

MyFloridaFuture Technical Notes

Data Limitations

MyFloridaFuture is based on individual-level data for over 478,800 graduates from the State University Data System (SUDS). These records were matched to records from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), which relied on both state and national employment and wage data sources. The state-level data source used by DEO was the Florida Education & Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP), and the national data source was the State Wage Interchange System (SWIS). These data sources have several limitations that influenced the methodology used for MyFloridaFuture and how the findings are presented in the tool.

National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)

The Clearinghouse includes records from 3,600 colleges and universities nationwide. These institutions enrolled 97% of all students in public and private U.S. institutions in any given academic year. While this database is comprehensive, some State University System (SUS) graduates may have pursued additional education at a college or university that does not report data to NSC or at a college or university outside the U.S. The number of graduates pursuing additional education at one of these types of institutions is likely minimal. However, it is impossible to say with complete certainty that a graduate not found in the NSC database was not enrolled. See <https://www.studentclearinghouse.org/about/> for more detailed information about the National Student Clearinghouse.

Impact of NSC Data Limitations on MyFloridaFuture

Data provided by NSC does not include several key data elements that would further enhance MyFloridaFuture. First, the NSC data does not include the number of credit hours or other measures of enrollment intensity that would indicate whether individuals enroll full- or part-time. This information, if available, would be useful in understanding the extent to which graduates have time to work while pursuing additional education. The NSC data also does not include the field of study, which would indicate whether students continue to study in the same field or in a different field.

Since MyFloridaFuture includes graduating classes that have previously been studied, it is important to note that there are several reasons why the education outcomes reported in the tool may differ from the education outcomes previously reported for any overlapping classes. First, institutions are permitted to submit corrections to NSC. Second, institutions are also permitted to submit historical data that might not have been submitted to NSC at the time the prior studies were conducted. Third, additional institutions may have opted to submit data to NSC since the prior studies were conducted. Finally, NSC staff regularly assess and revise the processes and protocols used to review and validate institutional and internal data files in order to improve the

quality of the data. As a result of these types of changes to the NSC data, the number and percentages of SUS graduates from any overlapping classes who pursued additional education may differ somewhat from the numbers in previous studies.

State Wage Interchange System (SWIS)

SWIS is a national database, and state participation is voluntary. However, the data used for MyFloridaFuture contains employment data for all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. At any given time, a rolling window of the two most recent years (eight quarters) of historical wage data are available for matching in SWIS. See <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/performance/swis> for more detailed information about the State Wage Interchange System.

The Florida unemployment insurance (UI) database and the SWIS database do not contain information for all individuals who were employed. Individuals not reported include those who: 1) are self-employed, 2) are employed in temporary positions not eligible for unemployment insurance, 3) are employed by the military or federal government, or 4) do not have a valid Social Security number.

Jobs that are exempt or otherwise not covered by unemployment insurance also are not included in the Florida UI database and the SWIS database. These include self-employed nonagricultural workers, unpaid family workers, insurance agents paid solely by commission, and employees of religious organizations.

MyFloridaFuture utilized records for graduates from various graduating classes and employment records from 2018, 2019, and 2020 to assess employment and education outcomes over time. Due to the limited availability of historical employment data, it was not possible to track outcomes over time for the same group of graduates. However, the same objective can be achieved by analyzing the outcomes of graduates from different graduating classes. Therefore, Year 1 outcomes are reported for the classes of 2018 and 2019. Year 5 outcomes are reported for the classes of 2013 and 2014. Year 10 outcomes are reported for the classes of 2008 and 2009.

There are three additional limitations of the SWIS data. First, most state labor departments do not require employers to report the number of hours worked. Full- and part-time employment status can be approximated by calculating an annualized minimum wage, which is a method commonly used by other states. For details, refer to the definition of “working full-time” provided in the Methodological Notes section of this document. Second, most state labor departments also do not require employers to report the occupation in which employees work. Lastly, this data does not include information from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, which includes employment information for the vast majority of all federal civilian, non-postal executive branch employees.

Impact of SWIS Data Limitations on MyFloridaFuture

As a result of the limitations described above, the most direct impact on MyFloridaFuture is that it is impossible to be sure that the SUS graduates not found in the FETPIP and SWIS databases were not employed.

Since MyFloridaFuture may include graduating classes for which the Board of Governors had previously conducted baccalaureate follow-up studies based on data from the Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS 2), it is important to note that there are several reasons why the employment outcomes reported in the tool may differ from previous reports for any overlapping classes. First, more states participated in SWIS than in WRIS 2. Second, states may have decided to submit new data to the database(s) since the prior studies were conducted. Finally, employers and state labor departments are allowed to submit revised data. As a result of these types of changes to the data, the number and percentages of SUS graduates who were employed and the annual wages may differ from the data reported in previous studies.

Protecting Privacy

State and federal privacy laws and regulations directly influenced the way in which data were displayed. Cell sizes with less than ten individuals were not shown to ensure compliance.

The agreement that enabled DEO to access the employment data also created significant limitations that affect the way in which data are presented in the tool. SWIS data could only be provided back to Board staff in aggregate form; therefore, it was not possible to perform any further analysis on the data other than to present various results based on the aggregations requested and provided.

Methodological Notes

Academic Year and Classes

Academic Years and Classes are defined as outlined in the table below.

Academic Year	Class Year	Summer	Fall	Spring
2007-2008	2008	2007	2007	2008
2008-2009	2009	2008	2008	2009
2012-2013	2013	2012	2012	2013
2013-2014	2014	2013	2013	2014
2017-2018	2018	2017	2017	2018
2018-2019	2019	2018	2018	2019

Cohort Years

The cohorts include the academic years listed below.

- Year 1: Degrees awarded in 2017-18 and 2018-19
- Year 5: Degrees awarded in 2012-13 and 2013-14
- Year 10: Degrees awarded in 2007-08 and 2008-09

Outcome Years

Employment. The outcome years for employment included the time periods noted below. Wages were annualized based on the wage quarter indicated. The second quarter (Q2) was defined as April, May, and June of the year indicated. The third quarter (Q3) was defined as July, August, and September. The fourth quarter (Q4) was defined as October, November, and December.

Class	Year 1 Employment		
	Starting Quarter	Wage Quarter	Ending Quarter
2018	Q4-2018*	Q2-2019	Q3-2019
2019	Q4-2019	Q2-2020	Q3-2020

Class	Year 5 Employment		
	Starting Quarter	Wage Quarter	Ending Quarter
2013	Q4-2018*	Q2-2019	Q3-2019
2014	Q4-2019	Q2-2020	Q3-2020

Class	Year 10 Employment		
	Starting Quarter	Wage Quarter	Ending Quarter
2008	Q4-2018*	Q2-2019	Q3-2019
2009	Q4-2019	Q2-2020	Q3-2020

* Wage data was available from FETPIP for the fourth quarter of 2018 but not from SWIS.

Education: The outcome years for education include the following time periods.

- Year 1: Enrolled any time within 426 days after graduation
- Year 5: Enrolled any time between 1,521 and 1,886 days after graduation
- Year 10: Enrolled any time between 3,346 and 3,711 days after graduation

Student Debt

The MyFloridaFuture dashboard includes the median student loans for first-time-in-college (FTIC) Florida residents earning a bachelor's degree in 2017-18 and 2018-19 (n=63,673) from SUDS.

Loans included reflect what is reported in SUDS as part of the Student Financial Aid data submission and consist of loans awarded from federal, state, institution, and private sources. These data only include loans for undergraduate studies and do not capture loans acquired from other institutions. Loan amounts also do not include any accrued interest, even if that interest accrued before a student completed their degree.

The estimated monthly loan payment is based on a standard 10-year repayment plan and includes a proxy for interest (4.34%). For each bachelor's recipient, a single interest rate was used as a proxy that averages the interest rates for the prior four years, and that rate was applied to the student's entire debt at graduation. The sum of

the loan amount plus interest was then divided by 120 to reflect the monthly payments over ten years.

Definitions

Annual Wages: The total gross (before tax) wages reported in the wage quarter (April, May, June) of the outcome year, as defined above, multiplied by four (each year has four quarters). The annual wages reported are only for graduates working full-time as defined below.

Continuing Education: Graduates found in the national education database, including those who may have also been found in the national employment databases, during the specified outcome year as defined above.

Working Full-Time: Graduates whose annual wages, as defined above, in the wage quarter of the outcome year exceeded the following minimum thresholds based on the annual wages earned by working full-time, or 2,080 hours, at the Florida minimum wage in place during the specified outcome year.

Class	Year 1	
	Annualized FL Minimum Wage	Hourly Rate
2018	\$17,597	\$8.46
2019	\$17,805	\$8.56

Class	Year 5	
	Annualized FL Minimum Wage	Hourly Rate
2013	\$17,597	\$8.46
2014	\$17,805	\$8.56

Class	Year 10	
	Annualized FL Minimum Wage	Hourly Rate
2008	\$17,597	\$8.46
2009	\$17,805	\$8.56

Institution: The university within the State University System of Florida reporting the degrees awarded on MyFloridaFuture.

Degree Level: The level of the degree awarded to the student in a given academic year, including bachelor's, masters and specialists, professional doctorate (e.g., law, medicine, pharmacy), and research doctorate (e.g., Ph.D. and Ed.D.).

Major: The 6-digit classification that identifies instructional programs by discipline area, major function, or activity. The taxonomy used is based on the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) compiled by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES). The majors included on MyFloridaFuture reflect the CIP code assigned to the

degree awarded in a given term as submitted to SUDS. Visit the [NCES webpage](#) to learn more about the CIP code taxonomy.

Major Group: The 2-digit classification that identifies instructional programs by discipline area, major function, or activity. The taxonomy used is based on the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) compiled by the NCES. The major groups included on MyFloridaFuture reflect the CIP code assigned to the degree awarded in a given term as submitted to SUDS. Visit the [NCES webpage](#) to learn more about the CIP code taxonomy.