

Overview of Enhanced Membership Criteria with Sources of Data

Commitments to Access, Affordability, and Success

Access

- Open to students of all backgrounds: cultural, socio-economic, and geographic
- Engage significant under-served and under-resourced populations

Affordability

- Offer In-state Tuition or
- Meet Full Demonstrated Need and/or
- Graduate their students with Low to No Debt and Low Loan Default rates

Success

- Achieve High Graduation Rates, including strong rates for low income and under-represented students

Membership Eligibility Overview

- Achieve high marks in at least two of our three areas of emphasis (access, affordability, success) with no qualifying school falling outside an acceptable range on the third area, based on defined performance boundaries.
- Ensure local access for all students; every state is represented in the Coalition by at least one public university as well as all four year colleges and universities that meet the metrics that follow.

Minimum Qualifying* Criteria

Access

- Percentage of under-represented or low income students enrolled greater than or equal to 10% (NCEES: IPEDS)

Affordability

- Title IV Debt < \$30,000 (College Scorecard Data: National Student Loan Data System)
- Loan Default Rate 15% or less (Cohort Default Rates: Office of Federal Student Aid)

Success

- Graduation Rate 60% or higher (NCEES: IPEDS)
- Under-represented or low income student Graduation Rate > 50% (NCEES: IPEDS and National Student Loan Data System)

*If a state has no qualifying four-year public universities, its public university with the highest metrics on these standards is automatically invited.

Membership Eligibility = at least 2 of the following 3 areas

Access

- Percentage of enrolled under-represented students equal to or above 20% (NCEES: IPEDS) or
- Percentage of enrolled low income students (Pell) equal to or above 20% (NCEES: IPEDS)

Affordability

- Meet full need (stated on school website) (Common Data Set definition via TICAS CollegeInsight or Big Future) or
- Have affordable in-state tuition (NCEES: IPEDS) or
- Median Title IV debt equal to or below \$25,000 (College Scorecard Data: National Student Loan Data System) or
- Loan default rate equal to or below 9% (Cohort Default Rates: Office of Federal Student Aid)

Success

- 70% or greater graduation rate (NCEES: IPEDS) or
- Low income (Pell) student graduation rate equal to or greater than the school's overall graduation rate (College Scorecard Data: National Student Loan Data System) or
- Under-represented student graduation rate equal to or greater than the school's overall graduation rate (NCEES: IPEDS)

Data for Eligibility Criteria	Definitions (<i>Verbatim</i>)
6-year graduation rate (IPEDS)	<p>6-year graduation rate of the sub-cohort of full-time, first-time students seeking a bachelor's or equivalent degree (4-year institutions)</p> <p>This rate is calculated as the total number of students completing a bachelor degree or equivalent within 6-years (150% of normal time) divided by the revised bachelor sub-cohort minus any allowable exclusions.</p>
Percent on Pell (IPEDS)	Percentage of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who received Pell grants.
Median Graduate Debt (NSLDS via Scorecard)	Median debt for student who have completed. (Cohort includes exclusively students receiving Title IV aid only)
Cohort Default Rate (NSLDS via OSFAP)	A 3-year cohort default rate is the percentage of a school's borrowers who enter repayment on certain Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program or William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans during a particular federal fiscal year (FY), October 1 to September 30, and default or meet other specified conditions prior to the end of the second following fiscal year.
Percent Under-represented Minority (IPEDS)	Percentage of full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates identifying as Native American, Alaska Native, Black, African-American, or Hispanic
6 Year URM Graduation Rate (IPEDS)	Percentage of original cohort (full-time, first-time students seeking a bachelor's or equivalent degree, with allowed exclusions) identifying as Native American, Alaska Native, Black, African-American, or Hispanic completing their degree within 6 years
6 Year Completion Rate for Pell Recipients (NSLDS)	Percentage of Pell recipients in the original cohort of entering Title IV students completing their degree within 6 years
Meet Full Need policy (Common Data Set)	First Year Full-time: On average, the percentage of need that was met of students who were awarded any need-based aid. Exclude any aid that was awarded in excess of need as well as any resources that were awarded to replace EFC (PLUS loans, unsubsidized loans, and private alternative loans)