

Examples of Definitions from the Data Dictionary

Retention (Rate)

Percentage of first-time, degree-seeking freshmen (or freshmen cohort) who remain enrolled in a subsequent semester. For example, the 1-year retention rate for the 2015 freshmen cohort reflects the percentage of students in the cohort who remain enrolled at the start of the fall 2016 semester. This includes students who are away as national/international exchange students or on cooperative work assignments. The “retention rate” for a given freshmen cohort generally refers to the 1-year rate, or 3rd-semester retention.

While there is currently no established official methodology for calculating retention rates for master's and doctoral students, it is possible to determine a retention rate with a few parameters in place; namely, the initial term of matriculation and the time frame in which you are measuring continued enrollment.

Graduation

Graduation Rate

The percentage of first-time, full-time freshmen from a particular fall cohort who graduate prior to a specific subsequent term. Graduation rates are computed based on 4, 5, 6, or 8 year time periods, and generally include only students who began as first-time, full-time freshmen. The Outcome Measures survey calculates a graduation rate for other groups of undergraduate students, including first-time part-time students, transfer-in students, and students who transfer out.

While there is currently no established official methodology for calculating graduation rates for master's and doctoral students, it is possible to determine a graduation rate with a few parameters in place; namely, the initial term of matriculation and the term by which these students may have graduated.

Time to Degree

Time to degree is determined by calculating the number of years a student takes to complete a degree from the initial semester of matriculation in that degree program. Time to degree differs from graduation rates in that time to degree reflects the number of years taken to complete a degree program, and graduation rates reflect the percentage of students in a given cohort or group who complete their degree programs within a given time frame (typically 4, 5, or 6 years in the case of undergraduate students).

Ethnicity

A student's self-reported ethnicity based on U.S. Federal categories established in 2010; These categories include: Hispanic, American Indian, Asian, African-American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, White, Two or More Races, Ethnicity Unknown, and Non-Resident Alien. See the NCES guidelines for ethnicity reporting here.

Students who are categorized as Hispanic may have reported themselves to be Hispanic and some other race, but Hispanic ethnicity trumps all others. The Two or More Races category encompasses students who report two or more ethnicities other than Hispanic.

At UNM, we typically use "International" rather than "Non-Resident Alien," as the word 'alien' can be problematic.

The Non-Resident Alien/International category includes all students who are not US Citizens or Permanent Residents (i.e., green card holders).

Gender

Currently, gender is reported on a binary M or F system, due to the NMHED requirement for only those two gender categories. Each student record in the raw files submitted to NMHED throughout the year must have a gender code of either M or F. Student records with missing gender codes or gender = N are not accepted in their electronic file submission system (eDEAR).

Other Helpful Terms

FTFT Freshman

Students who are attending college for the first time, regardless of dual credit courses in high school, who are full-time, degree-seeking students (enrolled for 12 or more credit hours in the first semester).

Freshman Cohort

Students who enroll in a given fall semester as degree-seeking, undergraduate-level students for the first time. For the purposes of determining a fall freshman cohort, these students begin a degree program in the fall or summer semester of the given year. Students who enroll as first-time freshmen in the spring do not count in the freshman cohort, but will be counted in the full-year cohort for the IPEDS Outcome Measures survey.

FTE

FTE: Full Time Equivalent. For IPEDS purposes, $FTE = \text{Head count of Full time students} + \frac{1}{3} * \text{Head count of part time students}$.

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For purposes of the Official Enrollment Report and NMHED Reporting, FTE is calculated for undergraduate students by summing Student Credit Hours (SCH) and dividing by 15. For graduate students, FTE is the sum of Student Credit Hours (SCH) divided by 12. The exception is medical school students, where FTE is the actual unduplicated enrollment.

For definitions of other data terms, please visit the **Data Dictionary** at

<http://oia.unm.edu/data-dictionary.html>