

Retention Rates Definition of Variables *Last Update: August 2022*

This document provides definition of the variables displayed in the Retention Rate reports. The definitions used here are based on data elements from the University System of Georgia Academic Data Collection (ADC). A retention rate is the percentage of students in a given cohort who are enrolled in a USG institution in a specified term (for example, one year later). The number of students in the cohort is the denominator of the rate; the number of students enrolled one year later is the numerator of the rate calculation. Retention rates are calculated by fall cohort year for first-time freshman (following the IPEDS definition below).

First Time Freshman IPEDS

A degree-seeking (*Degree Level Code* not equal to 'N' or 'X') undergraduate student (*Student Level Number* equal to 10, 20, 30, 40) who matriculates to college for the first time in a fall term, or the preceding summer term. To be IPEDS FTF, the student must meet one of the following conditions:

- i. Does not have any valid transfer college records
- ii. Does have valid transfer college records but the *Transfer_Attendance_Begin_Dt* of the last transfer attendance record is less than or equal to the *High_School_Graduation_Dt*
- iii. Does have valid transfer college records but none have a *Transfer_Attendance_End_Dt* which is greater than the *High_School_Graduation_Dt* and less than June 01 of the matriculation year.

This definition is set forth by the National Center for Education Statistics, which maintains the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). *Conditions (ii) and (iii) allow for former dual enrollment students to be counted as FTF.*

Retention rates can be specified by fall cohort year, degree type, number of years, full-time status, race/ethnicity, and gender. These are defined below. Many of the variables used in this report are defined in further detail at https://www.usg.edu/research/reporting_resources in the ADC Functional and Technical Definitions of Derived Variables document.

[Contents](#)

Page 2: Report Options Fall Cohort Year, Type of D

Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity is self-reported by the student at the time of application; however, it is not required information on the application. These categories are used to describe groups to which individuals belong, identify with, or belong in the eyes of the community. The categories do not denote scientific definitions of anthropological origins. A student that identifies as being of Hispanic ethnicity is classified as Hispanic. All students that are not Hispanic are classified as a specific race if they only indicate one race, and as Two or more races/multi-racial if they select more than one race. The category of "Race and Ethnicity Unknown" is used to report students whose racial/ethnic category is undeclared. *Note: This*

American Indian/Alaskan Native

A person identifying as having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

Asian

A person identifying as having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent.

Black or African American (Non-Hispanic)

A person identifying as having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa, except those of Hispanic origin.

Hispanic or Latino

A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

