



**FINANCIAL HEALTH INDICATORS
INDEX PLAIN LANGUAGE
GLOSSARY**

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Note: The IPEDS definitions listed are the most current definitions found in the [IPEDS online public glossary](#) as of March, 2022.

ASSETS

Asset

A resource of economic value

Physical items (tangible) or rights (intangible) that have value and that are owned by the institution. Assets are useful to the institution because they are a source of future services or because they can be used to secure future benefits. (IPEDS)

Change in net position (fund equity) during the year

Average change of fund equity during the year

The difference between an entity's assets plus deferred outflows of resources and its liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources represents its net position; Proprietary and fiduciary fund equity is reported as net position. (IPEDS)

Current assets

Assets that can be converted to cash to cover short-term expenses; A measure of liquidity

Assets that are reasonably expected to be realized in cash or sold or consumed during the next normal operating cycle (normally one year) of the institution. Liquidity or nearness to cash is not the basis for classifying assets as current or non-current; thus cash or investments intended for liquidation of liabilities due beyond the one-year period would not be current assets. (IPEDS)

Endowment

Money or other financial assets donated to a college or university

Funds whose principal is nonexpendable (true endowment) and that are intended to be invested to provide earnings for institutional use. (IPEDS)

Restricted assets - Expendable

Net assets that are expendable but may be subject to some restrictions

Net assets of GASB institutions that are expendable but subject to imposed restrictions. Restrictions exist when constraints placed on use are either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments, or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. (IPEDS)

Restricted assets - Nonexpendable

Restricted - nonexpendable net assets have constraints that are either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation, and are required to be retained in perpetuity.

Net assets of GASB institutions subject to restrictions that prohibit the expenditure of the net assets in perpetuity. Restrictions exist when constraints placed on use are either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments, or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Permanent endowments are the most common example. (IPEDS)

Restricted assets to total assets ratio

Restricted Net Assets (such as donations reserved for a specific project temporarily or permanently) divided by Total Assets (long term assets such as land and equipment plus short-term assets such as cash reserves); a measure of liquidity; may change over time

Total assets

An institution's sum of all items of economic value (cash, inventory, investments etc.)

Total current assets

Cash and equivalents, investments, accounts, notes receivable, and inventories

Total current assets includes cash and equivalents, investments, accounts and notes receivable (net of allowance for uncollectible amounts), inventories, and all other assets classified as current assets as discussed in Chapter 2 of Accounting Research Bulletin 43. Beginning with FY2014, GASB statements 63,65 required institutions to display deferred inflows and outflows of resources on their Statement of Net Position. Thus from FY2015 to FY2016, current assets included deferred outflows of resources. Beginning with FY2017, deferred outflows of resources were collected separately from current assets. (IPEDS)

Total current assets as a percent of total expenses

Cash and equivalents, investments, accounts, notes receivable, and inventories as a percentage against total expenses

Total restricted net assets

Sum of temporarily restricted and permanently restricted net assets

Assets held by the institution upon which restrictions have been placed by donors. These restrictions may be temporary or permanent. They restrict the institution in its use of the assets and/or the period of time for which the restriction applies. (IPEDS)

Value of endowment as a percent of total expenses

Gross investments of endowment funds, term endowment funds, and funds functioning as endowment for the institution and any of its foundations and other affiliated organizations as a percentage of total expenses

Value of endowment assets at the end of the fiscal year

Value of endowment assets at the end of the fiscal year; Consists of gross investments of endowment funds, term endowment funds, and funds functioning as endowment for the institution and any of its foundations and other affiliated organizations

DEBT

Debt

An amount owed for funds borrowed

Debt-to-asset ratio

Indicates the proportion of a company's assets that are being financed with debt, rather than equity; Used to determine the financial risk of a business

Total liabilities

Sum of current and noncurrent liabilities; A current liability is an obligation that is payable within one year; Noncurrent liabilities are those obligations not due for settlement within one year

Debts and obligations of the institution owed to outsiders or claims or rights, expressed in monetary terms, of an institution's creditors. GASB institutions are required to report liabilities under two categories - current liabilities and noncurrent liabilities. (IPEDS)

EXPENSES

Academic support

All operating expenses that support the institutional mission of instruction, research, and public service

A functional expense category that includes expenses of activities and services that support the institution's primary missions of instruction, research, and public service. It includes the retention, preservation, and display of educational materials (for example, libraries, museums, and galleries); organized activities that provide support services to the academic functions of the institution (such as a demonstration school associated with a college of education or veterinary and dental clinics if their primary purpose is to support the instructional program); media such as audiovisual services; academic administration (including academic deans but not department chairpersons); and formally organized and separately budgeted academic personnel development and course and curriculum development expenses. Also included are information technology expenses related to academic support activities; if an institution does not separately budget and expense information technology resources, the costs associated with the three primary programs will be applied to this function and the remainder to institutional support. Institutions include actual or allocated costs for operation and maintenance of plant, interest, and depreciation. (IPEDS)

Allowances applied to tuition and fees

Total student aid applied to tuition and fees

That part of a scholarship or fellowship that is used to pay institutional charges such as tuition and fees or room and board charges.. (IPEDS)

Allowances applied to tuition and fees per student

Total student aid applied to tuition and fees divided by number of students

Allowances applied to tuition and fees per student change over time

Average change in total student aid applied to tuition and fees by number of students over time

Discounts and allowances

Reductions in out-of-pocket costs for students via unfunded scholarships, fellowships, institutional grants, and tuition waivers, etc.

Discounts and allowances applied to tuition and fees

Reductions to the amount charged for tuition and fees by the application of scholarships and fellowships

That part of a scholarship or fellowship that is used to pay institutional charges such as tuition and fees or room and board charges. (IPEDS)

Discounts and allowances applied to tuition and fees per student

Reductions to the amount charged for tuition and fees by the application of scholarships and fellowships divided by total number of students

Endowment fund expenditure as a percent of total expenses

Funds for which the donor has stipulated that the principal may be expended after a stated period or on the occurrence of a certain event; May change over time

Expense

The reduction in value of an asset as it is used to generate revenue

The outflow or other using up of assets or incurrence of liabilities (or a combination of both) from delivering or producing goods, rendering services, or carrying out other activities that constitute the institution's ongoing major or central operations or in generating revenues. Alternatively, expenses may be thought of as the costs of goods and services used to produce the educational services provided by the institution. Expenses result in a reduction of net assets. (IPEDS)

Institutional support

Institutional day-to-day operating expenses of an institution

A functional expense category that includes expenses for the day-to-day operational support of the institution. Includes expenses for general administrative services, central executive-level activities concerned with management and long range planning, legal and fiscal operations, space management, employee personnel and records, logistical services such as purchasing and printing, and public relations and development. Also includes information technology expenses related to institutional support activities. If an institution does not separately budget and expense information technology resources, the IT costs associated with student services and operation and maintenance will also be applied to this function. (IPEDS)

Instruction expenses

All expenses of the colleges, schools, departments, and other instructional divisions of the institution

A functional expense category that includes expenses of the colleges, schools, departments, and other instructional divisions of the institution and expenses for departmental research and public service that are not separately budgeted. Includes general academic instruction, occupational and vocational instruction, community education, preparatory and adult basic education, and regular, special, and extension sessions. Also includes expenses for both credit and non-credit activities. Excludes expenses for academic administration where the primary function is administration (e.g., academic deans). Information technology expenses related to instructional activities if the institution separately budgets and expenses information technology resources are included (otherwise these expenses are included in academic support). Institutions include actual or allocated costs for operation and maintenance of plant, interest, and depreciation. (IPEDS)

Scholarships and fellowships expenses - Current year total

Sum of all operating expenses associated with scholarships and fellowships for a particular academic year

That portion of scholarships and fellowships granted that exceeds the amount applied to institutional charges such as tuition and fees or room and board. The amount reported as expense excludes allowances and discounts. The FASB survey uses the term 'net grants in aid to students' rather than 'scholarships and fellowships.' (IPEDS)

Scholarships and fellowships expenses as percent of total expenses

Sum of all operating expenses associated with scholarships and fellowships as a percentage of total expenses

Scholarships and fellowships expenses as percent of total expenses change over time

Average change in sum of all operating expenses associated with scholarships and fellowships as a percentage of total expenses over time

Student services

Expenses for students' emotional and physical well-being and to their intellectual, cultural, and social development outside the context of the formal instructional program

A functional expense category that includes expenses for admissions, registrar activities, and activities whose primary purpose is to contribute to students emotional and physical well-being and to their intellectual, cultural, and social development outside the context of the formal instructional program. Examples include student activities, cultural events, student newspapers, intramural athletics, student organizations, supplemental instruction outside the normal administration, and student records. Intercollegiate athletics and student health services may also be included except when operated as self-supporting auxiliary enterprises. Also may include information technology expenses related to student service activities if the institution separately budgets and expenses information technology resources (otherwise these expenses are included in institutional support.) Institutions include actual or allocated costs for operation and maintenance of plant, interest, and depreciation. (IPEDS)

Student services as a percent of total expenses

Expenses for students' emotional and physical well-being and to their intellectual, cultural, and social development outside the context of the formal instructional program as a percentage of total expense

Student services as a percent of total expenses change over time

Average of change in expenses for students' emotional and physical well-being and to their intellectual, cultural, and social development outside the context of the formal instructional program as a percentage of total expense over a period of time

Student-centered expenses

Expenses that directly affect students with the purpose of aiding student success. Includes instruction, academic support, and student services for all colleges and universities and net grant aid to students at private colleges and universities and scholarship and fellowships at public colleges and universities.

Total expenses and deductions

Sum of all operating and nonoperating expenses and deductions

REVENUE

Investment income and investment gains/losses included in net income

Investment income, losses, and gains from the investment of capital

Investment gains are the gains derived from the investment of capital. Such gains may take the form of a market appreciation of the value of the investment. The gain may be realized if the asset or capital is sold or unrealized if the asset or capital is not sold. Investment income includes revenues derived from the institution's investments, including investments of endowment funds. Such income may take the form of interest income, dividend income, rental income or royalty income and includes both realized and unrealized gains and losses. (IPEDS)

Local government appropriations

Revenues received from a local government (i.e., city and/or county) through a direct appropriation of its legislative body, except for local grants and contracts

Local appropriations are government appropriations made by a governmental entity below the state level. Education district taxes include all tax revenues assessed directly by an institution or on behalf of an institution when the institution will receive the exact amount collected. These revenues also include similar revenues that result from actions of local governments or citizens (such as through a referendum) that result in receipt by the institution of revenues based on collections of other taxes or resources (sales taxes, gambling taxes, etc.). (IPEDS)

Federal grants and contracts

Revenues from federal agencies that are for specific undertakings such as research projects, training projects, and similar activities; Includes federal Pell and similar student aid grants when they are treated as student aid expenses as awarded to students; If federal Pell and similar student aid grants are treated as agency transactions in general purpose financial statements, they are excluded from this amount.

Federal grants and contracts - Permanently restricted

Revenues from federal grants and contracts that must be maintained in perpetuity due to a donor-imposed restriction

Federal grants and contracts - Temporarily restricted

Revenues from federal grants and contracts that are subject to limitation by donor specification

Federal grants and contracts - Unrestricted

Revenues from federal grants and contracts that are not subject to limitations by a donor-imposed restriction

Federal nonoperating grants

Amounts reported as nonoperating revenues from federal government agencies that are provided on a non-exchange basis; Pell grants included here

Local grants and contracts

Revenues from local government agencies that are for specific undertakings such as research projects, training projects, and similar activities; Includes local grants for student aid when they are treated as student aid expenses when awarded to the student; If local grants for student aid are treated as agency transactions in general purpose financial statements, they are excluded from this amount.

Local grants and contracts - Permanently restricted

Revenues from local grants and contracts that must be maintained in perpetuity due to a donor-imposed restriction

Local grants and contracts - Temporarily restricted

Revenues from local grants and contracts that are subject to limitation by donor specification as to use or the time when use may occur

Local grants and contracts - Unrestricted

Revenues from local grants and contracts that are not subject to limitations by a donor-imposed restriction

Local nonoperating grants

Amounts reported as nonoperating revenues from local governmental agencies that are provided on a non-exchange basis

Local operating grants and contracts

Revenues from local governmental agencies for specific research projects or other types of programs and that are classified as operating revenues; Examples are research projects and similar activities for which amounts are received or expenditures are reimbursable under the terms of a grant or contract.

Revenues from local government agencies that are for training programs and similar activities for which amounts are received or expenditures are reimbursable under the terms of a local government grant or contract. These amounts can be treated as an allowance, an agency transaction, or as a student aid expense in the institution's General Purpose Financial Statements (GPFS) and are reported differently depending on their treatment. Generally, however, private institutions report these grants as allowances when applied to the student's account and as local grant revenues when received. (IPEDS)

Local/private operating grants and contracts

Revenues from local governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations that are for specific research projects or programs

Net income

The excess of revenues less expenses

The final figure in the income statement when revenues exceed expenses. For for-profit institutions, this figure is net of gains and losses. (IPEDS)

Net income positive

When revenues exceed expenses over a sustained period of time

Other nonoperating revenues

Revenues generated from non-exchange transactions not reported as appropriations, grants, gifts, or investment income

Other revenue

Revenues not included elsewhere in revenues and investment returns; Excluded from this amount are gains or other unusual or nonrecurring items

Private gifts - Total

Revenues from private entities from gift or contribution nonexchange transactions

Revenues from private (non-governmental) entities including revenues received from gift or contribution nonexchange transactions (including contributed services) except those from affiliated entities. Includes bequests, promises to give (pledges), gifts from an affiliated organization or a component unit not blended or consolidated, and income from funds held in irrevocable trusts or distributable at the direction of the trustees of the trusts. Includes any contributed services recognized (recorded) by the institution. (IPEDS)

Private gifts as % of total revenue

Revenues from private entities from gift or contribution nonexchange transactions as a percentage of total revenue

Private gifts, grants, and contracts

Revenues from private (non-governmental) entities, including revenue from research or training projects and similar activities

Revenues from private donors for which no legal consideration is involved and from private contracts for specific goods and services provided to the funder as stipulation for receipt of the funds. Includes only those gifts, grants, and contracts that are directly related to instruction, research, public service, or other institutional purposes. Includes monies received as a result of gifts, grants, or contracts from a foreign government. Also includes the estimated dollar amount of contributed services. (IPEDS)

Private operating grants and contracts

Revenues from non-governmental agencies and organizations that are for specific research projects or other programs; Examples are research projects and similar activities for which amounts are received or expenditures are reimbursable under the terms of a grant or contract

Revenue

An increase in assets or decrease in liabilities caused by the provision of services or products to customers

The inflow of resources or other enhancement of net assets (or fund balance) of an institution or settlements of its liabilities (or a combination of both) from delivering or producing goods, rendering services, or other activities that constitute the institution's ongoing major or central operations. Includes revenues from fees and charges, appropriations, auxiliary enterprises, and contributions and other nonexchange transactions. (IPEDS)

Revenue per student

Total institutional revenue divided by the number of enrolled students

Revenue per student change over time

Income from student tuition, fees, and other payments divided by number of students over a period of time

Revenue sources as % of total

Measure of various income streams that make up total revenue

Sales and services of auxiliary enterprises

Revenues from sales or operations that exist to furnish a service to students, faculty, or staff, and that charge a fee that is directly related to the cost of the service

Revenues generated by or collected from the auxiliary enterprise operations of the institution that exist to furnish a service to students, faculty, or staff, and that charge a fee that is directly related to, although not necessarily equal to, the cost of the service. Auxiliary enterprises are managed as essentially self-supporting activities. Examples are residence halls, food services, student health services, intercollegiate athletics, college unions, college stores, and movie theaters. (IPEDS)

Sales and services of educational activities

Revenues from the sales of goods or services that are incidental to the conduct of instruction, research or public service

Revenues from the sales of goods or services that are incidental to the conduct of instruction, research or public service. Examples include film rentals, sales of scientific and literary publications, testing services, university presses, dairy products, machine shop products, data processing services, cosmetology services, and sales of handcrafts prepared in classes. (IPEDS)

Sales investment income as % total revenue

Revenues derived from the institution's investments, including investments of endowment funds. Such income may take the form of interest income, dividend income, rental income or royalty income and includes both realized and unrealized gains and losses.

Sales or other earned revenue as % total revenue

Revenues from sales or other income streams as a percentage of total revenue

State and local appropriations, grants, and contracts

Revenues from state government agencies that are for specific undertakings such as research projects, training projects, and similar activities

Revenues from state and local government agencies that are for training programs and similar activities for which amounts are received or expenditures are reimbursable under the terms of a state or local government grant or contract. (IPEDS)

State appropriations

Amounts received from a state government through a direct appropriation of its legislative body, except for state grants and contracts

State grants and contracts - Permanently restricted

Revenues from state grants and contracts that must be maintained in perpetuity due to a donor-imposed restriction

State grants and contracts - Temporarily restricted

Revenues from state grants and contracts that are subject to limitation by donor specification as to use or the time when use may occur

State grants and contracts - Unrestricted

Revenues from state grants and contracts that are not subject to limitations by a donor-imposed restriction

State nonoperating grants

Amounts reported as nonoperating revenues from state governmental agencies that are provided on a non-exchange basis; Excludes capital grants and gifts

Total contributions from affiliated entities

Revenues received from non-consolidated affiliated entities, such as fundraising foundations, booster clubs etc.

Total government appropriations as % of total revenue

Amounts received from the Federal Government including a direct appropriation of Congress, and any grants or contracts. An example of a federal appropriation is a federal land-grant appropriation; Includes all revenues from federal agencies that are for specific undertakings such as research projects, training projects, and similar activities, including contributions from federal agencies.

Total operating and nonoperating revenues

Sum of operating and nonoperating revenues; Operating revenue is revenue associated with the normal daily operations of an organization; Nonoperating revenue is revenue from activities that do not relate to the organization's main activity

GASB requires that revenues and expenses be separated between operating and nonoperating. Operating revenues and expenses result from providing goods and services. Nonoperating activities are those outside the activities that are part of the operating activities of the institution. Most government appropriations are nonoperating because they are not generated by the operations of the institution. Investment income is nonoperating in most instances because institutions are not engaged in investing as an operating activity. Gifts are defined as nonoperating. Nonexchange transactions generate nonoperating revenues. (IPEDS)

Total revenues and investment return

Income from assets including dividends, interest earnings, royalties, rent, gains (losses) etc.

Income from assets including dividends, interest earnings, royalties, rent, gains (losses), etc. (IPEDS)

Total student grants

Pell grants and other federal student grants, state and local student grants, and institutional (funded and unfunded) grants

Total student grants as % of total revenue

Pell grants and other federal student grants, state and local student grants, and institutional (funded and unfunded) grants against percentage of total revenue

Tuition and fees

The amount of tuition and educational fees, net of any allowances applied in the general purpose financial statements

The amount of tuition and required fees covering a full academic year most frequently charged to students. These values represent what a typical student would be charged and may not be the same for all students at an institution. If tuition is charged on a per-credit-hour basis, the average full-time credit hour load for an entire academic year is used to estimate average tuition. Required fees include all fixed sum charges that are required of such a large proportion of all students that the student who does not pay the charges is an exception. (IPEDS)

Tuition and fees as % of total revenue

Revenue from tuition and fees as a percentage of total revenue

STUDENT

2-year institution

An institution offering at least a 2-year program of college-level studies which terminates in an associate degree or is principally creditable toward a baccalaureate degree. (IPEDS)

4-year institution

An institution offering at least a 4-year program of college-level studies wholly or principally creditable toward a baccalaureate degree. (IPEDS)

Enrollment

Full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the fall AND part-time undergraduate students enrolled in the fall divided by two

Enrollment change

Refers to the average of change in enrollment over time

Full-time retention rate

Refers to the percentage of full-time students who return to school the following year

A measure of the rate at which students persist in their educational program at an institution, expressed as a percentage. For four-year institutions, this is the percentage of first-time bachelors (or equivalent) degree-seeking undergraduates from the previous fall who are again enrolled in the current fall. For all other institutions this is the percentage of first-time degree/certificate-seeking students from the previous fall who either re-enrolled or successfully completed their program by the current fall. (IPEDS)

Retention rate

A measure of the rate at which students persist in their educational program at an institution, expressed as a percentage

For four-year institutions, this is the percentage of first-time bachelors (or equivalent) degree-seeking undergraduates from the previous fall who are again enrolled in the current fall. For all other institutions this is the percentage of first-time degree/certificate-seeking students from the previous fall who either re-enrolled or successfully completed their program by the current fall. (IPEDS)

Retention rate change over time

A measure of the rate at which students persist in their educational program at an institution, expressed as a percentage and averaged over a period of time

RACE/ETHNICITY

American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN)

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community attachment. (IPEDS)

Asian

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam. (IPEDS)

Black or African American

A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. (IPEDS)

Hispanic/Latino

A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. (IPEDS)

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. (IPEDS)

Race and ethnicity unknown

The category used to report students or employees whose race and ethnicity are not known. (IPEDS)

White

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. (IPEDS)