

Performance Funding Metrics

University Access Rate

(Percent of Undergraduates with a Pell Grant)

OVERVIEW OF METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

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STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM *of* FLORIDA
Board of Governors



The State University System of Florida included the University Access Rate in the Performance-Based Funding model to help preserve access for students from low-income families. This document provides details on the methodology and procedures used by Board of Governors staff to calculate the percentage of undergraduates with a Pell-Grant as reported in the annual Accountability Report and used in the Performance Based Funding model.



BOG Analysis of State University Database System (SUDS) Data

The State University System of Florida Board of Governors maintains a student unit record database titled the State University Database System (SUDS). This database contains over 400 data elements about students, faculty and programs at SUS institutions. The University Access Rate is based on data from the enrollment table on the Student Instruction File (SIF), and the Awards table on the Student Financial Aid (SFA) file.

- a. **Numerator**: Board staff query the Financial Aid Awards table within SUDS to identify the students who received a Pell Grant (award_prog_id='001') during the Fall term (award_payment_term= 'yyyy08').
 - In addition to demonstrating financial need, the US Dept. of Education considers other factors when determining eligibility for a federal Pell grant. For example, students must be a US citizen or an eligible noncitizen¹. The US Dept. of Education does provide a few exceptions whereby non-resident aliens can receive a Pell grant. SUDS does not collect information to allow Board staff to determine the Pell-eligibility for non-resident aliens; therefore, Board staff exclude non-resident aliens (#2043 = 'Y') from both the numerator and denominator for this metric.
- b. **Denominator**: Board IR staff identify all degree-seeking undergraduate (both lower and upper divisions) students enrolled in the Fall term. In addition, Board staff exclude unclassified students (student_class_level='N') and post-baccalaureate students (stu_recent_adm_typ= 'P') from the denominator because these students are not eligible for a Pell grant.

Note on US Dept. of Education Pell Data

The US Dept. of Education reports data for the 'Percent of Undergraduate Students Receiving Pell Grants' online at the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) website. However, Board staff decided not to use the IPEDS data for this metric for the following reasons:

- Since there is funding attached to the data, Board staff felt it was preferable to calculate the percentage of undergraduates receiving Pell grants using the student level data that is available in SUDS rather than simply using the data that universities report to IPEDS.
- Board staff also felt that the methodology that is used by IPEDS to generate their percentage of undergraduates who received a Pell grant is flawed. In IPEDS, the numerator is based on the number of students who received a Pell grant anytime during a particular academic year. Alternatively, the denominator is only based on the students enrolled during the Fall term – including unclassified students who are not seeking a degree and therefore not eligible for financial aid. Furthermore, the IPEDS Financial Aid survey imports the total headcount denominator from their Fall Enrollment survey. Due to the IPEDS schedule for data submissions, the State University System of Florida institutions use the *preliminary* Student Instruction File (SIFP) data when reporting the total Fall enrollment counts on the Fall Enrollment survey, so the denominator that IPEDS uses to calculate the percentage of undergraduates who received a Pell grant is based on preliminary data.

¹ For more information about eligibility requirements for the federal Pell grant, see: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility/basic-criteria>.