

Variable Descriptions and Calculations

This document provides the specific Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) or annual report variables used to calculate the measures on the ERDC [Public Four Year Finance Dashboard](#). It also presents the equations used to calculate each measure.

Variables used from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

IPEDS variables names are provided below. See [IPEDS data dictionaries](#) for descriptions of these variables.

- 1) Ratio of fall headcount students to fall headcount faculty appointment
 - Fall student headcount: ENRTOT
 - Fall tenured and tenure-track faculty counts: EAPTYP, EAPCAT 21020 and 21030
- 2) Annualized ratio of full-time equivalent students to annualized full-time equivalent (FTE)
 - IPEDS does not report annual faculty counts. Instead, the dashboard reports fall FTE student to fall nonfaculty ratios. Fall FTE student counts are estimated using the 12-month headcount to FTE ratio and applying that ratio to the fall headcount to obtain an estimate of the fall FTE student count.
 - Fall headcount: ENRTOT
 - 12-month FTE: FTE12MN
 - 12-month headcount: UNDUP
 - Total staff FTE: SFTETOTL
 - Instructional staff FTE: SFTEINST
- 3) Net position for the academy
 - Net position from financial health survey in years 2020 onwards: F1N04
 - Net position from finance survey from 2013-2019: F1A18
- 4) Annual primary reserve ratio as measured by expendable net assets to total expenses
 - Unrestricted net assets: F1A17
 - Restricted expendable net assets: F1A15
 - Total expenses: F1C191
- 5) Viability ratio as measured by unrestricted and expendable net assets, not including capital projects expendable net assets, divided by total debt
 - Unrestricted net asset: F1A17
 - Restricted expendable net assets: F1A15
 - Total debt: F1A10
- 6) Ratio of total expendable net assets for the academy per full-time equivalent student
 - Unrestricted net asset: F1A17
 - Restricted expendable net assets: F1A15
 - 12-month FTE: FTE12MN
- 7) Total market value of college or university endowment holdings
 - Value of endowment assets at the end of the fiscal year: F1H02
- 8) The amount of the annual earnings that remain in the endowment after fees are removed

- Endowment net investment return: F1H03B
- 9) The percentage of the annual remaining endowment earnings after fees are removed to total annual market value of college or university endowment holdings
- Endowment net investment return: F1H03B
 - Value of endowment assets at the end of the fiscal year: F1H02

Variables used from the institution annual financial reports

- 1) Cash on hand as calculated by the ratio of total cash on hand for the academy divided by operating expenses for the academy minus noncash expenses divided by 365
- Total cash and cash equivalents plus current or short-term investments
 - Total operating expenses minus depreciation and amortization (noncash operating expenses).

Calculations used for each measure

Measure	Calculation
Ratio of fall headcount students to fall headcount faculty appointment	$\frac{\text{Fall student headcount}}{\text{Fall count of tenured faculty plus fall count of tenure – track faculty}}$ <p>Note: This measure includes both undergraduate and graduate students and faculty who teach undergraduates, graduates, and a mix of both. If comparing across institutions, note that values on this ratio can differ because of differences in student-to-faculty ratios in undergraduate and graduate programs and the size of an institution’s undergraduate and graduate programs.</p>
Ratio of full-time equivalent students to annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) nonfaculty positions	$\frac{\text{Fall headcount} * (12 - \text{month FTE}/12 - \text{month headcount})}{\text{Total FTE staff} - \text{instructional FTE staff}}$ <p>Note: This measure includes both undergraduate and graduate students and a mix of research institutions; regional, comprehensive universities; and a liberal arts and sciences college. If comparing across institutions, note that ratios can differ because the numbers and types of staff needed can vary substantially across institution types, institutional mission, and across undergraduate and graduate programs.</p>
Net position for the academy	Assets minus liabilities
Annual primary reserve ratio as measured by expendable net assets to total expenses;	$\frac{\text{Unrestricted net assets} + \text{restricted expendable net assets}}{\text{Total expenses}}$

Cash on hand as calculated by the ratio of total cash on hand for the academy divided by operating expenses for the academy minus noncash expenses divided by 365	$\frac{\text{Total cash on hand}}{\text{Operating expenses} - \text{noncash operating expenses}} \times 365$
Viability ratio as measured by unrestricted and expendable net assets, not including capital projects expendable net assets, divided by total debt	$\frac{\text{Unrestricted net assets} + \text{restricted expendable net assets}}{\text{Total debt}}$
Ratio of total expendable net assets for the academy per full-time equivalent student	$\frac{\text{Unrestricted net assets} + \text{restricted expendable net assets}}{\text{Annualized full} - \text{time equivalent student}}$
Total market value of college or university endowment holdings	Value of endowment assets at the end of the fiscal year
The amount of the annual earnings that remain in the endowment after fees are removed	Endowment investment return minus administrative expenses
The percentage of the annual remaining endowment earnings after fees are removed to total annual market value of college or university endowment holdings	$\frac{\text{Endowment investment return minus administrative expenses}}{\text{Value of endowment assets at the end of the fiscal year}}$