



## IPEDS 2009 TOOLS COLLEGE NAVIGATOR



### SLIDE 1

On behalf of the National Center for Education Statistics, NCES and the Association for Institutional Research, AIR, welcome to an overview of College Navigator.

### SLIDE 2

College Navigator is a free consumer information tool that guides, leads, and directs students, parents, high school counselors and other interested parties to information about higher education institutions.

Approximately 7,000 postsecondary institutions in the United States and its jurisdictions are included in College Navigator.

College Navigator can be found at <http://collegenavigator.ed.gov>

### SLIDE 3

College Navigator contains information on programs and degrees awarded, retention and graduation rates, price of attendance, available aid, campus safety reports and accreditation information.

### SLIDE 4

The primary data source for College Navigator is the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, or IPEDS. IPEDS, a comprehensive system of interrelated surveys collecting institutional level data, is the core collection program for postsecondary educational data reported to the National Center for Education Statistics.

### SLIDE 5

College Navigator includes data from approximately 6,800 Title IV (four) institutions and another 200 non-Title IV institutions.

Reporting IPEDS data is mandatory for Title IV institutions; non-Title IV institutions report on a voluntary basis.

### SLIDE 6

Institutions report data in three annual cycles. You can see the surveys listed on the screen.

Videos and downloadable materials for each survey are available on the AIR website, <http://airweb.org/ipeds.html>.

### SLIDE 7

We will now go through each of the IPEDS component surveys and highlight the information included in Navigator. The first survey is Institutional Characteristics, or IC.

The institutional identifier includes the name and address of the campus.

IC also includes institutional control, for example, public or private; and award levels offered, such as associate, masters, and bachelors.

Additionally, IC contains information on admissions considerations, test scores, and admissions numbers, such as the number of applications, the number of acceptances, and the number enrolled.

Further, IC contains information on availability of student services including testing, tutoring and other student support/campus life activities.

Finally, estimated student expenses (before aid), or including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies and other expenses can be found in IC.

#### SLIDE 8

The data in College Navigator focus primarily on undergraduate students and the majority of surveys collect information on them. Fall Enrollment data used in College Navigator includes undergraduate enrollment data by race/ethnicity and gender by level.

Fall-to-fall retention rates of full-time and part-time, first-time degree seeking undergraduate students are also included. These show the percentage of first-time entering students who continue their studies the following fall.

#### SLIDE 9

College Navigator gets a list of programs offered by each institution from the Completions survey. Completions data in Navigator include the number of awards and degrees conferred by program during the year by all award levels. Institutions are also searchable by programs of study the student is interested in.

#### SLIDE 10

Graduation rate data are displayed for a cohort of first-time, full-time degree/certificate seeking undergraduate students who enter during a given fall or full-year period.

Students are tracked at 150% of normal time to completion.

Summary data on graduation rates in Navigator are given by race/ethnicity and gender. Transfer out rates are also provided.

For 4-year institutions, additional information is displayed for the bachelor's cohort.

#### SLIDE 11

There are data limitations to the Graduation Rate information defined by the legislation for Student Right To Know rates. The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act, passed in 1990, requires institutions eligible for Title IV funding to disclose the completion or graduation rates of their certificate or degree seeking full-time students to current and prospective students.

A small portion of an institution's entire population is included in the cohort. This is especially true for the less-than-four year institutions. The data do not include part-time students or students who transfer into the institution. Nor are students who transfer out deducted from the initial cohort.

Students who are deceased or have become permanently disabled and are unable to return to school, are serving in the armed forces, foreign aid services or are on official church missions can be excluded from the cohort's final calculations.

#### SLIDE 12

Financial aid data include the percent of full-time, first-time degree/certificate seeking undergraduate students receiving financial aid. Data are shown by type of aid and the average amount of aid received. Information in Navigator focuses on federal grants, state and local grants, institutional grants, and student loans.

#### SLIDE 13

Although IPEDS is the primary data source for the information found in the Navigator, other areas in the U.S. Department of Education provide varsity athletics teams, accreditation, and campus security information.

#### SLIDE 14

NCES is always making improvements to the College Navigator. For example, the availability of the search option on every page allows for easy changes. The search includes a guide through the multiple options, as well as searches by institution alias.

Side-by-side comparisons are available for up to four institutions at a time, and users can now store up to 15 institutions in a session using the 'Favorites' function.

#### SLIDE 15

Users can save their searches and will be sent an email link that allows them to access the saved search.

Users can also export the results of their search to an easier to use file format such as Excel.

Finally, a Spanish version of Navigator is available.

#### SLIDE 16

Now that you have an introduction to College Navigator and the information that it contains, let's see the tool in use from a user's perspective.

The main users of College Navigator are students, parents, and high school guidance counselors. First we'll look at how a student might use the College Navigator.

Tiffany is beginning her senior year in high school and is contemplating where she will attend college after graduation.

She has only one institution in mind, the University of Mississippi (aka Ole Miss), because her boyfriend is a freshman there.

Knowing exactly where she wants to go, Tiffany types the name of the university into the Name of School option box on College Navigator's home page and clicks on "show results."

#### SLIDE 17

The search returns three schools and Tiffany places the cursor over the information button next to the main campus for Ole Miss. Tiffany sees that Ole Miss is a four-year public institution with about 12,700 undergraduates, offers five types of degrees, has campus housing and is on the fringe of a rural setting.

From this page Tiffany could save the results, export the results, or print the results. She would also be able to add Ole Miss to her favorites.

For now, she would like to see more information so she clicks on the university's name.

#### SLIDE 18

College Navigator returns the institution's profile page. The basic profile information is displayed at the top of the page along with a Google map of the institution's location.

Tiffany can also click on the plus signs to get additional information on areas of interest such as enrollment, expenses, financial aid and admissions.

#### SLIDE 19

To see how many applicants are admitted to Ole Miss, Tiffany clicks on the plus sign next to Admissions and finds that 85.4 percent of female applicants are admitted. She also learns about the admissions considerations, test scores and application fees of Ole Miss.

#### SLIDE 20

Tiffany understands that her choice of Ole Miss might not be supported by her family. Therefore, she uses the Expand All option that displays all available information hoping to find something that will help to sway her parents' opinion.

#### SLIDE 21

Information, graphs, charts and other items are now available to her. She finds the information on financial aid and retention rates. With an 80% full-time student retention rate and 72% of students receiving financial aid, Tiffany feels that her parents will approve of Ole Miss.

#### SLIDE 22

She clicks print and all of the information – including the map and graphs – will be included in the easy-to-read print format to share with her father.

#### SLIDE 23

Tiffany's dad, Frank, is impressed with the work his daughter has done to convince him that Ole Miss is the right choice, but he has not forgotten the true reason. He would feel better if Tiffany and her boyfriend were not in the same state together. Finding that Tiffany has left the computer on, he reviews the College Navigator website and concludes using the "Guide Me" feature will be best for him.

#### SLIDE 24

The Guide Me option walks the user step by step, through finding an institution's information. But Frank does not want to limit his findings to one institution and uses step 2, the map feature.

#### SLIDE 25

He selects the southeastern states of Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia.

College Navigator "pins" the selected states.

#### SLIDE 26

Tiffany's dad skips step three and, using step four, adds options using the programs/majors area of search.

#### SLIDE 27

Being an engineer, he would like Tiffany to follow in his footsteps and clicks on the select button to add a major to his search.

As he begins typing "engineering", College Navigator does an active search, returning the engineering options. He chooses general engineering, civil engineering, chemical engineering and engineering science and closes the search box.

#### SLIDE 28

He would like Tiffany to earn her bachelor's degree (step 5) at a four year institution (step 6).

#### SLIDE 29

Step 7 offers additional search options such as tuition and fees. Frank chooses his home state of Tennessee and a maximum tuition of \$15,000.

This will enable him to search on in-state tuition for public institutions in Tennessee and out-of-state tuition for Kentucky and Georgia.

#### SLIDE 30

Frank is ready to see the results of his search choices. He clicks on the "show results" button. Eight institutions are returned that meet his chosen criteria.

#### SLIDE 31

Frank is happy with his list of institutions and saves his search. He clicks on the save option and enters his email address in the box and an email link will be sent to him for future use. He also decides to export his results to a spreadsheet using the Excel file format.

Armed with his list of institutions, he and Tiffany begin discussing their options.

#### SLIDE 32

Tiffany, having her heart set on Ole Miss, convinces Frank that they should see the high school guidance counselor, Ms. Potter.

Ms. Potter agrees that using College Navigator is an excellent idea. She looks at the list of institutions included in Frank's search. Tiffany agrees to consider the University of Memphis because of its proximity to Ole Miss. Ms. Potter adds it to my favorites.

However, knowing Tiffany's academic history and that her strengths are in English and History, Ms. Potter believes a smaller, private institution may be a better choice. She starts a new session and using the search options which will bring institutions for comparison that are better suited for Tiffany.

She chooses institutions in the southeast by using the Map feature, the level of award of Bachelor's degree and the institution type of private, four-year.

Ms. Potter believes it would be best not to narrow the search to a specific program/major and encourages Frank and Tiffany to raise the tuition level in their search to \$30,000 and to choose an institution with an enrollment of between 500-3000 students.

Also knowing Tiffany scored a 26 on her A-C-T Ms. Potter chooses an ACT range of 20 – 25.

Finally, Ms. Potter and Frank agree that Tiffany is athletic and will need activity while in college to keep her from daydreaming about her boyfriend. They choose women's basketball in the varsity sports area and click on show results.

### SLIDE 33

Eleven institutions are returned in their new search. After reviewing the institutional profiles, they agree that Oglethorpe and Southern Virginia, each having an above 90% recipient rate for institutional aid for first-time full-time freshman, would make them good institutions for comparisons and add them to their favorite list, which already includes Ole Miss and University of Memphis.

### SLIDE 34

Ms. Potter selects all of the institutions in the "My Favorites" Area and clicks on the compare button.

### SLIDE 35

They can look at all the information College Navigator has available for each institution by clicking on the highlighted name.

They print out their comparisons and head home to join Tiffany's mother in making the final decision.

While Tiffany and her father disagreed about her original choice of Ole Miss, College Navigator has provided the family with the information that will help them choose the right institution.

### SLIDE 36

Now that we have seen the uses of College Navigator by different constituents, we need to understand the implications and the limitations of the College Navigator.

From time to time, institutions should review their information. Discrepancies or anomalies may be found and need updating and/or correcting.

For example, the institutional web link, the data on the general information page, and the institution's mission statement should be verified.

SLIDE 37

There are limitations in the data used by Navigator. A large portion of the data covers only full-time, first-time degree/certificate seeking students, not the not-traditional student.

Areas such as admissions, estimated student expenses, financial aid and graduation/transfer rates are limited to this cohort of students.

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Other limitations include the lack of net tuition. Estimated student expenses before aid and average amounts of aid received are offered in lieu of the net tuition.

Average aid amounts are broken down by federal grants, state and local grants, institutional grants and loans.

SLIDE 39

In fact, now would be a good time to take a look at your institution's listing. We hope you have a better understanding of how this tool is used and how important it is that correct information about your institution is displayed on the College Navigator.