Sources of Data for Higher Education

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Government/Public Sources of Data on Higher Education

The government and public sources list provide a comprehensive array of data on higher education. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and its Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) are the foundation, offering detailed data on student enrollment, graduation rates, finances, faculty, and more. Tools like College Navigator and the College Scorecard make this data more accessible to the public, particularly prospective students and families. Other sources like the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center and the Open990 platform provide valuable insights into student success metrics and financial transparency, particularly for non-profit institutions. Specialized resources such as the Digest of Education Statistics and the National Report Card on Higher Education offer broad overviews of educational trends and state-level performance. Additional tools, like the Campus Security Data Analysis and Open Doors, focus on specific aspects like campus safety and international education.

These resources collectively cover a wide range of higher education aspects, from student demographics and institutional performance to financial health and international student mobility. They are essential for policymakers, educators, and researchers seeking to understand and improve the higher education landscape in the U.S.

1. **National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)**

   Website: https://nces.ed.gov

   Description: NCES is the primary federal entity responsible for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the United States. Covering all levels of education from early childhood through postsecondary institutions, NCES provides national and state-level reports, longitudinal studies, and statistical data that are used by policymakers, researchers, and educators. For higher education, NCES is the go-to source for comprehensive data, particularly through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

2. **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)**

   Website: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/

   Description: A key component of NCES, IPEDS collects and disseminates detailed information on postsecondary institutions that receive federal financial aid. It covers data on student enrollment, graduation rates, finances, academic programs, and faculty. IPEDS is widely used for research, policy analysis, and institutional reporting, offering in-depth, institution-specific data for a variety of stakeholders.

3. **College Navigator**

   Website: https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

   Description: College Navigator is an NCES tool designed for consumers, allowing users to search for and compare institutions based on location, program offerings, costs, and more. The data it

presents is drawn directly from IPEDS, providing a more accessible way for prospective students and families to explore options and make informed decisions.

4. **IPEDS Data Center**

   Website: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/

   Description: The IPEDS Data Center offers advanced users the ability to access raw data files collected by IPEDS. It is a powerful resource for institutional researchers, analysts, and others needing to download large datasets for custom analyses.

5. **IPEDS Data Explorer**

   Website: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/explorer/

   Description: The IPEDS Data Explorer provides a user-friendly interface for exploring various data points related to higher education. It simplifies the process of pulling reports and comparing institutions, making it ideal for both researchers and decision-makers who need quick access to specific metrics.

6. **College Scorecard**

   Website: https://collegescorecard.ed.gov

   Description: The College Scorecard, a resource from the U.S. Department of Education, offers a subset of IPEDS and NCES data in a format tailored for students and families. It focuses on key metrics like cost, graduation rates, and post-graduation earnings, helping prospective students compare colleges and universities in a way that aligns with their goals and financial considerations.

7. **National Student Clearinghouse Research Center**

   Website: https://nscresearchcenter.org

   Description: The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center provides research reports and data on enrollment trends, student persistence, and degree completions across higher education institutions. The center's reports are widely cited and provide valuable insights into student success patterns and demographic changes.

8. **990 (Library of Congress)**

   Website: https://guides.loc.gov/nonprofit-sector/form-990

   Description: Through the Library of Congress website there is a link to the platform Candid which provides access to IRS Form 990 filings for non-profit organizations, including private colleges and universities. These forms offer a comprehensive view of an institution's financial health, covering revenue, expenses, and executive compensation. For non-profit universities, this is a critical resource for understanding financial operations, including salary information for top earners.

Sources of Data for Higher Education

9. **Digest of Education Statistics**

   Website: http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/

   Description: The Digest of Education Statistics is an annual publication that compiles statistical information covering the full range of education in the U.S., from prekindergarten through graduate school. It provides key data and trends that are vital for policymakers, researchers, and educators.

10. **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Data**

    Website: http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=96902

    Description: This NCES resource offers historical data on HBCUs from 1976 to 1994, providing valuable insights into the development and progress of these institutions over time.

11. **NEA Resource Library**

    Website: https://www.nea.org/resource-library?resource_type=75&

    Description: The National Education Association (NEA) website offers a comprehensive range of data and information related to higher education. The site provides detailed reports on faculty salaries, benefits, and compensation trends, serving as valuable benchmarks for administrators and faculty. It also features research and reports on various topics affecting educators and institutions, including working conditions, labor relations, and policy challenges. Additionally, the NEA is actively involved in education policy and advocacy, offering insights into legislative efforts and resources aimed at improving education. The site includes professional development resources and the latest news on issues impacting higher education, making it a key resource for educators seeking to stay informed and engaged with current trends and policies.

12. **Campus Security Data Analysis**

    Website: http://ope.ed.gov/security/

    Description: Managed by the Office of Postsecondary Education, this database offers comprehensive data on campus crime, providing transparency and insights into safety across higher education institutions.

13. **Open Doors (Institute of International Education)**

    Website: http://www.iie.org/Research-and-Publications/Open-Doors

    Description: Open Doors is a key resource for data on international students and scholars in the United States, as well as U.S. students studying abroad. It offers comprehensive reports on trends in global education exchanges and the impact of international education.

14. **Grapevine**

    Website: http://grapevine.illinoisstate.edu/

Sources of Data for Higher Education

Description: Grapevine is an annual compilation of data on state fiscal support for higher education. It provides a historical perspective on state appropriations and funding trends, essential for understanding the financial context of public higher education.

15. **Council of Graduate Schools**

   Website: http://www.cgsnet.org/

   Description: The Council of Graduate Schools offers valuable data, analysis, trends, and best practices in graduate education, supporting institutions in managing and improving their graduate programs.

16. **Data.gov**

   Website: http://www.data.gov/

   Description: Data.gov is the U.S. government's open data platform, providing access to datasets from various federal agencies, including education statistics. It's a valuable resource for researchers looking to analyze trends across multiple domains.

17. **U.S. Census Bureau—Education**

   Website: https://www.census.gov/topics/education.html

   Description: The U.S. Census Bureau provides data on educational attainment, field of study, school enrollment, and school costs, offering a broad perspective on education in the U.S. and its relation to demographic and economic factors.

18. **Science and Engineering Indicators**

   Website: https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf23315/report/the-stem-workforce

   Description: This report from the National Science Foundation provides comprehensive data on science and engineering education, employment, and research performance in the U.S. It's an essential resource for understanding the STEM pipeline and workforce trends.

19. **NSF Academic Institution Profiles**

   Website: http://ncsesdata.nsf.gov/profiles/

   Description: The National Science Foundation's database offers detailed statistical profiles of U.S. academic institutions, focusing on science and engineering data. It includes information on research funding, faculty, and student demographics.

20. **WebCASPAR**

   Website: https://ncsesdata.nsf.gov/webcaspar/

   Description: WebCASPAR provides easy access to a large body of statistical data resources for science and engineering at U.S. academic institutions, as well as general higher education data. It's useful for researchers analyzing trends in education and research.

Sources of Data for Higher Education

21. **Project on Student Debt**

   Website: https://ticas.org/our-work/student-debt/

   Description: This site provides detailed information on student loan debt, including average indebtedness levels and repayment trends. It's a key resource for understanding the financial challenges faced by students and graduates.

22. **NSSE—The National Survey of Student Engagement**

   Website: https://nsse.indiana.edu/nsse/reports-data/index.html

   Description: NSSE collects and reports data on student engagement, providing insights into the quality of undergraduate education and the student experience. It's widely used by institutions to assess and improve student learning outcomes.

23. **Student Achievement Measure (SAM)**

   Website: http://www.studentachievementmeasure.org/

   Description: SAM provides a more comprehensive measure of student progress and completion across institutions, tracking students even if they transfer schools. It offers a richer dataset compared to traditional graduation rate measures.

24. **College Measures**

   Website: https://educationdata.org/

   Description: College Measures is a joint venture between the American Institutes for Research and Matrix Knowledge Group. It offers data on educational outcomes, including graduation rates and earnings potential, to help institutions and policymakers improve student success.

25. **College Results Online**

   Website: http://www.collegeresults.org/

   Description: This site uses IPEDS data to compare retention and graduation rates among similar institutions, focusing on outcomes for underrepresented students. It also provides trend data and comparison tools for institutional benchmarking.

26. **The Education Trust**

   Website: http://www.edtrust.org/

   Description: The Education Trust provides data and analysis focused on improving educational outcomes for underrepresented students. It's a key resource for understanding achievement gaps and promoting equity in higher education.

27. **Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education**

   Website: https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/

   Description: The Carnegie Foundation's classification system is widely used to categorize universities and colleges based on their mission, research activity, and other characteristics. It's an essential tool for understanding institutional diversity and comparing higher education institutions.

Private Sources of Data on Higher Education

Private data sources such as **The Chronicle of Higher Education**, **U.S. News & World Report**, and tools like the **College Viability App** provide valuable insights through proprietary data, surveys, and advanced analytics. These sources often focus on specific aspects such as institutional finances, faculty salaries, enrollment trends, and student outcomes. **The College Viability App** and **The College Financial Health Show** are particularly focused on assessing the financial sustainability of colleges and universities, helping stakeholders identify early signs of financial distress. Platforms like **Higher Ed Data Stories** and **Perspective Data Science** offer interactive analyses and visualizations, making complex higher education data more accessible and understandable.

These private sources complement public databases by offering more targeted, in-depth analyses and visual tools that cater to higher education professionals, researchers, and even prospective students. They are particularly useful for understanding trends in financial health, enrollment management, and institutional performance.

1. **The Chronicle of Higher Education**

   Website: https://www.chronicle.com/

   Description: The Chronicle of Higher Education is a leading publication that covers news and developments in the higher education sector. Alongside its news coverage, the Chronicle provides valuable data on faculty salaries, enrollment trends, institutional finances, and workforce demographics. The Chronicle's data is sourced from institutional reports, surveys, and databases like IPEDS.

2. **College Viability App**

   Website: https://collegeviability.com/

   Description: The College Viability App, developed by Gary Stocker, is a tool designed to assess the financial health and sustainability of colleges and universities. It aggregates key financial indicators such as enrollment trends, revenue sources, expenses, and debt levels. The app uses data from public sources like IPEDS, Form 990 filings, and institutional reports to identify early signs of financial distress.

Sources of Data for Higher Education

3. **Perspective Data Science**

   Website: https://perspectivedatascience.com/

   Description: Perspective Data Science, founded by Matt Hendricks, offers insights into higher education through advanced data analysis and visualization. The platform provides interactive dashboards and reports on enrollment trends, institutional finances, student outcomes, and other key performance metrics.

4. **The College Financial Health Show**

   Website: https://collegeviability.com/podcast

   Description: The College Financial Health Show, hosted by Dr. Matt Hendricks and Dr. Gary Stocker, is a podcast that provides data-driven insights into the financial health of colleges and universities. The show evaluates 3-5 institutions per episode using financial data from IPEDS, Form 990s, and institutional reports.

5. **Higher Ed Data Stories**

   Website: https://www.highereddatastories.com/

   Description: Higher Ed Data Stories is a project by Jon Boeckenstedt, an expert in enrollment management. Through this site, Boeckenstedt creates visually engaging analyses of higher education trends using IPEDS data. His work simplifies complex datasets, making them accessible to a broad audience.

6. **U.S. News & World Report**

   Website: https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges

   Description: U.S. News & World Report is widely known for its annual college rankings. Beyond rankings, it offers extensive data on academic programs, admissions, institutional performance, graduation rates, and student demographics. The platform sources its data from surveys conducted among higher education institutions and publicly available data, including IPEDS.

7. **Education Data Initiative**

   Website: https://educationdata.org/

   Description: Education Data Initiative is a resource that provides comprehensive and reliable data on a wide range of topics related to education in the United States. The site offers statistics, research, and analysis on various aspects of education, including student demographics, enrollment trends, college costs, student loans, graduation rates, and more. It serves as a valuable tool for policymakers, researchers, educators, and students seeking detailed information and insights to understand and address the challenges in the U.S. education system.

8. **College Results Online**

   Website: http://www.collegeresults.org/

   Description: College Results Online uses IPEDS data to provide detailed comparisons of retention and graduation rates among similar institutions. It is a valuable resource for identifying institutional strengths and areas for improvement.

Websites That Organize Information

Websites like the **Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)**, **National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)**, and **State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)** provide organized access to a broad range of higher education data and reports. These platforms often compile and analyze data from multiple sources, offering insights into state and regional education systems, policy issues, and institutional performance. The **Higher Education Research Institute (HERI)** and the **Center on Education and the Workforce** at Georgetown University focus on specific areas such as student engagement and the relationship between education and employment, respectively. The **President's College Scorecard** and related tools help users navigate the complexities of college costs, graduation rates, and financial aid.

These sites serve as essential resources for educators, administrators, and policymakers by providing curated, easy-to-navigate data that support informed decision-making in higher education. They offer a broad overview while also allowing for deep dives into specific issues like student outcomes, workforce readiness, and state policy impacts.

1. **Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)**

   Website: http://www.sreb.org/

   Description: The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) provides data and analysis focused on educational outcomes in Southern states, supporting policymakers and educators in improving regional education systems.

2. **National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)**

   Website: http://www.higheredinfo.org/resources.php

   Description: NCHEMS offers a comprehensive collection of data resources and reports on higher education management and policy issues, making it a valuable tool for administrators and researchers.

3. **State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)**

   Website: http://www.sheeo.org/policy-issues/data-and-information

   Description: SHEEO provides data and information on state higher education policies, supporting state-level decision-making and policy development.

Sources of Data for Higher Education

4. **Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA**

   Website: http://www.heri.ucla.edu/

   Description: HERI conducts the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), an annual survey of first-time college students, offering valuable data on student demographics, attitudes, and experiences. The data from HERI is essential for understanding trends in student engagement and outcomes.

5. **Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University**

   Website: http://cew.georgetown.edu/

   Description: The Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University provides research and analysis on the relationship between education and employment, focusing on how educational attainment influences career outcomes. It's a key resource for understanding the economic value of education.