GEAR UP
additional definitions
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Additional Definitions

Developed through Collaboration by:
College and Career Readiness Evaluation Consortium
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
GEAR UP Student Definition

A GEAR UP student, for the purposes of the College and Career Readiness Evaluation Consortium (CCREC) including both ACT-led and CCREC-led research and evaluation, is a student that is eligible by definition to receive direct GEAR UP services through a cohort¹ or priority model² of program implementation. Direct GEAR UP services are defined as any service that is documented and coded for evaluation and/or reporting purposes by a CCREC-participating state GEAR UP program. Students who are enrolled in schools that are implementing GEAR UP services, regardless of model type (cohort, priority, or hybrid), participate at different levels of service that are documented through various data collection systems. Additionally, over the six- or seven-year life of a GEAR UP project, students enroll, withdraw, and/or re-enroll in schools where GEAR UP services are and/or are not provided. Therefore, to effectively analyze student outcomes for research, evaluation, and reporting purposes, participating CCREC states agree to collect and track the following information:

- How long a student has been in the GEAR UP program, i.e., a time stamp of entry, exit, and possible re-entry into the program;
- The type of GEAR UP student, i.e., cohort or priority student;
- The amount of GEAR UP services a student has received, i.e., the hours of services that will subsequently be coded as low, medium, high, or not applicable for none;
- The number of service incidences;
- The grade-level at each time the student is (re)enrolled/(re)enters program, as applicable; and
- The grade-level at time of each GEAR UP service.

¹ Cohort Model: The cohort or whole-grade model involves providing services to all students in the participating grade levels, rather than a selected group of students. By law, a cohort must start no later than the 7th grade, and services must be provided to the students in the cohort through the 12th grade. Each cohort must include either: (1) all of the students in a particular grade level at a participating school that has a 7th grade and in which at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act; or (2) all of the students in a particular grade level, who reside in public housing, as defined in section 3(b)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

² Priority Student Model: Priority students are defined in the law as any student in secondary school who is eligible to be counted under section 1124 (c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; eligible for assistance under a State program funded under part A or E of Title IV of the Social Security Act; eligible for assistance under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or otherwise considered by the applicant to be a disconnected student.
FAFSA Completion

FAFSA Completion: For the purpose of the Consortium project, FAFSA completion is defined as data on each GEAR UP student which is derived from State Grant Agencies participating in the FAFSA Completion Initiative launched by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Student Federal Aid, in July 2014. This Initiative allows State Grant Agencies to release verified FAFSA Filing Status Information to the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR-UP) authorized under Chapter 2 of Subpart 2 of Part A of Title IV of the HEA to receive such data.³

For the purpose of the Consortium project, and by this definition, data will only be entered into the CCREC data repository housed at the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center if it is data provided to the GEAR UP project (as a designated entity) from the State Grant Agency. This will allow for consistency and analyses across state projects.

NOTE: The Consortium will calculate a percentage of FAFSA completers by high school with the denominator being the number of seniors at the end of their senior year.

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³ As is the case for the release of FAFSA Filing Status Information to secondary schools and to LEAs, designated entities may receive FAFSA Filing Status Information from a state grant agency only if: (1) the state grant agency has submitted to the Department the completed (Student Aid Internet Gateway) SAIG Participation Agreement (Part Two of the SAIG Application); (2) the state grant agency has executed a written agreement with the designated entity as provided in Section G of the SAIG Participation Agreement; and (3) the designated entity has an established relationship with the student, as defined in Section C (Definitions) of the SAIG Participation Agreement.
High School Graduation & Postsecondary Definitions

- **High School Graduation**: High school graduation status should be applied to students who received a high school diploma. Students who completed the 12th grade but did not receive a high school diploma are not included; students who complete summer courses to receive a high school diploma are included.

- **Postsecondary Enrollment**: Postsecondary enrollment is defined as at least part-time enrollment in a postsecondary, degree-granting institution by the fall semester after high school graduation, or earlier. Postsecondary enrollment also includes students if they attained a degree concurrent with their high school diploma.

- **Postsecondary Persistence**: Student persistence is defined as enrollment at any higher education institution into the second year.

- **Postsecondary Graduation**: Postsecondary graduation is defined as graduation from a 2- or 4-year postsecondary institution up to six years after high school graduation.

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4 This includes students who were enrolled in postsecondary courses during high school or the summer preceding the fall semester if they continued enrollment after high school graduation.

5 This definition assumes that a student enrolled in a college in the fall after high school graduation and remained enrolled the following fall. This definition accounts for the fact that students may not attend college for a part of a year, (e.g., stop-out for one semester) but when he or she re-enrolls the following fall, s/he is still pursuing postsecondary education (i.e., persisting).
Types of Postsecondary Enrollment

1. Any postsecondary enrollment (either during or after high school)
   a. **Description:** This statistic includes both students who were either concurrently enrolled in a postsecondary institution during high school or enrolled in a postsecondary institution after graduating high school.

2. Any concurrent enrollment (i.e., could have concurrent enrollment during high school only or during high school and continue after high school)
   a. **Description:** This statistic represents all students who were concurrently enrolled in a postsecondary institution during high school. This includes students who continued their postsecondary education after high school as well as students who did not continue their education after high school.

3. Only concurrent enrollment (i.e., only during high school and did not continue)
   a. **Description:** This information focuses only on students who were concurrently enrolled in postsecondary education during high school but did not continue their postsecondary education after high school graduation. These students are also included in the above calculations for "Any postsecondary enrollment" and "Any concurrent enrollment".

4. Enrolled in postsecondary after high school (includes those who also had concurrent enrollment and continued)
   a. **Description:** This category includes only students who enrolled in postsecondary education following high school. This captures students who were concurrently enrolled in high school and then went on to enroll in a postsecondary institution after graduating from high school and those who just enrolled in postsecondary education after high school. This definition also captures students who graduated from an Early College High School at the same time a postsecondary degree was received. This is the definition CCREC follows for official postsecondary enrollment.