

Cohorts

SAM provides a common measure for student achievement for all types of institutions: public and private, nonprofit universities, colleges, and community colleges. This document describes the cohorts reported to SAM.

Cohorts

Cohorts are defined as the students who enter the institution for the first time in the academic year (either as a transfer student or new to college). The student may be enrolled full-time or part-time. Cohorts are based on entry to the institution in any term during the academic year, although some institutions may report Fall only entrants.

Institutions typically submit data for the following cohorts:

- first-time, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking students
- transfer, full-time bachelor's degree-seeking students who transferred into the reporting institution
- first-time, part-time bachelor's degree-seeking students
- transfer, part-time bachelor's degree-seeking students who transferred into the reporting institution

In addition, cohorts may be submitted for:

- Pell students: Students who received a Pell Grant in their first term of enrollment at the institution.
- Veteran Students: Students who reported to the institution that they received veterans' benefits at any point during their enrollment at the institution.
- Students of color: Students who identify all or in part with a race and/or ethnicity that is non-white. Students who are international/nonresident aliens or for whom race/ethnicity is unknown should not be included in the cohort.