

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. *If any portion (.01%-99.9%) of the direct instruction is delivered face-to-face on 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 the IPEDS definition in which “ALL the required coursework for program completion can be completed entirely via DE courses”.*

SUNY Online: SUNY-wide collaboration of online-enabled learning opportunities. SUNY Online 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. SUNY Online coordinates with campuses to advertise online courses and program offerings.

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

SUNY Institutional Research Information System (SIRIS) Data Elements

Online Instruction Type (Term Section for Campuses Data Submission)

A SIRIS data element that indicates whether some or all of a course section’s direct instruction (excluding advisement, office hours, homework assignments, and help sessions) occurs online. SIRIS reporting codes are as follows: **Codes 2, 3, and 4 are considered online course sections.**

1. Not Online: No direct Instruction is delivered online.
2. **Asynchronous** Online: 100% of the direct instruction occurs under time delay; that is, direct instruction is recorded/stored and accessed later

3. **Synchronous** Online: 100% of the direct instruction occurs in real-time without (time) delay
4. **Combined** Online: 100% of the direct instruction combines both Synchronous and Asynchronous type
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.
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.)

Online Percent Range (Student Enrollment Data Submission)

A SIRIS data element that indicates student count by student percent online status which is calculated from the term section, end-of-term data based on credits attempted in sections with **online instruction types of asynchronous, synchronous, or combined online**. The SIRIS reporting codes are as follows:

1. Exclusively Online – student is enrolled in all qualified credits online: 100% of qualified credits are online
2. Some Online – student is enrolled in some, but not all credits online: 0.1%-99.9% of qualified credits are online.
3. None – student is not enrolled in any qualified online credit.
4. Not applicable – independent study, internship, or practicum with no instructional setting

Student Online Status: Indicates the proportion of qualified online credits that a student takes online as of census data in the term at the reporting campus. (the values are none, some online, exclusively online, not applicable)

IPEDS Distance Education Definitions

Distance education (DE): Education that uses one or more types of technology 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. The following types of technology may be used for distance instruction: internet; satellite or wireless communication; and audio and video conferencing.

Distance education (DE) Course: A single course in which the instructional content is delivered exclusively via DE.

Distance education (DE) Program: A program for which **ALL** the required coursework for program completion can be completed entirely via DE courses.

*Courses and programs are considered DE if **ALL** of their instructional portions can be completed remotely. Non-instructional in-person requirements (e.g., orientation and testing) do not exclude a course or program from being classified as exclusively DE.*

IPEDS Data Elements

IPEDS collects data on DE in four survey components: (1) Institutional Characteristics (IC), (2) 12-month Enrollment (E12), (3) Fall Enrollment (EF), and (4) Completions (C).

Institutional Characteristics (IC) Survey

The IC survey component includes 2 DE questions under Part C that capture (1) whether institutions offer DE courses and/or programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels; and (2) whether all programs offered are exclusively DE.

12-month Enrollment (E12) Survey for the prior year (July 1 – June 30)

In 2021 - 2022, NCES added distance education classifications to their 12-month Enrollment survey, which counts how many unduplicated students fit within each category:

- Enrolled exclusively in DE courses;
- Enrolled in at least one, but not all, DE courses; and
- Not enrolled in any DE courses.

This information is collected for undergraduate, graduate, degree/certificate-seeking, and non-degree/non-certificate-seeking students depending on the level (2-year or 4-year) and degree-granting status of the institution.

Fall Enrollment (EF) Survey for the current year as of the institution's official fall reporting date

The EF survey component includes two DE questions under Part A. The first question is structured much like the DE question in E12 and captures the number of students enrolled in the following DE categories in the fall term - enrolled exclusively in DE courses; enrolled in at least one, but not all, DE courses; and not enrolled in any DE courses.

The second question is applicable only to students enrolled exclusively in DE courses in the fall term. It captures the number of those DE students by location: located in the same state/jurisdiction as the institution; located in the U.S. but not in the same state/jurisdiction as the institution; located in the U.S. but state/jurisdiction unknown; located outside the U.S.; location unknown/unreported. *The location for students*

enrolled exclusively in distance education should be their physical location or current address, as of the institution's fall reporting date.

Both EF questions count undergraduate, graduate, degree/certificate-seeking, and non-degree/non-certificate-seeking students depending on the level (2-year or 4-year) and degree-granting status of the institution.

Completions (C) Survey for the prior year (July 1 – June 30)

The C survey component includes one DE question on the CIP data screen that captures whether all, some, or none of the programs within each CIP code and award level can be completed entirely via DE. **The C DE question does NOT capture the number of students who completed a program via DE.** Instead, it captures information on whether it is possible for students to complete programs via DE by CIP code, adding further differentiation to the DE program questions in the IC survey component.

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