

Know the Score

Center for American Progress

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September 28, 2016

What's useful in the Scorecard?

- Key school characteristics—state, type of college, accreditor, minority serving institution
- Repayment rates for federal student loan borrowers
- Earnings for students who received federal aid
- Cumulative debt levels of student borrowers

The College Scorecard is really two different things

University of Arizona

Tucson, AZ
32,646 undergraduate students
arizona.edu



Average Annual Cost



Graduation Rate



— National Average

Salary After Attending



Costs



Financial Aid & Debt



Graduation & Retention



Earnings After School



Student Body



SAT/ACT Scores



Academic Programs



Download the Data

Download the data that appear on the College Scorecard, as well as supporting data on student completion, debt and repayment, earnings, and more. The files include data from 1996 through 2016 for all undergraduate degree-granting institutions of higher education. This data was last updated on **September 13th, 2016**.

DOWNLOAD ALL DATA

236 MB zip

Featured Downloads

These data downloads provide quick access to some of the data in which users may be most interested, including a file that offers the most current data for each element.

[Scorecard data 5 MB CSV](#)

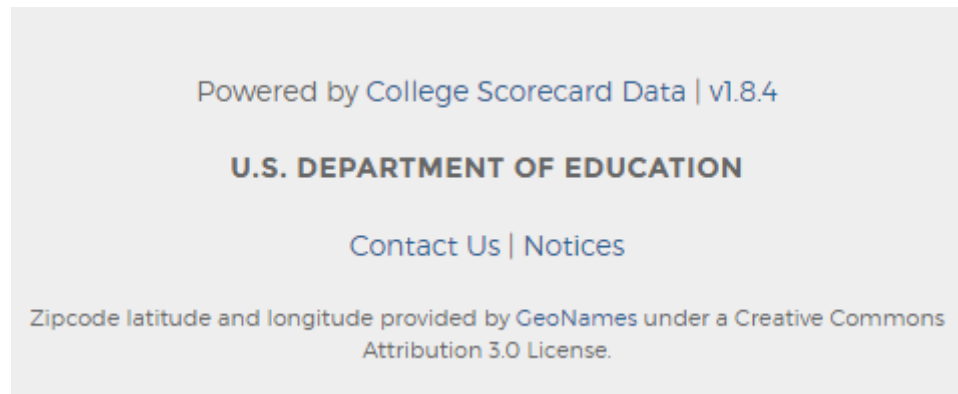
[Most recent data 142 MB CSV](#)

[What's new from NSLDS 122 MB CSV](#)

[Post-school earnings 7 MB CSV](#)

Two ways to get to the data

Scroll to the very bottom of
the page



Or visit

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/data/>

Your download options

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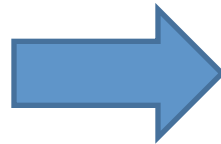
The data dictionary is a crucial tool

Data Documentation

The College Scorecard is designed to increase transparency, putting the power in the hands of the public – from those choosing colleges to those improving college quality – to see how well different schools are serving their students. This documentation provides more on how to use the data, including:

- Sources of the data
- The construction of metrics
- Data considerations and limitations

[VIEW THE DOCUMENTATION >](#)



Structure

The basic structure of an API call is **year.dev-category.dev-friendly-variable-name**, except that the **school** category has no year and **id**, **ope6_id**, **ope8_id** and **location** have no category or year.

All variables are listed in the Data Dictionary.

[DOWNLOAD THE DATA DICTIONARY](#)

More on Repayment Rates

Who is included?	Undergraduate federal student loan borrowers who entered repayment in a two fiscal year range
Who is counted as repaying?	Borrowers who did not default on their loan AND have paid down at least \$1 on what they owed after entering repayment
Types of breakdowns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repayment rates 1, 3, 5, and 7 years after entering repayment• Graduate/Dropout• Income upon entering college:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low: \$0 to \$30,000• Medium: \$30,000 to \$75,000• High: \$75,000+• Gender
Most recent years	<p>1 or 3 year rates: Borrowers entering repayment in 2011 or 2012</p> <p>5 year rates: Borrowers entering repayment in 2009 or 2010</p> <p>7 year rates: Borrowers entering repayment in 2007 or 2008</p>

How to find repayment rate variables

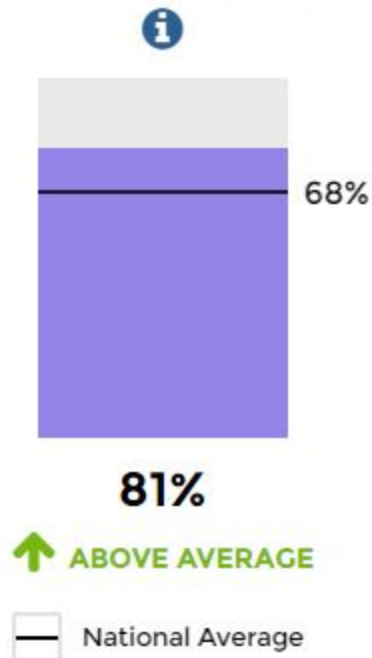
Basic format	<p>The structure is “rpy_” followed by number of years in repayment, then “_rt”</p> <p>Overall repayment rates: rpy_1yr_rt; rpy_3yr_rt; rpy_5yr_rt; rpy_7yr_rt</p>
Other breakdowns	<p>The structure is the same as above, but with bolded prefixes added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completers: compl_rpy_Xyr_rt• Dropouts: noncom_rpy_Xyr_rt• Low income: lo_inc_rpy_Xyr_rt• Middle income: md_inc_rpy_Xyr_rt• High income: hi_inc_rpy_Xyr_rt• Women: female_rpy_Xyr_rt• Men: male_rpy_Xyr_rt
How many people are in a rate?	<p>Replace “rt” with “n,” so rpy_1yr_n = number of people in the denominator of the repayment rate</p>

Important repayment rate reminders

- Includes only federal loans
- The overall rates include graduates and dropouts
- To be considered repaying someone has to pay down \$1 of what they originally owed AND not default

University of Louisville: Consumer tool vs. Downloadable data

Students Paying Down Their Debt



Repayment Rate Type	3-Year Repayment Rate
Overall	81%
Graduates	90%
Dropouts	73%
Low Income	75%
Middle Income	83%
High Income	85%
Women	82%
Men	79%

More on Earnings data

Question	Answer		
Who is included?	Students who received federal financial aid (grants and loans) for undergraduate studies, grouped by academic year first entering college. <u>Includes graduates and dropouts</u> . Earnings are calendar year from U.S. Treasury data, and are inflation adjusted.		
Types of earnings measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mean and median earnings of people who are working and not enrolled • Percent of students earning over \$25,000 year (includes working and non-working) 		
Years tracked	6, 8, and 10 years after entering		
Key breakdowns	Only for mean earnings at 6 and 10 years after enrolling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Low, medium, or high income upon entering college 		
Most recent years	Years after enrolling	Cohorts (academic year)	Earnings year (calendar)
	6	2006-07 or 2007-08	2012 or 2013
	8	2004-05 or 2005-06	2012 or 2013
	10	2001-02 or 2002-03	2012 or 2013

Earnings data variable formats

Question	Answer
Basic format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The structure for mean is: mn_earn_wne_pXX, where XX represents years after first entry (e.g. mn_earn_wne_p6 = average earnings 10 years after entry). Median earnings are similar, but use “md” instead of “mn”: md_earn_wne_pXX Percent earning over \$25,000 is: gt_25k_pXX
Other breakdowns	<p>Add bolded indicator between between “wne_” and “_pXX”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women: mn_earn_wne_ male0 _pXX Men: mn_earn_wne_ male1 _pXX Low income: mn_earn_wne_ inc1 _pXX Middle income: mn_earn_wne_ inc2 _pXX High income: mn_earn_wne_ inc3 _pXX
Find number of people in average earnings data	<p>Replace “mn_earn” with “count.” For example, count_wne_p6 is number of students who are working and not enrolled six years after entry.</p>

Important earnings data reminders

- **Includes graduates AND dropouts.**
- Includes only federal aid recipients
- Means and medians only include those who are working
- % over \$25,000 includes everyone, regardless of if they are employed
- Figures are already inflation adjusted

University of Louisville: Consumer tool vs. Downloadable data

Salary After Attending



\$33,400

\$38,500

↑ ABOVE AVERAGE

National Average

Earnings Type	Earnings 10 years after entry
Median	\$38,500
Mean	\$45,000
Low Income	\$44,600
Middle Income	\$45,500
High Income	\$44,800
Women	\$37,700
Men	\$53,500

Other cautions

- The cohort years for different types of variables are not the same—newest repayment rates are for different students than the newest earnings data
- The same indicator at different points in time captures different cohorts—6 years earnings and 10 year earnings are different students
- Watch out for duplicates at for-profit colleges!