



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Student Success Index Glossary and Notes

Objective

Given the diverse population and varying mission of community colleges and technical colleges, the Student Success Index provides a more comprehensive measure of institutional effectiveness than traditional graduation and retention rates.

Components

Completions refer to those students with degrees, certificates, or credentials earned from the institutions in which they started their postsecondary education, from other institutions within the Kansas public postsecondary educational system, or from institutions outside the system. These categories are listed as:

- Completed Home Institution;
- Completed System Institution; and
- Completed Elsewhere.

Retentions refer to those students who have chosen to continue their postsecondary education experience at the institutions in which they started their postsecondary education, at other institutions within the Kansas public postsecondary educational system or at other institutions outside the system. These categories are listed as:

- Retained Home Institution;
- Retained System Institution; and
- Retained Elsewhere.

Filters

The Student Success Index has five independent filters. These are:

- Institution;
- Student Type (First-Time Entering or New Transfer);
- Intent (Degree-Seeking or Non-Degree Seeking);
- Student Status (Full-Time or Part-Time); and
- Rate Year (Number of Years Since the Entrance Year).

Technical Details

- Outcomes are determined using data from both the KHEDS AY Collection and the National Student Clearinghouse.
- The student is counted once per academic year for each institution.
- The associated filters are relevant for the first reporting term in which the student appears in the order of summer, fall and spring.
- Translations have been made for merged institutions, and the current institution is used for the label.
- All completions reported to KBOR in the AY Completions File have been used. These may include stand-alone programs/occupational programs, certificates and degrees.
- The segments on the bar graph are mutually exclusive from left to right. Once a student is counted in one segment, the student is not counted in another.

Variance from Outcome IPEDS Measures

- The Student Success Index (SSI) uses all *entering* students, not just first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students.
- IPEDS Outcome Measures (OM) uses a 12-month cohort, but KBOR's academic year is summer, fall and spring. IPEDS OM academic year is July 1 through June 30. In other words, IPEDS splits the summer term.
- The index uses all *entering* students, not just first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students.
- Exclusions: IPEDS allows exclusion of students from the student population due to death or total and permanent disability; service in the armed forces (including those called to active duty); service with a foreign aid service of the federal government, such as the Peace Corps; or service on official church missions. KBOR does not track or remove exclusions.
- Formal transfer prep programs: If an institution has a formal transfer prep program, but that student does not receive a formal award from the first institution, the first institution can count the student as a grad if the student fulfills the transfer prep program and transfers to another institution. KBOR does not track transfer prep specifically.
- IPEDS allows institutions to count completers as 'retained' in retention rates for two-year institutions under some circumstances. These are broken out separately for the index.
- Types of degrees/awards: In order to count a student or award for IPEDS, the student must be seeking a formal degree, certificate or award. KBOR and institutions have not always defined these in the same way, and these awards/occupational programs have not always been collected by KBOR. The index counts postsecondary credit toward degrees, certificates and stand-alone programs (occupational programs) if these have been submitted to KBOR. Any level of completion found within the specified timeframe is counted.
- Expected time to degree: For SSI, no differentiation regarding the length of a degree program was made. KBOR evaluates whether a student completed or retained at the

end of each rate year whereas IPEDS looks at 150 percent of the time of the degree program.

- Mergers: KBOR used translations for the merged institutions. It is uncertain how these were reported to IPEDS. For the purposes of the student success index, undergraduate students completing at KU Medical Center without first completing at KU are merged with KU completers.

Key Terms

Institution: A public postsecondary entity such as the University of Kansas, Washburn University, Allen Community College or Flint Hills Technical College for which the Kansas Board of Regents has either governing authority or coordinating authority.

Student Type: Students are either classified as entering an institution for the first time (First-Time Entering) or as new transfer students (New Transfer).

Intent: Students are classified as either seeking a degree or non-degree seeking.

Student Status: KHEDS defines full-time or part-time status as follows:

Full-time status for the undergraduate level is defined as enrollment in 12 or more credit hours per semester. Full-time status for the graduate or professional level is defined as enrollment in nine or more credit hours per semester.

Part-time status for the undergraduate level is defined as enrollment in less than 12 credit hours per semester. Part-time status for the graduate or professional level is defined as enrollment in less than nine credit hours per semester.

Rate Year: The number of years since the student's entrance year.

The first year of the rate year for the graduation rate is the first year of enrollment. Once a student has completed or earned an award, that completion is counted in all subsequent year rates.

The first year of the rate year for the retention rate is the academic year following the year of enrollment. If a student has not completed and is no longer enrolled for a subsequent year, that student ceases to be counted unless the student re-enrolls during a future academic period.

Entrance Year: The academic year in which the student entered the Kansas' public postsecondary education system

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 as well as the Business Training and Enrichment student data collection. Program Inventory (PI), Course Inventory (CI), and Courses within Programs (CWPs) are referred to collectively as the Kansas

Higher Education Data Systems or KHEDS. KHEDS supports informed decision-making through the collection, analysis, and reporting of postsecondary education data in Kansas.

KHEDS Academic Year Collection: A collection of data files for a specific academic year.

Academic Year (AY): An academic year is defined as consecutive summer, fall, and spring terms. For example, the 2020 Academic Year covers Summer 2019 + Fall 2019 + Spring 2020.

National Student Clearinghouse: The National Student Clearinghouse is a nonprofit and nongovernmental organization founded in 1993 to assist educators and policy makers with accurate longitudinal data on student outcomes. More than 3,600 colleges and universities participate in the Clearinghouse, reporting enrollment and degree information throughout the year while remaining compliant with data privacy laws.