



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

### Graduation Rates Glossary and Notes

#### **Main data source(s)**

KHEDS Academic Year Collection and KHEDS Fall Census Collection

*Note: Definitions of data sources can be found elsewhere in this document.*

#### **Objective**

The Graduation Rates tab reviews groups of undergraduate students also known as cohorts who enter the Kansas public postsecondary system in the fall as first-time entering, full-time, degree-seeking students. The tab looks at the time it takes for the students to graduate from a Kansas public postsecondary institution.

#### **Definitions**

**Fall Calendar Entry Year:** The year a student enters the Kansas public postsecondary system for the first time as a first-time, degree-seeking student

**KHEDS:** In response to the Kansas Higher Education Coordination Act, the Kansas Board of Regents developed the Kansas Postsecondary Database (KSPSD) to collect student data, Program Inventory (PI), Course Inventory (CI) and Courses within Programs (CWPs). Together these collections are referred to as the Kansas Higher Education Data System (KHEDS). KHEDS supports informed decision-making through the collection, analysis, and reporting of postsecondary education data in Kansas.

KHEDS includes several collections including the Academic Year Collection, Fall Preliminary Enrollment Collection, Fall Census Day Collection and Follow-up Collection.

**Institution Type:** The Kansas Board of Regents was given governing authority over the state public universities and coordinating authority over public community colleges, technical colleges and the municipal university by the Kansas Legislature from the passing of the Kansas Higher Education Coordination Act.

**Rate Type:** Graduation rates are reported either for an institution rate or a system rate. The rate type refers to whether students in a particular group graduate from that institution within a particular time

period or whether the students graduate from somewhere within the Kansas public postsecondary system as a whole within the same time frame.

**Rate:** Graduation rates are reported in 100 percent time, 125 percent time, 150 percent time and 200 percent time. The time can refer to four years, five years, six years and eight years for each of the rates for universities based upon 120 hours of completed coursework. For the two-year institutions, the rates are for two years, three years and four years for an associate degree while certificates are based upon the required hours for the award level.

**Residency:** A student's residency status, in relation to tuition, is determined as of the beginning of the reporting term and is defined by law for the Board of Regents' institutions by K.S.A. 76-729 and for community colleges by K.S.A. 71-406 and K.S.A. 71-407. The detailed statutes for the State of Kansas can be found at [http://www.kslegislature.org/li\\_2012/b2011\\_12/statute/](http://www.kslegislature.org/li_2012/b2011_12/statute/). Residency values are:

**Resident:** The student has been a domiciliary resident of Kansas as of the start of the reporting term.

**Non-Resident:** The student has not been a domiciliary resident of Kansas as of the start of the reporting term.

**Race/Ethnicity:** KHEDS collects the following Race/Ethnicity categories: Asian, Hispanic/Latino American Indian or Alaskan Native, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, and Unknown. For purposes of reporting, the following logic is deployed: if a student is reported as Non-Resident Alien, the race is derived as Non-Resident Alien regardless whether any other race/ethnicity is reported; if the student is reported as Hispanic, the race is considered Hispanic, regardless whether any other race/ethnicity is reported; otherwise, if a student is reported in more than one of any other race categories, the student is derived as 'Two or More Races'; all other students are considered in the one race/ethnicity reported; when race is not reported, race is considered unknown.

Ethnicity is determined for academic year being reported and follows U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines for converting multiple race reporting to a combined format. For institutions, the reporting race in the KBOR Academic Year Collection is used.

The KHEDS definition of Race/Ethnicity is in conjunction with the reporting definitions for IPEDS. The IPEDS full definition can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/glossary/index.asp?id=940>. KBOR definitions have changed to fit new IPEDS definitions. Expect data anomalies based upon definitional shifts between 2009 through 2011. For example, increases in Hispanic and decreases in Asian could be attributed to definitional shifts.

*Additional Notes Regarding Race / Ethnicity:*

Prior to AY 2022, Fort Hays State University reported China campus students as Non-Resident Aliens. For AY 2022, FHSU reported China campus students in the Asian and Unknown categories. These students should appear only in the Unknown category. As a result, the numbers in KHEStats may not match other published reports.

**Age:** The field age is derived from a student's date of birth, as reported in KHEDS. For reporting purposes, each student's age is categorized into specific age brackets, which include:

- Less than 18 years of age
- 18 – 19 years of age
- 20 – 24 years of age
- 25 – 34 years of age
- 35 – 44 years of age
- 45 – 64 years of age
- 65 years of age and older
- Unknown

**Gender:** Gender is collected as a part of KHEDS. Gender includes the categories of female, male, not reported, and unknown.

### **Tab Components**

**Tables and Charts** look at graduation rates using a variety of dropdown menu choices. Both contain the same information albeit in different looks.

### **Technical Notes**

- Student level data is collected by KBOR from Kansas public postsecondary institutions twice per year in its Kansas Higher Education Data System (KHEDS) Academic Year and Fall Census Collections.
- To the extent possible, IPEDS definitions are used for calculating graduation rates from KHEDS. A cohort of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students enrolled in the fall semester is used as the denominator. Of the cohort, those who graduate are used as the numerator.
- KBOR does not track cohort exclusions; thus exclusions, as allowed by IPEDS, are not removed.
- The University of Kansas and the University of Kansas Medical Center cohorts have been combined.
- Institution Rate: This refers to the number of students who graduate from the same institution.
- System Rate: The number of students who graduate from any institution in the Kansas public institution system.