



2026-30 Outcomes-Based Funding Formula

Operational Definitions

The following pages provide detailed definitions for each outcome in the funding formula. These definitions outline a step-by-step process to generate the outcome data from the source files. Each tab includes the simplified definition, expanded definition, the necessary data files, data elements and a mechanical description of how the outcome is generated.

This document was developed in conjunction with staff from the Tennessee Board of Regents, the University of Tennessee system, and various campus personnel. THEC staff are very appreciative of the time and effort contributed by the many people involved in this project.

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Student Progression

Sector(s): University and Community College

Simplified Definition

The number of undergraduate students reaching 30, 60, or 90 credit hours at Universities or 12, 24, or 36 credit hours at Community Colleges during an academic year.

Expanded Definition

The number of full-time and part-time students whose cumulative credits earned at the beginning of a semester are less than the established credit hour threshold benchmarks of 30, 60, or 90 student credit hours for Universities or 12, 24, or 36 student credit hours for Community Colleges **and** whose cumulative credit hours earned at the end of the semester are equal to *or* greater than the credit hour threshold benchmarks during the academic year.

Outcomes are identified by subtracting a student's undergraduate term institution combined earned hours from their cumulative credits earned using the THEC End of Term Enrollment File.

Data Files

THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (Fall 2010 and after)

Data Elements

- Student ID: Unique identifier for each student enrolled in a Tennessee college or university.
- Year Of Registration: The four-digit reporting year in which the student enrolled.
- Term Of Registration: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the student enrolled.
- Student Level: The two-digit number that identifies students as undergraduate students (01,02,03,04,05, 06).
- Credit Type: Particular credit values. Those used in this measure are limited to: Regular Credit (0); Occupational or Certificate Program Credit (1); Extension Credit (2); Co-op Credit (5); Contract Course Credit (B); Developmental Course Credit (D); Remedial Course Credit (R); University Remedial by Community Colleges Credit (S); University Remedial by Regents Online Degree Program (T); University Remedial by Alternate Method (U).
- Credit Hours: The sum of "crdthours1" through "crdthours10" with a credit type attributable towards a degree.
- Attempted Semester Credit Hours: All semester hours attempted by students. Can include failed courses.
- Cumulative Credits Earned: The total number of credits earned at or accepted by the reporting institution.
- Credit Hour Threshold Benchmarks: The earned credit hour benchmark that students must meet or pass in an academic year in order to be counted as an outcome. The University threshold benchmarks are 30, 60, and 90 credit hours. The Community College threshold benchmarks are 12, 24, and 36 credit hours.
- Undergraduate Term Institution Combined Earned Hours: The number of term hours earned by a student during that term by the end of the term.

Operational Definition

FOR FALL 2010 COHORTS AND LATER:

STEP 1: Calculating Beginning of Term Hours – Using the THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILES, subtract a student's UNDERGRADUATE TERM INSTITUTION COMBINED EARNED HOURS from their CUMULATIVE CREDITS EARNED.

STEP 2: Determining Threshold Attainment – Sum the number of students with BEGINNING OF TERM HOURS (calculated in STEP 1) that are less than one of the CREDIT HOUR THRESHOLD BENCHMARKS and whose CUMULATIVE CREDITS EARNED are greater than *or* equal to the CREDIT HOUR THRESHOLD BENCHMARKS at the end of each term within the academic year.

STEP 3: Total Progression Count for Academic Year – Sum the number of students for each semester that reach or pass one of the CREDIT HOUR THRESHOLD BENCHMARKS.

Short Term Certificates (<1 Year)

Sector(s): Community College

Simplified Definition

The total number of technical certificates requiring fewer than 24 credit hours granted during a calendar year.

Expanded Definition

The total number of short-term certificates (those requiring fewer than 24 semester credit hours) conferred to students during a calendar year. Only certificates identified as technical will be counted. Technical certificates are identified by meeting the criteria to be classified as C1 in the academic program inventory. Students earning multiple awards in an academic year will have each earned award type count as a separate outcome. Double majors with the same award type count as one outcome.

Data Files

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

Data Elements

- Award Level: Count of all unique degrees and/or certificates. At Community Colleges, award level of 21 (short-term certificate) only.
- Award Type: Designation of type of short-term certificate awarded. At Community Colleges, award level 21 is designated as C1 (technical certificate) only.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.
- Student Major: An identifier, often the federal Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code, used to accurately track and categorize degrees and certificates in different fields.

Operational Definition

This measure is a count of certificates of less than one year in length awarded across all Tennessee public community colleges for the noted academic year. A student who receives two or more short-term certificates in different academic fields counts as individual awards. Only certificates less than one year in length (<24 semester credit hours) designated as "technical certificates" will be counted in this measure.

Academic Year Identification:

The academic year consists of three terms: summer, fall and spring. For example, the 2010-11 academic year consists of summer term 2010, fall term 2010 and spring term 2011. The reported value for the AWARD YEAR and the reported value for the AWARD TERM in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file are used to compute the academic year.

Short-Term Certificate Recipient Identification:

The certificates are determined by the reported value for AWARD LEVEL in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES submission. Only students with a reported AWARD LEVEL of 21 (short-term certificates) are counted in this metric.

Removal of Academic Certificates:

Short-term certificates identified as C2 or "academic" in the academic program inventory are identified using STUDENT MAJOR and are subtracted from the total for each institution, leaving only "technical" or short-term certificates designated as C1 in the counts.

Long-Term Certificates (1-2 Year)

Sector(s): Community College

Simplified Definition

The total number of long-term certificates (excluding those in the general education core) conferred in an academic year.

Expanded Definition

The total number of long-term certificates (those requiring 24 or more credit hours) conferred to students during an academic year. Students earning multiple long-term certificates in an academic year have each earned certificate count as a separate outcome. General Education Core certificates (those with CIP codes of 16.24.0101.01) are excluded from this measurement. Students earning multiple awards in an academic year will have each earned award type count as a separate outcome. Double majors with the same award type count as one outcome.

Data Files

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

Data Elements

- Award Level: Count of all unique degrees and/or certificates. At Community Colleges, award level of 21 (short-term certificate) only.

- Award Type: Designation of type of short-term certificate awarded. At Community Colleges, award level 21 is designated as C1 (technical certificate) only.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.
- Student Major: An identifier, often the federal Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code, used to accurately track and categorize degrees and certificates in different fields.

Operational Definition

This measure is a count of certificates requiring 24 or more hours to complete awarded across all Tennessee public community colleges for the noted academic year. A student who receives two long-term certificates in different academic fields counts as two awards. Long-term certificates awarded in the "General Education Core" or "University Parallel" are excluded from this measure.

Academic Year Identification:

The academic year consists of three terms: summer, fall and spring. For example, the 2010-11 academic year consists of summer term 2010, fall term 2010 and spring term 2011. The reported value for the AWARD YEAR and the reported value for the AWARD TERM in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file are used to compute the academic year.

Long-Term Certificate Recipient Identification:

The certificates are determined by the reported value for AWARD LEVEL in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES submission. Only students with a reported AWARD LEVEL of 22 (long-term certificates) are counted in this metric.

Removal of General Education Core Certificates:

CIP codes for the long-term certificates identified in the step above are investigated for awards with a code of 16.24.0101.01 using the STUDENT MAJOR field in the database. These "General Education Core" or "University Parallel" certificates are subtracted from the totals for each institution.

Bachelor's Degrees

Sector(s): University

Simplified Definition

The total number of bachelor's degrees conferred in an academic year.

Expanded Definition

The university formula includes the total bachelor's degrees conferred to students by the awarding institution during a given academic year. Students earning multiple degrees in an academic year will have each earned degree type count as a separate outcome. Double majors with the same degree type (e.g., two BS degrees) count as one outcome.

Data Files

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

Data Elements

- Award Level: Count of all unique degrees and/or certificates. At Community Colleges, award level of 21 (short-term certificate) only.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted.
- Enroll Year: The four digit reporting year in which the student was enrolled.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.

Operational Definition

This measure is a distinct count of bachelor's degrees awarded across all Tennessee public universities for the noted academic year. A student who receives two degrees in different degree types counts as two degrees; a student who receives two majors in the same degree type (e.g., BA in English and Spanish *or* BS in biology and chemistry) count as one degree.

Academic Year Identification:

The academic year consists of three terms: summer, fall and spring. For example, the 2017-18 academic year consists of summer term 2017, fall term 2017 and spring term 2018. The reported value for the AWARD YEAR and the reported value for the AWARD TERM in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file are used to compute the academic year.

Bachelor Recipient Identification:

The degrees are determined by the reported value for AWARD LEVEL in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES submission. Only students with a reported AWARD LEVEL of 25 (bachelor's degree) are counted in this metric.

Associate Degrees

Sector(s): University and Community College

Simplified Definition

The total number of associate's degrees conferred in an academic year.

Expanded Definition

The community college formula includes the total number of associate degrees conferred to students during a given academic year. Students earning multiple awards in an academic year will have each earned award count as a separate outcome. An associate degree awarded through a reverse transfer partnership with a university is worth 0.5 associate degrees at the awarding community college and 0.5 associate degrees at the university where the student was enrolled at time of associate degree completion.

The university formula includes the total number of associate's degrees conferred to students either by the university or through a reverse transfer partnership with a community college during a given academic year. Associate's degrees awarded by the university are included when the award is determined to be the terminal degree conferred at the time of stop-out. University associate degree completers are checked for continued enrollment in the year following associate degree completion.

Students continuing their enrollment at the associate degree awarding university are excluded from the associate degree count for the awarding institution.

Students earning multiple degrees in an academic year will have each earned degree type count as a separate outcome. Double majors with the same degree type (e.g., two AA degrees) count as one outcome.

Data Files

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (Fall 2010 and after)

Data Elements

- Award Level: Count of all unique associate degrees. At Universities and Community Colleges, award level of 23 (associate) only.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted.
- Enroll Year: The four digit reporting year in which the student was enrolled.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.

Operational Definition

This measure is a count of associate degrees awarded across all Tennessee public universities and community colleges for the noted academic year. A student who receives two different degree types (e.g. an AA and an AAS) counts as two degrees; students who receive two majors/areas of emphasis in the same degree type count as one degree. Associate degrees awarded through a reverse articulation agreement is worth 0.5 degrees at the awarding community college and 0.5 degrees at the university where the student was enrolled at time of degree completion.

Associate degrees at the university level are counted when the award is determined to be a terminal degree for the student at the awarding university. This is done by checking for continued enrollment of associate degree earners at the same institution in the academic year following completion. Students continuing their enrollment at the associate degree awarding university are excluded from the associate degree count for the awarding institution.

Academic Year Identification:

The academic year consists of three terms: summer, fall and spring. For example, the 2017-18 academic year consists of summer term 2017, fall term 2017 and spring term 2018. The reported value for the AWARD YEAR and the reported value for the AWARD TERM in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file are used to compute the academic year.

Associate Degree Recipient Identification at Community Colleges:

The degrees are determined by the reported value for AWARD LEVEL in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES submission. Only students with a reported AWARD LEVEL of 23 (associate degree) are counted in this metric.

Reverse Transfer Associate Degree Identification:

Reverse transfer associate degrees are determined by the reported value for AWARD LEVEL in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES submission. Only students with a reported AWARD LEVEL of 23 (associate degree) identified with a flag by the awarding community college are counted as a part of

this metric. Awarding community colleges also identify the partner university, with the awarding community college and partnering university receiving 0.5 degrees for each award.

Associate Degree Recipient Identification at Universities:

Associate degrees at universities are determined by the reported value for AWARD LEVEL in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES submission. Only students with a reported AWARD LEVEL of 23 (associate degree) who have not re-enrolled (based on the THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE) at the awarding university within the academic year (summer, fall, spring) following degree receipt are counted in this metric.

Master's and Education Specialist's Degrees

Sector(s): University

Simplified Definition

The total number of master's and education specialist's degrees and certificates conferred in an academic year.

Expanded Definition

The combined total of master's and education specialist's degrees and certificates conferred to students during an academic year. Students earning multiple degrees in an academic year will have each degree type count as a separate outcome. Double majors in the same degree type (e.g., MA) count as one outcome.

Data Files

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

Data Elements

- Award Level: Count of all unique degrees and/or certificates. At Universities, award level of 42 (Master's) and 43 (Educational Specialist) only.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.

Operational Definition

This measure is a distinct count of master's and education specialists degrees awarded across all Tennessee public universities for the noted academic year. A student who receives two degrees in different degree types counts as two degrees; a student who receives two majors in the same degree type (e.g., an MA in English and Spanish) count as one degree.

Academic Year Identification:

The academic year consists of three terms: summer, fall and spring. For example, the 2010-11 academic year consists of summer term 2010, fall term 2010 and spring term 2011. The reported value for the AWARD YEAR and the reported value for the AWARD TERM in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file are used to compute the academic year.

Master's and Educational Specialist Recipient Identification:

The degrees and certificates are determined by the reported value for the AWARD LEVEL in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file submission. Only students with reported AWARD LEVEL values of 42 (Master's degree), or 43 (Education Specialist's degree) are counted in this metric.

Doctoral and Law Degrees

Sector(s): University

Simplified Definition

The total number of Doctoral and Law degrees conferred in an academic year.

Expanded Definition

The combined total of doctoral and Law degrees conferred to students during an academic year.

Does not include medical or pharmacy degrees. Students earning multiple degrees in an academic year will have each earned degree count as a separate outcome. Double majors with the same degree type (e.g., Ph.D.) count as one outcome.

Data Files

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

Data Elements

- Award Level: Count of all unique degrees and/or certificates. At Universities, award level of 44 (Doctoral) and level of 31 (JD/Law) only.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.

Operational Definition

This measure is a distinct count of doctoral and law degrees awarded across all Tennessee public universities for the noted academic year. A student who receives two degrees in different degree types count as two degrees; students who receive the same degree type in two majors (e.g., a PhD English and Spanish) count as one degree.

Academic Year Identification:

The academic year consists of three terms: summer, fall, and spring. For example, the 2010-11 academic year consists of summer term 2010, fall term 2010 and spring term 2011. The reported value for the AWARD YEAR and the reported value for the AWARD TERM in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file are used to compute the academic year.

Doctoral and Law Degree Recipient Identification:

The degrees are determined by the reported value for the AWARD LEVEL in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file submission. Only students with reported AWARD LEVEL values of 44 (Doctoral degree), or JD (Law degree) are counted in this metric.

Graduation Rate

Sector(s): University

Simplified Definition

The four-year graduation rate of first-time, full-time freshmen.

Expanded Definition

First-time, full-time, fall freshmen and summer first-time freshmen who continued in the fall, attempting 12 credit hours at the census date, who were awarded a bachelor's or associate degree as of the summer semester following their fourth year.

Prior to the 2015-16 funding cycle, THEC only tracked students who transferred from their host institution and graduated from any public Tennessee institution and some private Tennessee institutions (based on TELS information). Beginning in the 2015-16 funding cycle, THEC began using National Student Clearinghouse data to track students who transferred to out-of-state institutions.

Data Files

THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (Fall 2010 and after)

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

Data Elements

- Student ID: Unique identifier for each student enrolled in a Tennessee college or university.
- Previous Registration Type: Previous enrollment status of a student.
- Registration Type: Current enrollment status of a student.
- Year Of Registration: The four-digit reporting year in which the student enrolled.
- Term Of Registration: The element of reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the student enrolled.
- Credit Hours: The sum of "crdthours1" through "crdthours10" with a credit type attributable towards a degree.
- Award Level: Count of all unique degrees and certificates. At Universities, award level of 25 (bachelor) and 23 (associate) only.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted. Award year must fall anytime within 4 years after the YEAR OF REGISTRATION.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.

Operational Definition

First-time, Full-time Freshmen Identification:

STEP 1: Cohort Identification -- Identify first-time, full-time freshmen from the THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (for cohorts in Fall 2010 or after). Beginning with the cohort year, identify first-time freshman with a TERM OF REGISTRATION of 4 (Summer) and returned in the fall. Then identify first-time freshman with a TERM OF REGISTRATION of 1 (Fall). STUDENT ID is then used to track the students who meet these criteria into the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES.

STEP 2: Identify full-time freshmen from either the THEC 14TH DAY ENROLLMENT FILE or the THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE. To be counted, students must have a census date CREDIT HOURS (sum across all courses) equal to or greater than 12 with a TERM OF REGISTRATION equal to 1 in the cohort identified in STEP 1.

Degree Recipient Identification:

STEP 1: Link STUDENT IDs for first-time, full-time freshmen identified in the previous steps with the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES. To be counted, students must have an AWARD LEVEL equal to 25 (bachelor) or 23 (associate) from the institution at which they enrolled originally or from another public or private institution in Tennessee within 16 semesters of the initial cohort identification.

STEP 2: Compare the COHORT YEAR to the AWARD YEAR. AWARD YEAR must be greater than or equal to COHORT YEAR for the student to count.

Dual Enrollment

Sector(s): Community College

Simplified Definition

The number of credit hours earned by high school students taking degree-credit courses in an academic year.

Expanded Definition

The total number of credit hours earned by high school students enrolled in degree-credit courses during an academic year. Credit hour data were sourced from THEC End-of-Term Files beginning in Fall 2010. This outcome includes -- but is not limited to -- the metric used by the TELS Dual Enrollment grant.

Data Files

THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (Fall 2010 and after)

Data Elements

- Previous Registration Type: Previous enrollment status of a student.
- Registration Type: Current enrollment status of a student.
- Year Of Registration: The four-digit reporting year in which the student enrolled.
- Term Of Registration: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the student enrolled.
- Credit Type: Particular credit values. Those used in this measure are limited to: Regular Credit (0); Occupational or Certificate Program Credit (1); Extension Credit (2); Co-op Credit (5); Contract Course Credit (B); Developmental Course Credit (D); Remedial Course Credit (R); University Remedial by Community Colleges Credit (S); University Remedial by Regents Online Degree Program (T); University Remedial by Alternate Method (U).
- Credit Hours: The sum of hours assigned across credit-type buckets "crdthours1" through "crdthours10". Each value uses a four-digit numeric format (e.g., 0650=6.5 hours). Only hours with eligible credit types contribute to earned-hour calculation.

Operational Definition

Unduplicated headcount of dually enrolled students who take a course creditable toward a degree within an academic year, where an academic year is from summer to spring.

To be counted, students must have both a PREVIOUS REGISTRATION TYPE equal to 4 and REGISTRATION TYPE equal to 6. THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILES used on or after Fall 2010.

Transfers Out

Sector(s): Community College

Simplified Definition

The number of undergraduate students who, after accumulating 12 credit hours, successfully transferred to another institution in an academic year.

Expanded Definition

The number of undergraduate students who transferred out to any in-state public – and some private – institution in an academic year who accumulated at least 12 earned student credit hours from the originating institution. The student must have been enrolled at the originating institution at any time one academic year prior to transferring (i.e. "continuously enrolled"). Students transferring to an institution in the fall after being enrolled at a separate institution the previous spring, but not the previous summer, are included in this outcome.

Data Files

THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (Fall 2010 and after)

Data Elements

- Student ID: Unique identifier for each student enrolled in a Tennessee college or university.
- Previous Registration Type: Previous enrollment status of a student.
- Registration Type: Current enrollment status of a student.
- Year Of Registration: The four-digit reporting year in which the student enrolled.
- Term Of Registration: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the student enrolled.
- Student Level: The two-digit number that identifies students as either undergraduate (01,02,03,04,05, 06) or graduate students.
- Cumulative Credits Earned: The total number of credits earned at or accepted by the reporting institution.
- Originating Institution: Institution the student attended prior to transferring. This institution receives credit for this metric in the funding formula.
- Transfer Institution: Institution the student transferred to after attending the originating institution.

Operational Definition

Academic Year Identification:

The academic year consists of three terms: summer, fall, and spring. For example, the 2010-11 academic year consists of summer term 2010, fall term 2010 and spring term 2011.

Identifying Transfer Students:

STEP 1: For each term of the academic year, identify the "continuously enrolled" undergraduate students -- those with STUDENT LEVELS equal to "01,02,03,04,05, or 06" -- coded as a "transfer student" -- those with a REGISTRATION TYPE equal to 3.

STEP 2: Check the PREVIOUS REGISTRATION TYPE for these students to verify the ORIGINATING INSTITUTION is not the same as the TRANSFER INSTITUTION. If the originating institution and the transfer institution are the same, the student is not classified as a transfer student.

Identifying Credit Hours:

STEP 1: Of the students found in STEP 1 above, select only those students that had CUMULATIVE CREDITS EARNED at the ORIGINATING INSTITUTION greater than or equal to 12 credit hours at the end of the previous term.

STEP 2: Aggregate distinct count of students by institution, ensuring that duplicates are removed.

Notes:

This outcome does not include students who accumulated 12 credit hours through dual enrollment programs (PREVIOUS REGISTRATION TYPE = 4 and REGISTRATION TYPE = 6) and then enrolled at another institution.

Adult Focus Population

Sector(s): University and Community College

Simplified Definition

Students 25 years or older at the time the outcome is achieved. Used only for the progression and undergraduate degrees and certificates outcomes. Age for undergraduate awards is calculated by subtracting the student birth year from the award year. Age for progression is calculated by subtracting the student birth year from the year of registration.

Data Files

THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (Fall 2010 and after)

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

Data Elements

- Student ID: Unique identifier for each student enrolled in a Tennessee college or university.
- Year Of Registration: The four-digit reporting year in which the student enrolled.
- Term Of Registration: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the student enrolled.
- Student Birth Year: The year the student identified by the above Student ID was born.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.

Operational Definition

Determining Age for the Student Progression Measure:

The age is computed by subtracting the reported STUDENT BIRTH YEAR (as found in either the THEC 14TH DAY ENROLLMENT FILE or the THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE) from the YEAR OF REGISTRATION.

Determining Age for the Awards Measures:

The age is computed by subtracting the reported STUDENT BIRTH YEAR from the AWARD YEAR (as found in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES).

Academically Underprepared Focus Population

Sector(s): Community College

Simplified Definition

Any student who scores below certain thresholds on the ACT (below a 19 on the Composite, Math, or Reading, or below an 18 on Writing), and any student who is ever identified by the community college as requiring a remedial or development course. Used only for the progression metrics and the degree and certificate outcomes at community colleges.

Data Files

THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (Fall 2010 and after)

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

Data Elements

- Student ID: Unique identifier for each student enrolled in a Tennessee college or university.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.
- ACTComp: The ACT Composite score as first reported by the institution.
- ACTMath: The ACT Math component score as first reported by the institution.
- ACTReading: The ACT Reading component score as first reported by the institution.
- ACTWriting: The ACT Writing component score as first reported by the institution.
- Credit Type: Particular credit values. Those used in this measure are limited to Developmental Course Credit (D) and Remedial Course Credit (R).

Operational Definition

Determining Academically Underprepared by ACT Score:

Students are considered academically underprepared via the ACT if, as first reported by the institution, they score below a 19 on the ACT Composite, below a 19 on the Math component, below a 19 on the Reading component, or below an 18 on the Writing component.

Determining Academically Underprepared by Credit Type:

Using the THEC 14TH DAY ENROLLMENT FILE or the THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE, a student is considered academically underprepared if the student enrolled with CREDIT TYPE equal to R or D.

Any student who qualifies as Academically Underprepared and meets the metric requirements to be measured in the three STUDENT PROGRESSION or undergraduate AWARDS outcomes is counted as an Academically Underprepared Focus Population within the funding formula.

Low-Income Focus Population

Sector(s): University and Community College

Simplified Definition

Students (both in-state and out-of-state) identified as Pell eligible at any time during their college career. Used only for the progression and undergraduate degrees and certificates outcomes.

Data Files

THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (Fall 2010 and after)

THEC SSN TABLE (derived from TSAC FAST Data System)

OUT OF STATE PELL ELIGIBLE STUDENTS TABLE (ad hoc request provided by the institutions)

Data Elements

- Student Social Security Number: Unique identify assigned to all citizens of the United States.
- Year Of Registration: The four-digit reporting year in which the student enrolled.
- ISIR Records: Used to identify Pell eligibility.
- Residency Status: This element contains the legal residence status of the student.
- Pell Eligibility Flag: An indicator used by institutions to determine if an out-of-state student was ever eligible for the Pell grant.

Operational Definition

Determining Eligibility for In-State Students:

THEC maintains a table of STUDENT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS identifying any in-state student that is or was eligible for the Federal Pell Grant since 2002. This data is derived from the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation's FAST data system. Any in-state student identified as meeting the metric requirements to be measured in the three STUDENT PROGRESSION or undergraduate AWARDS outcomes and who is labeled "Pell Eligible" at any time is counted as a LOW-INCOME FOCUS POPULATION within the funding formula.

Determining Eligibility for Out-of-State Students:

Starting in 2022, THEC collects data from institutions for any out-of-state, Pell eligible students. Out-of-state status is determined by the reporting institution using RESIDENCY STATUS and ever Pell eligibility is determined by the reporting institution using a PELL ELIGIBILITY FLAG. Using the data submitted by institutions, any out-of-state student identified as meeting the metric requirements to be measured in the three STUDENT PROGRESSION or undergraduate AWARDS outcomes and who is labeled "Pell Eligible" at any time is counted as a LOW-INCOME FOCUS POPULATION within the funding formula.

Workforce Investment Premium

Sector(s): University and Community College

Simplified Definition

Students who receive an undergraduate award in an [approved high-need academic field](#) in a given academic year. Used for short- and long-term certificates and associate and bachelor's degrees only.

Data Files

THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES

THEC END OF TERM ENROLLMENT FILE (Fall 2010 and after)

TENNESSEE TRANSFER PATHWAY COMPLETERS TABLE (ad hoc request provided by TBR)

Data Elements

- Student ID: Unique identifier for each student enrolled in a Tennessee college or university.
- Award Level: Count of all unique undergraduate awards. At Community Colleges, award level of 21, 22, and 23 only. At Universities, award level of 23 and 25 only.

- First Major: The six-digit code identifying the classification of instructional program for a student's first major.
- First Concentration CIP: The six-digit code identifying the classification of instructional program for a student's first concentration. Used for Tennessee Transfer Pathway degrees to identify awards eligible for the Workforce Investment Premium.
- Award Year: The four digit reporting year in which the award was granted.
- Award Term: The element of the reporting term (Summer = 4; Fall = 1; Spring = 3) in which the award was granted.

Operational Definition

Academic Year Identification:

The academic year consists of three terms: summer, fall and spring. For example, the 2017-18 academic year consists of summer term 2017, fall term 2017 and spring term 2018. The reported value for the AWARD YEAR and the reported value for the AWARD TERM in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file are used to compute the academic year.

Workforce Investment Premium Recipient Identification:

Awards are determined by the reported value for AWARD LEVEL in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES submission. Only students with a reported AWARD LEVEL of 21, 22, and 23 at community colleges or 23 and 25 at universities (undergraduate awards) are counted in this metric. All rules applying to each respective award for inclusion in the formula are applied first (see specifics on awards included in the formula under each of the awards tabs in the operational definitions document), then awards deemed eligible for inclusion are checked for workforce investment premium eligibility using the classification of instructional programs (CIP) codes found in the FIRST MAJOR and/or FIRST CONCENTRATION CIP data elements from the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES and, when necessary, the TENNESSEE TRANSFER PATHWAY COMPLETERS TABLE.

Undergraduate awards in the following [four -digit CIP groups](#)--found by checking the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th digits in the FIRST MAJOR variable--are eligible for the premium.

Students with a reported FIRST MAJOR of 24.01.01 and AWARD LEVEL of 23 (associate) may also qualify for the Workforce Investment Premium if the student completes the award in a Tennessee Transfer Pathway (TTP) as identified in the TENNESSEE TRANSFER PATHWAY COMPLETERS TABLE in an area of emphasis in one of the above four -digit CIP groups as determined by checking the 1st and 2nd digits of FIRST CONCENTRATION CIP in the THEC REPORT OF GRADUATES file.