



Online Learning Data Definitions

SUNY Definitions

Online Course Section: A course section in which the direct instruction of the curricular content is delivered 100% online via asynchronous and/or synchronous methods. Requirements for on-campus/in-person orientation, testing, academic support services, or internships/fieldwork do not exclude a course from being classified as online. However, if any portion (.01%-99.9%) of the direct instruction is delivered face-to-face on the campus, the course must be classified as hybrid, not online.

Online Program: An academic program that offers 50% or more of the course requirements in an online or distance format. The 50% standard includes only courses offered in their entirety via distance education, not courses utilizing mixed delivery methods. **Note: 50% is based on NYSED approval standards. It differs from IPEDS definition in which "all the required coursework for program completion is able to be completed via distance education courses."*

Open SUNY: SUNY-wide collaboration of online-enabled learning opportunities. Open SUNY is not a degree program or a school; it's a seamless way for students to access courses, degrees, professors, and rich academics of all 64 SUNY campuses flexibly through online formats. Open SUNY coordinates with campuses to advertise online course and program offerings.

Open SUNY+ Program: A subset of programs offered through Open SUNY that bring an additional layer of support for students and faculty. Students in Open SUNY+ degree programs have access to high-touch support, including a personal concierge, help desk, and online tutoring. Open SUNY+ programs receive the Open SUNY+ designation after being nominated by their campus and reviewed and approved by Open SUNY.

Highlighted SIRIS Data Elements

Section Online Instruction Type: Collected in Term Section Data Submission (TSDS – element TT080). We rely on this element to report data about a variety of online activity (i.e. enrollment patterns, faculty instruction trends, etc.).

Indicates whether at least some portion of the direct instruction (i.e., excluding advisement, office hours, homework assignments, and help sessions) occurs online.

- Code 1 – Not Online: No direct instruction delivered online
- Code 2 – Asynchronous Online: 100% of the direct instruction occurs under time delay; that is, direct instruction is recorded/stored and accessed later
- Code 3 – Synchronous Online: 100% of the direct instruction occurs in real time without (time) delay
- Code 4 – Combined Online: 100% of the direct instructed combines both Synchronous and Asynchronous type
- Code 5 – Hybrid: Section where a portion (0.01% - 99.9%) of the direct instruction of the course section's curricular content is delivered to the student via an online communication method and the remaining portion of the direct instruction is required to be delivered face to face.
- Code 6 – Hyflex: Combines online and face-to-face instruction simultaneously into one single course section. Students are able to participate in class in different ways: as a synchronous distance learner (via real-time, video-streaming); as an asynchronous distance learner (accessing materials, recorded lectures, and responding at a later time); as a face-to-face learner (physically present in the classroom); or as a flexible learner (with a degree of choice as to how they participate each week; sometimes face-to-face, sometimes by streaming class sessions, etc.). *(New code as of Fall 2019)*

Codes 2, 3, 4 are considered online types.

Online Student Intent: Student Special Population Code (#14) that indicates if a student intends to complete their degree online. Collected in the Student Submissions (ESS & EOT – element SE025). Students' intent may change throughout the course of their enrollment.

IPEDS Definitions

Distance Education: Education that uses one or more technologies to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor synchronously or asynchronously.

Technologies used for instruction may include the following: Internet; one-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcasts, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite or wireless communication devices; audio conferencing; and video cassette, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, if the cassette, DVDs, and CD-ROMs are used in a course in conjunction with the technologies listed above.

Distance Education Course: A course in which the instructional content is delivered exclusively via distance education. *Requirements for coming to campus for orientation, testing, or academic support services do not exclude a course from being classified as distance education.*

Distance Education Program: A program for which all the required coursework for program completion is able to be completed via distance education courses.

IPEDS Data Elements

Institutional Characteristics Survey:

- Are all the programs at your institution offered exclusively via distance education programs?
- Please indicate at what level(s) your institution offers distance education opportunities (courses and/or distance education programs).

Completions Survey:

- By CIP Code and award level: Is this program offered as a distance education program?

Fall Enrollment Survey:

- Part A Fall Enrollment by Distance Education Status tables:
 1. Exclusively, some, or no distance education courses by level (undergraduate/graduate) and degree-seeking status.
 2. For those enrolled exclusively in distance education courses, location (in/outside U.S./state or unknown) by level and degree-seeking status.

**Note: Hybrid courses are not considered by IPEDS as distance education. Students enrolled in only hybrid and/or on-campus courses should be reported as "not enrolled in any distance education courses."*

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