

IPEDS Cost Survey Component Tuition versus Cost of Attendance Tutorial Script 2024-25 Data Collection

On behalf of the Institute of Education Sciences', IES, National Center for Education Statistics, NCES, and the Association for Institutional Research, AIR, welcome to this tutorial on the IPEDS Cost survey component, also called IPEDS CST survey. The purpose of this tutorial is to explain the difference between tuition and required fees, and cost of attendance for reporting data to IPEDS.

The IPEDS Glossary defines *Tuition* as “The amount of money charged to students for instructional services. Tuition may be charged per term, per course, or per credit.” *Required fees* are defined as “Fixed sum charged to students for items not covered by tuition and required of such a large proportion of all students that the student who does not pay the charge is an exception.”

Tuition and required fees are only one portion of total cost of attendance, which also includes food and housing, books and supplies, and other expenses. Cost of attendance for average net price includes the amount of tuition and fees, food and housing, books and supplies, and other expenses that a full-time, first-time degree or certificate-seeking undergraduate student can expect to pay to go to college for an academic year.

All institutions provide data on tuition and required fees. They must also indicate whether they charge differently based on student residency; and, if so, must report the tuition for each residency type. But academic and program reporters do not submit the same information.

Academic reporters submit average tuition and required fees for both full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students for an academic year, which is typically nine months. For part-time undergraduate and graduate students, academic reporters report the charges per credit hour. Tuition data for selected Doctor's-Professional Practice programs, such as medicine and law, are collected separately. On the other hand, program reporters submit tuition and required fees for their 6 largest programs for the entire length of each program.

Program and academic reporters with full-time, first-time undergraduate students report cost of attendance data. Both reporter types must provide data on different living arrangements, as applicable to their institution. However, academic reporters provide cost of attendance data for a full academic year, while program reporters provide these data only for their largest program based on enrollment. The tuition and fees as well as books and supplies for program reporters are for the entire length of the program, while living and other expenses are reported for one month.

Cost of attendance data reported on the IPEDS CST survey component are used to calculate an institution's average net price. Note revisions to the cost of attendance data reported in the CST I (Fall data collection), can only be made in the CST II (Winter data collection). Cost of attendance

revisions cannot be made in the prior year revision system.

For more information on tuition and fees at your institution, contact your institution's Registrar or enrollment services manager. Contact the financial aid office if you have questions about the cost of attendance.

If you have questions about reporting your institution's data to IPEDS or the IPEDS Data Collection System, contact the IPEDS Data Collection Help Desk at (877) 225-2568 or send an email to Help Desk staff at ipedshelp@rti.org. For assistance using IPEDS data tools, contact the IPEDS Data Use Help Desk at (866) 558-0658 or ipedstools@rti.org.