College Navigator

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National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Conference

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Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Data Tools

IPEDS Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

About IPEDS | Use The Data | Report Your Data | Find Your College | Collaborate With NCES

Your primary source for information on U.S. colleges, universities, and technical and vocational institutions.

About the IPEDS Data Tools

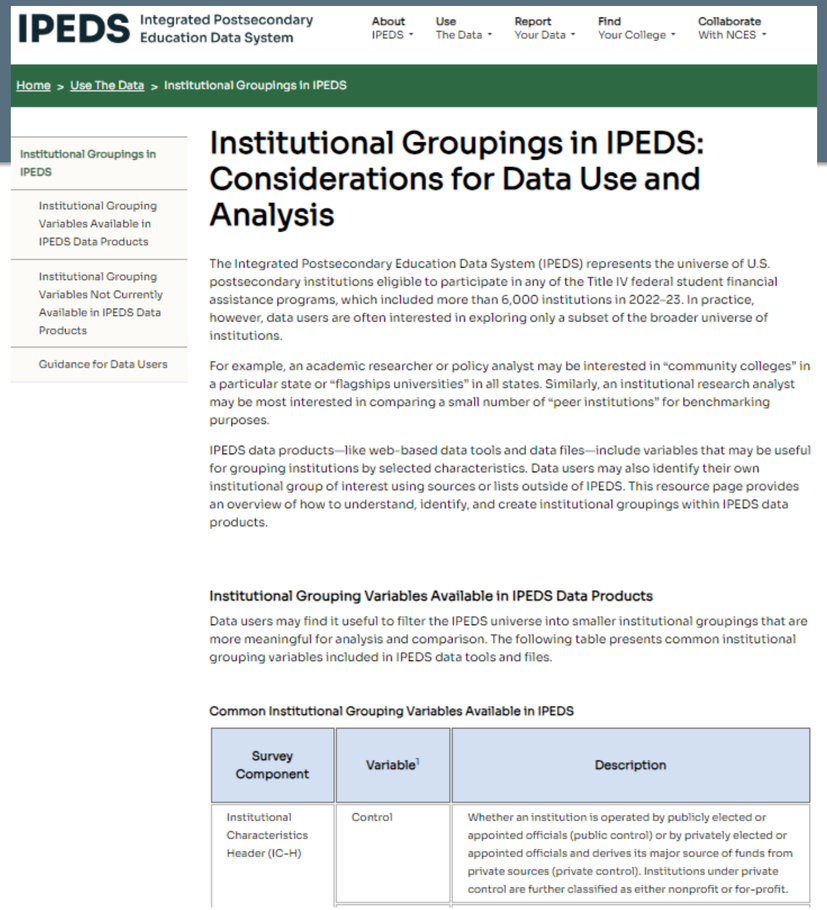
Search tables and publications	Learn about an institution	Create custom data analyses	Download data
Data Explorer	College Navigator	Custom Data Feedback Report	Access database
Publications and Products	Data Feedback Report	Data Trends	Compare institutions
		Group Statistics	Complete data files
		Summary Tables	Custom data files

IPEDS Data Tools Resources

- Tutorials and Workshops
- Data User Help Desk
- IPEDS Help Pages
- IPEDS Knowledge Exchange
- NCES Data Institute
- This Week In IPEDS (TWII)

IPEDS resource pages/brochures and NCES blog posts

Resource Pages/Brochures



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Home > Use The Data > Institutional Groupings in IPEDS

Institutional Groupings in IPEDS

- Institutional Grouping Variables Available in IPEDS Data Products
- Institutional Grouping Variables Not Currently Available in IPEDS Data Products
- Guidance for Data Users

Institutional Groupings in IPEDS: Considerations for Data Use and Analysis

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) represents the universe of U.S. postsecondary institutions eligible to participate in any of the Title IV federal student financial assistance programs, which included more than 6,000 institutions in 2022-23. In practice, however, data users are often interested in exploring only a subset of the broader universe of institutions.

For example, an academic researcher or policy analyst may be interested in "community colleges" in a particular state or "flagships universities" in all states. Similarly, an institutional research analyst may be most interested in comparing a small number of "peer institutions" for benchmarking purposes.

IPEDS data products—like web-based data tools and data files—include variables that may be useful for grouping institutions by selected characteristics. Data users may also identify their own institutional group of interest using sources or lists outside of IPEDS. This resource page provides an overview of how to understand, identify, and create institutional groupings within IPEDS data products.

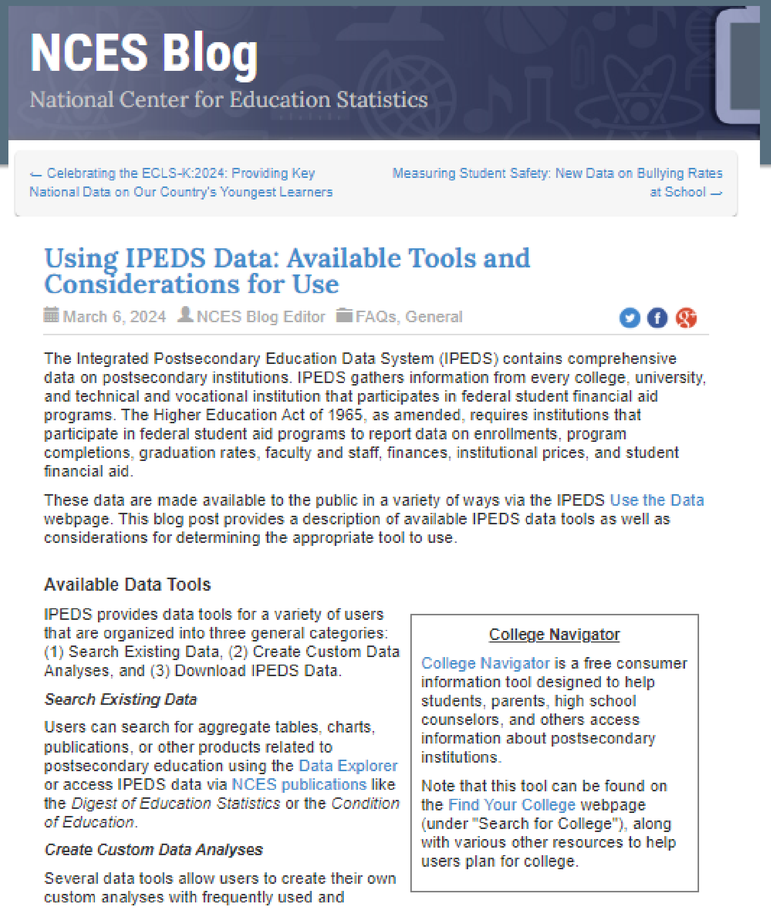
Institutional Grouping Variables Available in IPEDS Data Products

Data users may find it useful to filter the IPEDS universe into smaller institutional groupings that are more meaningful for analysis and comparison. The following table presents common institutional grouping variables included in IPEDS data tools and files.

Common Institutional Grouping Variables Available in IPEDS

Survey Component	Variable[1]	Description
Institutional Characteristics Header (IC-H)	Control	Whether an institution is operated by publicly elected or appointed officials (public control) or by privately elected or appointed officials and derives its major source of funds from private sources (private control). Institutions under private control are further classified as either nonprofit or for-profit.

NCES Blog



NCES Blog

National Center for Education Statistics

← Celebrating the ECLS-K:2024: Providing Key National Data on Our Country's Youngest Learners

Measuring Student Safety: New Data on Bullying Rates at School →

Using IPEDS Data: Available Tools and Considerations for Use

March 6, 2024 · NCES Blog Editor · FAQs, General

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) contains comprehensive data on postsecondary institutions. IPEDS gathers information from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in federal student financial aid programs. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, requires institutions that participate in federal student aid programs to report data on enrollments, program completions, graduation rates, faculty and staff, finances, institutional prices, and student financial aid.

These data are made available to the public in a variety of ways via the IPEDS Use the Data webpage. This blog post provides a description of available IPEDS data tools as well as considerations for determining the appropriate tool to use.

Available Data Tools

IPEDS provides data tools for a variety of users that are organized into three general categories: (1) Search Existing Data, (2) Create Custom Data Analyses, and (3) Download IPEDS Data.

Search Existing Data

Users can search for aggregate tables, charts, publications, or other products related to postsecondary education using the Data Explorer or access IPEDS data via NCES publications like the *Digest of Education Statistics* or the *Condition of Education*.

Create Custom Data Analyses

Several data tools allow users to create their own custom analyses with frequently used and

College Navigator

College Navigator is a free consumer information tool designed to help students, parents, high school counselors, and others access information about postsecondary institutions.

Note that this tool can be found on the Find Your College webpage (under "Search for College"), along with various other resources to help users plan for college.

IPEDS data tools and functionality

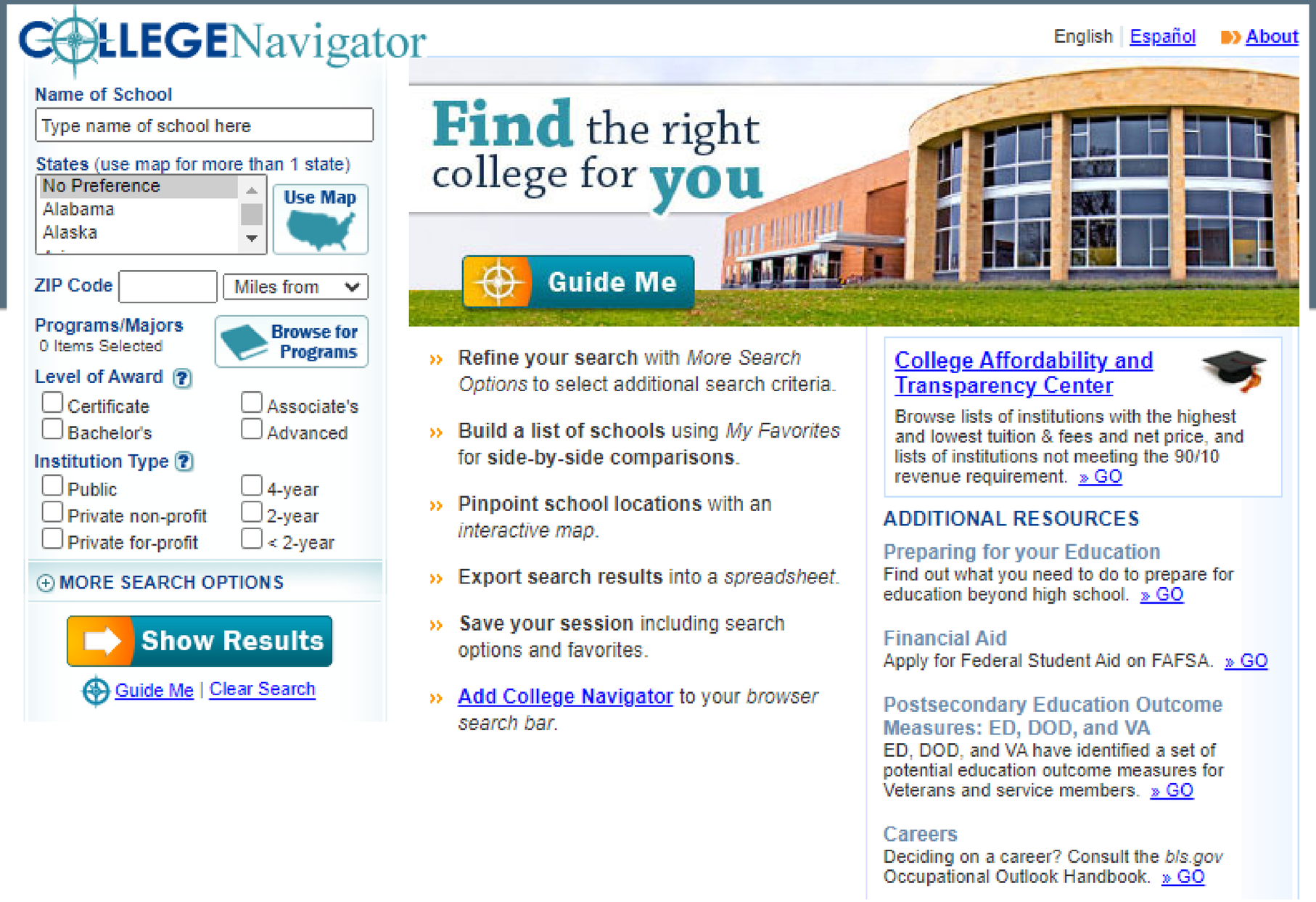
	Data Selection							Data Extraction				
	Quick access[1]	Data release[2]	Select institutions	Multiple years	Access raw data	Institution-level data	All data available	Save/upload institutions	Save/upload variables	Export data	Produce visuals	Toggle between tools[3]
College Navigator	✓	◔	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	
Data Explorer	✓	◔✓		✓						✓		
Publications & Products	✓	◔		✓						✓		
Data Feedback Report												
Data Feedback Report	✓	◔						✓			✓	
Custom Data Feedback Report		◔	✓					✓			✓	
Statistical Analysis Report		◔	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
Data Trends	✓	◔✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	
Look up an Institution												
Institution Profile	✓	◔		✓	✓	✓					✓	
Reported Data	✓	◔✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Statistical Tables		◔✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	50	✓	✓
Summary Tables	✓	◔✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Compare Institutions		◔✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	250		✓
Custom Data Files		◔✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
Complete Data Files	✓	◔✓			✓	✓	✓			✓		
Access Database	✓	◔✓			✓	✓	✓			✓		

[1] Provides data in fewer than 3 steps.

[2] ◔ = Provisional Release only for most current year ✓ = Final Release ◔ = Provisional Release only for most current year (replaced by Final data once they become available)

[3] Users keep institution and variable selections when switching between tools

College Navigator


COLLEGENavigator
English | Español About
Name of School
Type name of school here
States (use map for more than 1 state)
No Preference
Alabama
Alaska
Use Map
ZIP Code
Miles from
Programs/Majors
0 Items Selected
Browse for Programs
Level of Award
Certificate
Associate's
Bachelor's
Advanced
Institution Type
Public
4-year
Private non-profit
2-year
Private for-profit
< 2-year
MORE SEARCH OPTIONS
Show Results
Guide Me | Clear Search
Find the right college for you
Guide Me
Refine your search with More Search Options to select additional search criteria.
Build a list of schools using My Favorites for side-by-side comparisons.
Pinpoint school locations with an interactive map.
Export search results into a spreadsheet.
Save your session including search options and favorites.
Add College Navigator to your browser search bar.
College Affordability and Transparency Center
Browse lists of institutions with the highest and lowest tuition & fees and net price, and lists of institutions not meeting the 90/10 revenue requirement. » GO
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Preparing for your Education
Find out what you need to do to prepare for education beyond high school. » GO
Financial Aid
Apply for Federal Student Aid on FAFSA. » GO
Postsecondary Education Outcome Measures: ED, DOD, and VA
ED, DOD, and VA have identified a set of potential education outcome measures for Veterans and service members. » GO
Careers
Deciding on a career? Consult the bls.gov Occupational Outlook Handbook. » GO

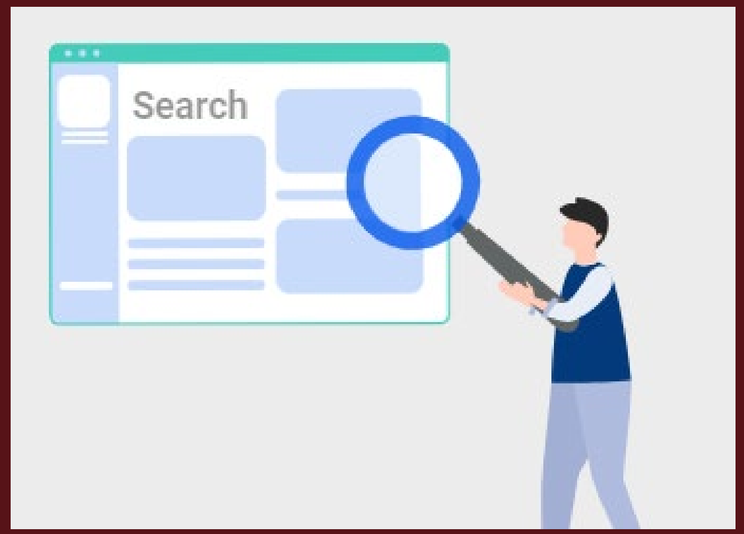
Development and Goals

- College Navigator replaced the College Opportunities Online Locator (COOL) in 2007. It is the U.S. Department of Education's primary source for comparing postsecondary institutions that participate in federal student financial aid programs.

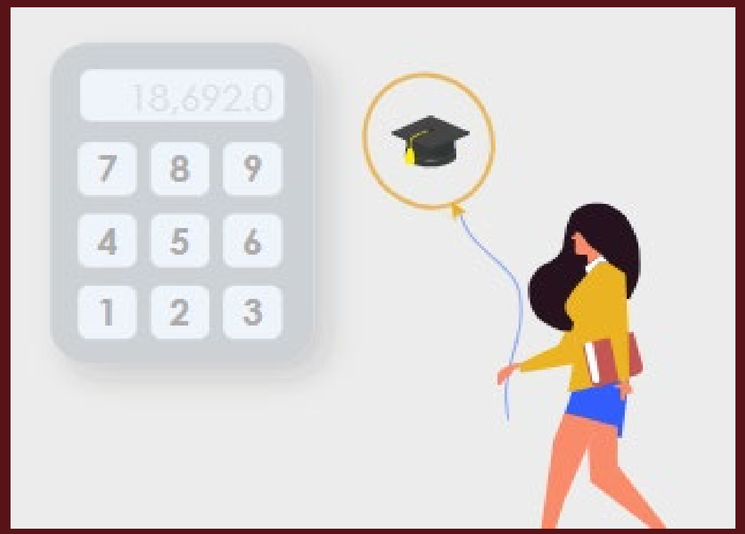
- The purpose of Navigator is to:
  - Inform students and families about college options
  - Provide consumer disclosures in simple and understandable terms
  - Ensure that information is up-to-date, useful, and relevant

- In 2008, the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) detailed several new data requirements to be included on the College Navigator website. Most of the data included on the site are collected through IPEDS.

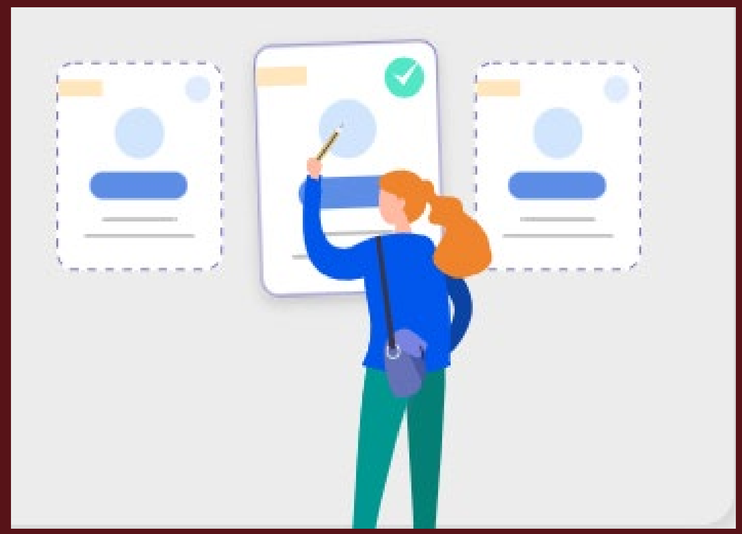
Use Cases



Students can find college options by filtering on important criteria, such as location and financial aid



Families can use the multi-year tuition calculator and net price calculator tools to make a budget for going to college



School counselors can create a list of colleges that offer specific academic programs based on a student's interests

Statistics Included

Cost	Student characteristics	Consumer information
Total tuition and fees	Total enrollment, disaggregated by student characteristics	Number of degrees awarded by major each year
Average cost of living	Retention and graduation rates, disaggregated by student characteristics	Number of students in varsity athletic programs*
Total and average financial aid	Costs, financial aid, retention, and graduation rates for veterans	Number of on-campus crimes for past three years*
Average cost after financial aid		Loan default rates for past three years*

* Data collected through other Department of Education data collections

Data Sources

Data Sources

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

Federal Student Aid (FSA)

Quality Control

Edits within the Data Collection System	Post-collection follow up with institutions	Feedback and training for institutions
Compare data to prior years of data Compare data to expected high and low values Check values across survey components	Review of missing and outlier data Review of text-based responses	Data Feedback Reports sent to data providers and to institutional CEOs Training on public uses of IPEDS data Training on benchmarking

* Data collected through other Department of Education data collections

Back to Results | Print | Save | MY FAVORITES (0)

Name of School
montgomery college

States (use map for more than 1 state)
No Preference
Alabama
Alaska
Use Map

ZIP Code Miles from

Programs/Majors
0 Items Selected
Browse for Programs

Level of Award
- Certificate
- Associate's
- Bachelor's
- Advanced

Institution Type
- Public
- 4-year
- Private non-profit
- 2-year
- Private for-profit
- < 2-year

MORE SEARCH OPTIONS

Show Results

Guide Me | Clear Search

Montgomery College
51 Mannakee Street, Rockville, Maryland 20850

Add to Favorites

General information:	(240) 567-5000
Website:	www.montgomerycollege.edu/
Type:	2-year, Public
Awards offered:	Less than one year certificate One but less than two years certificate Associate's degree
Campus setting:	City: Small
Campus housing:	No
Student population:	17,137 (all undergraduate)
Student-to-faculty ratio:	16 to 1

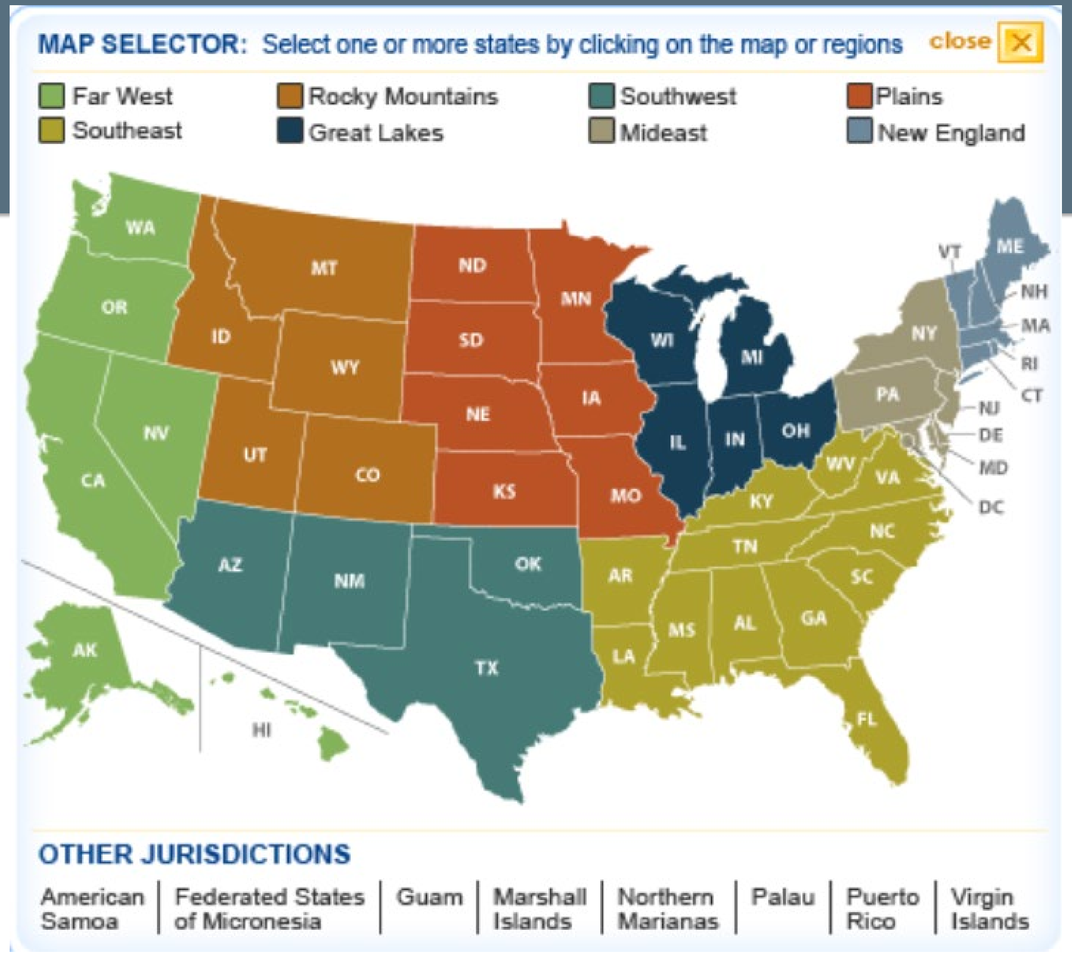
View on Google Maps

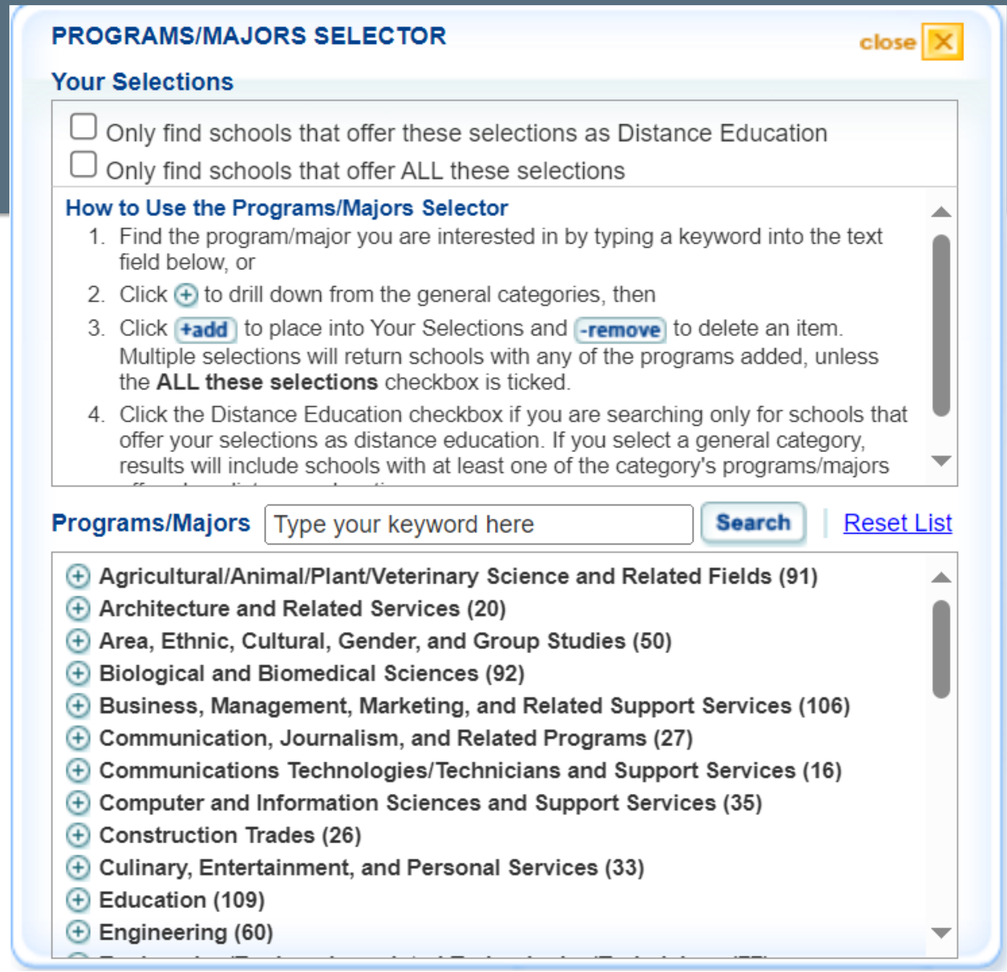
IPEDS ID: 163426
OPE ID: 00691100

Expand All | Collapse All

- GENERAL INFORMATION
- TUITION, FEES, AND ESTIMATED STUDENT EXPENSES
- FINANCIAL AID
- NET PRICE
- ENROLLMENT
- ADMISSIONS
- RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES
- OUTCOME MEASURES
- PROGRAMS/MAJORS

Map and Program Search Features





Demonstration

Next Steps

NPEC Research

Work with the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC) to identify future improvements to the College Navigator based on commissioner research

User Experience Research

User experience research planned for all IPEDS data tools to help:

Identify audiences

Streamline tools