Changes to the 2012-13 IPEDS Data Collection:  
Fall Enrollment Component

Changes to the IPEDS data collection that have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for implementation in 2012-13. The preview year for these approved changes is 2011-12, and survey screens and instructions are available through the Survey Materials link on the Data Provider Center page (https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/IPEDS/VisIndex.aspx).

Origins of Changes:

The changes to the data collection are suggestions from the IPEDS Technical Review Panel (TRP). Meetings of the IPEDS TRP are convened by RTI International, the contractor for the IPEDS web-based data collection system; subject areas for the meetings are determined by legislation, emerging areas of concern in postsecondary education, and an ongoing goal of decreasing reporting burden while retaining the federal data necessary for use by policy makers and education analysts. Detailed summaries of each meeting are posted (https://edsurveys.rti.org/IPEDS_TRP/Default.aspx) and comments on panel suggestions are solicited. Three meetings of the TRP resulted in changes for 2012-13.

Distance Education

The IPEDS Technical Review Panel met to discuss evolving delivery modes for postsecondary education and increased availability of “distance education” courses and programs. Topics ranged from the definition of distance education to the challenges that institutions would face in providing distance education data. The panel discussed how the reporting of distance education data might be incorporated into the existing IPEDS reporting structure in order to collect data that would help NCES better describe postsecondary education in the nation, part of NCES’ mission; allow institutions to compare their distance education activities to those of their peers; and provide valuable consumer information on College Navigator to students and parents. Distance education data additions affect the Institutional Characteristics, Fall Enrollment, and Completions components.

Fall Enrollment (all institutions) 2012-13

a) Add a new Part to the survey to collect data on the number of students enrolled in any distance education and the number of students enrolled exclusively in distance education. Data will be broken out by student level (undergraduate, graduate) and student location (in same state as institution, in U.S. but not in same state, outside U.S.).