


1996

Finance (memo) 1996-1997

UNO Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

140 N. 8th St., Suite 300, P.O. Box 95005, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5005
Telephone (402) 471-2847 FAX (402) 471-2886

November 15, 1996

To: Nebraska IPEDS Coordinators
From: John Ingram
IPEDS State Coordinator
402 - 471 - 0030

James Maynard, UNO

Subject: NCES Late Mail-out of the IPEDS Finance Survey for FY 1996 + GRS Survey (Registrars)

Several coordinators have called to ask when the IPEDS Finance survey would be mailed. An enclosure dated 25 October is the most recent official written communication from the U.S. Department of Education. It contains some useful information. I encourage you to read it.

I called last week to enquire about more specific dates for the "FY1996 Finance Survey" and the "1996 IPEDS Finance Pretest" mail outs. The information from the Census Bureau office that does the mailing was that the forms are ready, and presently await approval by the OMB. Upon OMB approval the forms will be mailed. (This is standard procedure). The earliest this could now happen is within late November to mid December. If this mailout time is met, then the FY1996 Finance Survey returns would be due, mailed to this office (J. Ingram, at Lincoln, Ne) by January 15, 1997. That mailback is the usual procedure. Draft copies of the FY1996 Finance Survey distributed at the May, 1996 State Coordinator's meeting were unchanged from the FY1995 forms. All public and private non-profit institutions will be asked to complete a FY1996 form.

The attachment includes names of the institutions in Nebraska that the NCES has selected to receive the "1996 IPEDS Finance Pretest". The target mail-out and return dates for this survey are the same as above: late November to mid December for mail-out, and mid-January, 1997 for the completed returns. If you receive the 1996 IPEDS Finance Pretest form, you should mail your response directly to the Census Bureau. The form will provide a mail return address.

A "Graduation Rate Survey" or GRS will be distributed to another sample of postsecondary institutions. The Nebraska sample list appears on the enclosure. A form is not available at this time.

Hoping this answers some of your questions. The enclosure has a toll free number if you have more specific questions. You are always welcome to contact me.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

25 OCT 1996

OCT 31

Dear IPEDS Coordinator:

The 1996 processing cycle for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is underway. This letter is to inform you of the current status of the Graduation Rate Survey (GRS) pretest and the test of new Finance formats.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is conducting a pretest of the new GRS with a sample of approximately 800 institutions. Mailout of the GRS pretest is tentatively scheduled for November or December. Based on an evaluation of the pretest, the survey will be finalized and sent to all institutions eligible for Federal financial aid as part of the 1997 IPEDS collection. The GRS will collect data on completion/graduation rates and transfer-out rates of full-time, first-time degree or certificate-seeking undergraduate students.

According to the Student Assistance General Provisions (Sec. 668.41, 668.46, 668.49) institutions that offer athletically-related student aid are required to report graduation and transfer-out rates to the Secretary of Education. In addition, other institutions are required to disclose graduation rates to students and prospective students. Therefore, in response to concerns expressed by the higher education community about the need for consistent definitions and a structure for reporting these data, NCES developed a format for calculating these rates and for reporting data required by the Student Right-to-Know legislation.

The GRS pretest will ensure that the format, instructions, and definitions of the data items are clear and can be followed; help determine the ease/difficulty with which the forms can be completed; determine availability of the data requested; and help us evaluate the quality of the data reported.

Enclosed is a list of the institutions in your state which were selected as part of the GRS pretest sample. Please review the list and notify the Bureau of the Census at their toll-free number (800-451-6235) if you wish to do nonresponse follow-up or if Census should contact the institutions directly for the pretest only.

Recently you were contacted by Jan Plotczyk of the Bureau of the Census and asked how you would like us to mail the IPEDS Finance forms to the institutions you coordinate. The FY 1996 Finance forms and the test Finance formats are currently scheduled to be mailed in late October or early November.

The new test formats are necessitated by changes in accounting standards promulgated by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). The new FASB accounting standards for non-profit institutions are based on an entity-wide model rather than a funds group model. There are significant differences in the way these two accounting models portray the financial status of a postsecondary institution.

The new worksheets for public institutions were designed to translate those elements of a public institution's finance data that are critical for comparison purposes into an entity-wide perspective. The worksheets will test the feasibility of relating data for public institutions to that collected for private institutions under the new FASB standards. The new private form was designed to be consistent with the new financial accounting standards and to reflect a private institution's audited financial statement. All institutions will receive a Finance FY 1996 public or private form. Institutions selected to be included in the sample for testing the new formats will also receive a test form or worksheet to complete.

Data from the finance pretest will provide information that will ensure that respondents from public and private institutions can provide information that is consistent; determine the burden imposed on institutions in providing the financial data; and ensure the format, instructions, and definitions are clear and can be followed. If you have any questions regarding the finance pretest, contact an IPEDS representative toll-free at 800-622-6193.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Planchon
Associate Commissioner
Surveys and Cooperative Systems Group

Enclosure

unitid	fucoord2	st	sector	name
181330	31A	NE	02	MIDLAND LUTHERAN COLLEGE
180902	31A	NE	04	CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
181640	31A	NE	04	SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
181668	31A	NE	06	SPENCER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Sampled Institutions - 1996 IPEDS Finance *Pretest*

10/24/96

UNITID	COORD	ST	SECTOR	NAME1
181747	31A	NE	00	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA CENTRAL ADMIN SYSTEM OFFICE
180948	31A	NE	01	CHADRON STATE COLLEGE
181534	31A	NE	01	PERU STATE COLLEGE
181215	31A	NE	01	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY
181394	31A	NE	01	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
181428	31A	NE	01	UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER
180832	31A	NE	02	CLARKSON COLLEGE
181002	31A	NE	02	CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY
181011	31A	NE	02	DANA COLLEGE
181127	31A	NE	02	HASTINGS COLLEGE
181376	31A	NE	02	NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
181297	31A	NE	02	NEBRASKA METHODIST COLLEGE OF NURSING & ALLIED HLT
181853	31A	NE	02	YORK COLLEGE
181419	31A	NE	04	NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
181075	31A	NE	06	GATEWAY ELECTRONICS INSTITUTE-OMAHA