - 3) If multiple race indicators have a value of Y, the student is designated as Two or More Races. For example, Asian_Ind = Y & Black_Ind = Y, then Two or More Races. Otherwise, continue to step 4.
 - 4) If all Race indicators have a value of N and Unknown_Ind=N, then the old race/ethnicity values will be checked from Race_Ethnicity_Code, and the value stored there will be used, for example if the old value 'A' was stored in Race_Ethnicity_Code then the student is designated as Asian.
 - 5) FOR IPEDS ONLY: when reporting to NCES IPEDS, if a student has a value of 'A' in Citizen_Status_Code indicating non-resident alien status, this will override any of the previous race/ethnicity categories. The student will be designated as a non-resident alien.
- Hispanic or Latino/ IPEDS Race is equal to H:
 Ethnicity_Code = 2 **OR**
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1, Unknown_Ind = N, Race_Ethnicity_Code = H
 - American Indian or Alaskan Native/ IPEDS Race is equal to I:
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1 and only Native_Ind = Y **OR**
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1, Unknown_Ind = N, Race_Ethnicity_Code = I
 - Asian/ IPEDS Race is equal to Z:
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1 and only Asian_Ind = Y **OR**
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1, Unknown_Ind = N, Race_Ethnicity_Code = A
 - Black or African American/ IPEDS Race is equal to B:
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1 and only Black_Ind = Y **OR**
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1, Unknown_Ind = N, Race_Ethnicity_Code = B
 - Pacific Islander/ IPEDS Race is equal to P:
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1 and only Pacific_Ind = Y **OR**
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1, Unknown_Ind = N, Race_Ethnicity_Code = P
 - White/ IPEDS Race is equal to W:
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1 and only White_Ind = Y **OR**
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1, Unknown_Ind = N, Race_Ethnicity_Code = W
 - Two or More Races/ IPEDS Race is equal to T:
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1 and *two or more* Race indicators = Y **OR**
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1, Unknown_Ind = N, Race_Ethnicity_Code = M
NOTE: as of Fall 2020 our code assigns Race_Ethnicity_Code = M as Two or More, before Fall 2020 it was classified as Unknown.
 - Race/ethnicity Unknown/ IPEDS Race is equal to U:
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1 and only Unknown_Ind = Y **OR**
 Ethnicity_Code = 0 or 1, Unknown_Ind = N, Race_Ethnicity_Code = U
 - Nonresident Alien: In IPEDS reporting, citizenship status overrides race/ethnicity. If Citizenship_Status_Code = 'A' (non-resident alien), then a student is reported to IPEDS with the value of 'R' to reflect their non-resident alien status.

SER Race/Ethnicity

Functional Definition

Please see IPEDS Race/Ethnicity above.

Note: the SER Race/Ethnicity fields do not include Non-resident alien.

Technical Definition

Please see IPEDS Race/Ethnicity above.

Note: All categories are utilized except Nonresident Alien.

New Student

Functional Definition

A student attending any System institution for the first time. A student is only classified as a New Student in the first term they are enrolled at that institution at a particular student level. An exception to this relates to dual enrolled students (see FTF definitions above).

Technical Definition

A student is classified as a New Student if Matriculation_Term is equal to Academic_Term.

In-State⁵

Functional Definition

A student who is a resident of Georgia (for tuition purposes).

Technical Definition

A student is designated as In-State for tuition purposes if STUDENT_RESIDENCY_CODE = I.

Out-of-State

Functional Definition

A student who is a citizen of the United States but is not classified as a resident of Georgia (for tuition purposes).

Technical Definition

A student is designated as Out-of-State for tuition purposes if STUDENT_RESIDENCY_CODE = O and REGENTS_RESD_CODE is NULL.

Out-of-Country

Functional Definition

A student who is not a citizen of the United States and is not classified as an in-state or out-of-state resident (for tuition purposes).

⁵ Starting in fall 2024 a third level of tuition was implemented for out-of-country students per [BOR Policy 7.3.1](#). Classification of students for tuition purposes is provided in [BOR Policy 4.3.2](#).

Technical Definition

A student is designated as Out-of-Country for tuition purposes if
STUDENT_RESIDENCY_CODE = O and REGENTS_RESD_CODE = 'Z.'

Paying Full Tuition/Tuition Waived

Functional/Technical Definition

Paying Full Tuition: A student who does NOT have a designated Tuition Waiver Fee Classification Code (see table below).

Tuition Waived: A student who does have a designated Tuition Waiver Fee Classification Code (see table below).

Designated Tuition Waiver Fee Classification Codes include:

WACF	WACP	WAOC	WATF	WATP	WBCR	WBSR	WCCO	WCED	WDEX
WEMD	WFMG	WFTE	WFTM	WGBC	WIGA	WINF	WINP	WISC	WITR
WMDI	WMIL	WNGM	WNRS	WOGA	WRGS	WRSM	WSTA	WVRS	

Note: Tuition Waiver Fee Classification Codes of ISOTH, IPSO, WICP, WINT, WMWT, WOTH, WPIL, WSUP have been discontinued. WDET is a tuition waiver, but not included in SER due to the residency verification process for Dual Enrollment students. Starting with Summer 2020 ISRA is no longer considered a designated tuition waiver fee class code.

Student Level Classification

Functional Definition

A classification indicates a student's class standing. For degree-seeking undergraduate students, this is determined by the number of hours completed. There are four undergraduate classifications: Freshman (less than 30 hours), Sophomore (30 or greater but less than 60), Junior (60 or greater but less than 90), and Senior (90 or greater). Degree-seeking graduate students can be classified as Master's, Educational Specialist, Doctoral, Professional, interns or residents. All other students are classified as either dual enrollment, transient, auditor, or a post-baccalaureate degree recipient that is not working toward a degree.

Technical Definition

Students are classified as follows based on the variable Student_Level_NBR:

- Lower Level: Student_Level_NBR is 10, 11, 20
- Upper Level: Student_Level_NBR is 30, 40
- Grad/Professional: Student_Level_NBR is greater than or equal to 60
- Transient/Other: Student_Level_NBR equal to 50, 51, 52, 53, 56
- Non-Degree (Post-Baccalaureate): Student_Level_NBR is equal to 60
- Masters: Student_Level_NBR is equal to 72
- Education Specialist: Student_Level_NBR is equal to 74
- Doctorate: Student_Level_NBR is equal to 76
- First Professional: Student_Level_NBR is equal to 80
- Resident/Intern: Student_Level_NBR is equal to 90

Traditional and Non-Traditional Student

Functional Definition

Traditional: A student whose age at matriculation is below 25.

Non-Traditional: A student whose age at matriculation is greater than or equal to 25.

Technical Definition

The traditional and non-traditional designations are based on a student's age at matriculation. A student is Traditional if their age is below 25, and Non-Traditional if their age is greater than or equal to 25. See "Age" for additional information.

New Transfer

Functional Definition

New Transfers are reported in the SER as well as USG by the Numbers. The two reports operationalize New Transfers in slightly different ways.

SER New Transfer: A degree-seeking undergraduate new Student that has valid transfer college records and does not meet the requirements to be a Beginning Freshmen.

IPEDS New Transfer: A degree-seeking undergraduate new student that has valid transfer college records and does not meet the requirements to be a First-Time Freshmen.

Technical Definition

A student is a new transfer student if the student meets the following conditions:

- Is a degree seeker (Degree_Level_Code is not N or X)
- Is an undergraduate (Student_Level_NBR is 10, 20, 30, 40)
- Is not an SER Beginning Freshmen (SER New Transfer)
- Is not an IPEDS First-Time Freshman (IPEDS New Transfer)

Undergraduate and Graduate Student

Functional Definition

An Undergraduate is typically defined as a student that is a Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior. An alternative definition of Undergraduate could include the above four categories plus Auditors, Transient, Other, Post-Baccalaureate (non-degree seeking or seeking a second baccalaureate degree), and Dual Enrollment students.

A Graduate student is typically defined as a student seeking a Master's, Education Specialist, Doctorate, Professional degree or a non-degree seeking Post-Baccalaureate who is taking first professional or graduate course(s) but is not working towards a degree.

Technical Definition

- Undergraduate Student Definition 1: Student_Level_NBR is 10, 20, 30, 40
- Undergraduate Student Definition 2: Student_Level_NBR is less than 60.
- Graduate Student: Student_Level_NBR is greater than or equal to 60.