



## *HLC Accreditation Evidence*

Title: IPEDS Definitions - Retention and Graduation Rates

Office of Origin: IPEDS

NCES National Center for Education Statistics

2016-17 Survey Materials

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

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Term	Definition	Related Terms
<b>Graduation Rates (GR)</b>	<p>This annual component of <u>IPEDS</u> was added in 1997 to help institutions satisfy the requirements of the Student Right-to-Know legislation. Data are collected on the number of students entering the institution as full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students in a particular year (cohort), by race/ethnicity and gender; the number completing their program within 150 percent of normal time to completion; the number that transfer to other institutions if transfer is part of the institution's mission. Prior to 2007, institutions who offered athletically-related student aid were asked to report, by sport, the number of students receiving aid and whether they completed within 150 percent of normal time to completion. Now, these institutions only need to report a URL where the athletic data is located on their website, when available. GR automatically generates worksheets that calculate rates, including average rates over 4 years.</p>	

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