

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®



StudentTrackerSM Cohort Query Guide

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NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE

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StudentTrackerSM Cohort Query Guide

The StudentTracker Cohort Query (CO query) was created for the VSA (Voluntary System of Accountability) College Portrait's "Undergraduate Success & Progress Rate" table. It provides a summary of the retention and completion rates of a cohort group by academic year and institutional category. For more on the College Portrait, see the "*About the Voluntary System of Accountability*" section on page 15. The functionality of the Cohort query has also been expanded to support the Student Achievement Measure (SAM). The **Student Achievement Measure (SAM)** Project is a joint initiative of the six national higher education presidential associations. Additional information about the Student Achievement Measure can be found on page 16.

Who Can Use the CO Query?

Colleges and universities that participate in the Clearinghouse's Enrollment Reporting, DegreeVerify, and StudentTracker services may use the CO query. If you don't know if your institution participates in Enrollment Reporting, DegreeVerify, and StudentTracker, contact your Clearinghouse regional or managing director (<https://studentclearinghouse.info/reps>) or contact us at service@studentclearinghouse.org.

How do I Submit My CO Query Request File to NSC?

You can submit your CO query file using either Excel or flat file format via your Clearinghouse secure FTP account (a StudentTracker representative will help you set up your account). For instructions on how to create and submit a file, please refer to the user manual: https://studentclearinghouse.info/onestop/wp-content/uploads/STCU_User_Manual.pdf

Each time you successfully upload a file, a file delivery receipt will be emailed to you.

Our system will run your submitted file through two levels of validation, structural and field level. Users with the ST Submissions role will then receive an email advising if the file passed validations. Files that fail will need to be corrected and re-submitted so please review each of these emails closely. Once your file has passed validations and is able to be processed, please allow 3 business days for your reports to be delivered to your ftp mailbox. If you do not receive your results within 3 business days, contact us at studenttracker@studentclearinghouse.org.

For instructions on submitting your request file using Excel, please see Appendix A in this document: https://studentclearinghouse.info/onestop/wp-content/uploads/STCU_User_Manual.pdf

Why doesn't the CO Query Yield the Same Graduation Rate as IPEDS?

The CO query graduation rate will be different from IPEDS due to the following differences in the process:

- There may not be a match in the Clearinghouse system for a student from your cohort. The most common reason for this is a data conflict in the school's Core data submission. If for any reason a record was not loaded during the Core submission, it will not be available in StudentTracker.
- IPEDS uses October 15 as its cutoff date. The CO query uses end-of-term enrollment status. Any changes in enrollment between October 15 and end-of-term will create a counting difference.

What's New as of Summer 2016?

The Clearinghouse has enhanced the StudentTracker service to make it more efficient and transparent.

More information on these enhancements can be found here:

https://studentclearinghouse.info/onestop/wp-content/uploads/STCU_User_Manual.pdf

Enhancements include:

- Immediate feedback on your file submission
- Auto remediation of the most common file submission errors
- User interface that allows you to follow the progress of your file
- Faster report generation turnaround
- Certificates are now being counted on the aggregate report for CO queries. Table 1 of the aggregate report has two new rows: '*Certificates from your institution*' and '*Certificates from other institution*'. An example can be found on page 9 of this guide.

1. **Control Report:** A record count overview provided in an .htm file. These counts include the number of students submitted in your request file, the number of students found in the NSC database, the number of students with blocks, the number of students counted in your aggregate report and the number of students reported in the detail file. Of the students submitted in your request file, a student is counted as 'found' if they are matched to a postsecondary record in the Clearinghouse database.

Example Control Report:

Date: 07/25/2016

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE
STUDENTTRACKER FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FILE SUMMARY
FOR Guiding Light University (001234)
SUBMISSION ID #250999

FILE NAME: 00123400_request_file_CO.txt
FILE CREATION DATE: 7/25/2016
QUERY/SEARCH TYPE: Longitudinal Cohort(CO)

An explanation of the StudentTracker reports can be found in the StudentTracker for Colleges and Universities User Guide.

TOTAL STUDENTS IN YOUR STUDENTTRACKER REQUEST FILE: 4994

TOTAL STUDENTS WITH NO RESPONSE DATA AVAILABLE: 41

TOTAL STUDENTS FOUND AND INCLUDED IN AGGREGATE REPORT: 4953
(Aggregate displays initial enrollment records only)

TOTAL STUDENTS WITH AT LEAST 1 RECORD FOUND FOR DETAIL REPORT: 4953
(Includes students with partially blocked records)

RECORDS BLOCKED ON DETAIL REPORT

TOTAL STUDENTS WITH INITIAL TERM ENROLLMENT/DEGREE RECORDS BLOCKED: 28

TOTAL STUDENTS WITH PARTIALLY BLOCKED ENROLLMENT/DEGREE RECORDS: 75

TOTAL STUDENTS WITH COMPLETE ENROLLMENT/DEGREE HISTORY BLOCKED: 0

*DEGREEVERIFY PARTICIPANT: Yes
**ADDITIONAL DATA ELEMENTS: No

*By participating in the Clearinghouse's DegreeVerify service, your school will receive degree information in StudentTracker reports.

**By providing additional data elements to the Clearinghouse, your school will receive a more robust data set. In addition, if more than half of the students in your enrollment reporting submissions are reporting with the following data elements, and your institution participates in DegreeVerify, your school can receive StudentTracker for free.
Class/Credential Level, College Student ID, Current Major and CIP Code

More than 3,600 colleges and universities, enrolling over 98% of all students in public and private U.S. institutions, participate in the Clearinghouse.

[Colleges that do not report attendance and completion data to the Clearinghouse are not included in your StudentTracker reports or student-level detail file. To help you identify these institutions, below is a list of the colleges with 1,000 or more students that do not report attendance and completion data to the Clearinghouse. If you have questions, email us at studenttracker@studentclearinghouse.org.](#)

School Code	Name	Type	Public/Private	State	Enrollment Size
031603-00	ALASKA INSTITUTE OF	2	PUBLIC	AK	1,347
025769-00	CHARTER COLLEGE	4	PRIVATE	AK	2,191
023410-00	FORTIS COLLEGE -	L	PRIVATE	AL	1,811
010010-00	COMMUNITY COLLEGE	4	PUBLIC	AS	1,488
031150-00	ARIZONA COLLEGE OF ALLIED	2	PRIVATE	AZ	1,099

Control Report FAQs

➤ What do the Counts mean on the Control Report?

Row Descriptor	Definition
TOTAL STUDENTS IN YOUR STUDENTTRACKER REQUEST FILE	Total number of student records from the file. Each row in the request file beginning with 'D1' is considered a student record.
TOTAL STUDENTS WITH NO RESPONSE DATA AVAILABLE	Total number of students for whom the Clearinghouse cannot return any enrollment or degree information. Information is not returned for the following reasons: 1) the student attended a school that does not report enrollment or degree information to the Clearinghouse; 2) the records in the Clearinghouse database are not within the search date parameters; 3) the student did not match to any records in the Clearinghouse database The Record Found indicator on the detail report will = N for these students.
TOTAL STUDENTS FOUND AND INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATE REPORT	Total number of students that have matched to a student in the Clearinghouse's database and who have records that meet the search date parameters. This number is aggregate and therefore includes students with FERPA blocks. $\frac{\text{TOTAL STUDENTS IN YOUR STUDENTTRACKER REQUEST FILE} - \text{TOTAL STUDENTS WITH NO RESPONSE DATA AVAILABLE}}{\text{TOTAL STUDENTS FOUND AND INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATE REPORT}}$ For the CO query, the student must have an enrollment record with a term end date that is after the search date, or a degree record with an award date that is after the search date.
TOTAL STUDENTS WITH AT LEAST 1 RECORD FOUND FOR DETAIL REPORT.	Total number of students that have matched to a student in the Clearinghouse's database and met the search date parameters and for whom the Clearinghouse can report some or all enrollment or degree information. $\frac{\text{TOTAL STUDENTS FOUND AND INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATE REPORT} - \text{TOTAL STUDENTS WITH COMPLETE ENROLLMENT / DEGREE HISTORY BLOCKED}}{\text{TOTAL STUDENTS WITH AT LEAST 1 RECORD FOUND FOR DETAIL REPORT}}$ The Record Found indicator on the detail report will = Y for these students.

<p>TOTAL STUDENTS WITH INITIAL ENROLLMENT OR DEGREE RECORDS BLOCKED</p>	<p>Total students that have matched to a student in the Clearinghouse's database and met the search date parameters, but the student's initial record as explained above is blocked. When the record is blocked, the student is counted on the Aggregate Report, but you will not be able to see the records on the Detail Report. Therefore, you will not be able to determine how long the student went to this school or whether the student received a degree from this school.</p>
<p>TOTAL STUDENTS WITH PARTIALLY BLOCKED ENROLLMENT/DEGREE RECORDS</p>	<p>Total students that have matched to a student in the Clearinghouse's database and met the search date parameters, but the student has records at more than one school, possibly with multiple branches, and some of these records are blocked.</p> <p>The Record Found indicator for the student in Detail Report will =Y, but a complete enrollment or degree history will not display.</p>
<p>TOTAL STUDENTS WITH COMPLETE ENROLLMENT/DEGREE HISTORY BLOCKED</p>	<p>Total number of students that have matched to a student in the Clearinghouse's database and met the search date parameters but for whom the Clearinghouse cannot report any enrollment or degree information on the Detail Report because all of the student's records (from all schools attended) are blocked.</p> <p>The Record Found indicator on the detail report will = N for these students.</p>

- Aggregate (Cohort) Report:** A summary report contained in a .csv file. The cohort report includes aggregate counts for all students you submitted who were found in NSC’s database, regardless of whether they have blocks.

Example Cohort Report:

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE STUDENTTRACKER AGGREGATE REPORT: COHORT QUERY FOR GUIDING LIGHT UNIVERSITY (001234) SUBMISSION ID #250999											
Date:	07/25/2016										
FILE NAME:	00123400_student_file.txt										
FILE CREATION DATE:	7/25/2016										
QUERY/SEARCH TYPE:	Longitudinal Cohort (CO)										
SEARCH DATE PROVIDED IN REQUEST FILE:	12/31/2005										
TOTAL STUDENTS FOUND & INCLUDED IN AGGREGATE REPORT:	4953										
Table 1: Enrollment and Graduation Summary (Student enrollment and degree counts)											
Description	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Four-year degree from your institution	162	373	450	352	292	298	263	200	209	209	26
Two-year degree from your institution	10	17	7	8	6	3	5	3	7	0	0
Certificate from your institution	2	1	4	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
Four-year degree from other institution	114	116	93	85	82	74	77	64	52	59	23
Two-year degree from other institution	19	7	17	21	25	26	10	17	23	11	4
Certificate from other institution	1	0	1	2	0	0	4	1	2	0	0
Retained at your institution	1495	1666	1489	1406	1373	1352	884	555	307	89	47
Retained at other four-year institution	471	400	363	357	321	270	254	238	172	119	86
Retained at other two-year institution	72	66	79	90	90	61	59	40	29	22	19
Table 2: Subsequent Enrollment and Graduation Summary for 2-Year Graduates (Counts for 2-Year graduates who subsequently enrolled or completed at another institution that participates with the National Student Clearinghouse)											
Description	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Four-year degree from your institution	0	2	4	5	6	14	12	4	7	4	1
Two-year degree from your institution	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Four-year degree from other institution	0	1	8	5	4	4	7	5	8	9	1
Two-year degree from other institution	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
Retained at your institution	0	10	15	23	30	26	13	9	4	2	2
Retained at other four-year institution	0	10	7	5	8	12	16	19	10	10	16
Retained at other two-year institution	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	2
Table 2A: Subsequent Enrollment and Graduation Summary for 2-Year Graduates from SUBMITTING Institution only (subset of Table 2)											
Description	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Four-year degree from your institution	0	2	3	4	2	7	6	2	2	4	0
Two-year degree from your institution	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Four-year degree from other institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Two-year degree from other institution	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Retained at your institution	0	6	11	8	9	5	0	1	1	0	0
Retained at other four-year institution	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Retained at other two-year institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Table 2B: Subsequent Enrollment and Graduation Summary for 2-Year Graduates from OTHER Institution only (subset of Table 2)											
Description	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Four-year degree from your institution	0	0	1	1	4	7	6	2	5	0	1
Two-year degree from your institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Four-year degree from other institution	0	1	8	5	4	4	7	5	8	8	1
Two-year degree from other institution	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Retained at your institution	0	4	4	15	21	21	13	8	3	2	2
Retained at other four-year institution	0	10	5	3	7	11	16	18	9	10	15
Retained at other two-year institution	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	3	2

The aggregate (cohort) report is comprised of four tables:

Table 1 – Graduation and retention counts for consecutive academic years, based on your search date.

Table 2- Subsequent graduation and retention counts for students who have already completed a 2-year degree.

Tables 2A & 2B- Subsequent enrollment and graduation counts for students who completed their **first** 2-year degree from the ‘Submitting’ Institution (2A) and from ‘Other’ Institutions (2B). These tables were added in September 2013 and are subsets of Table 2. Please see page 12 for detailed information on these tables.

The data in the tables above is what is used to populate the VSA’s College Portrait and/or the Student Achievement Measure. For more information, see page 15.

Aggregate/Cohort Report FAQs

➤ In the Cohort Report, how are Academic Years determined?

A student's enrollment and degree history is separated into academic years based on the search date * provided in your request file in Column 'H'. For example, if the CO query search date is "20010915", the first academic year reported will be 9/16/2001-9/15/2002 and shown as 2001-2002 in the report. The second academic year will be 9/16/2002-9/15/2003 and shown as 2002-2003. This will continue for subsequent years, up to the current academic year.

* Note that for CO queries, the search date must be the same for all students in the file.

➤ Which Student Record is Included in the Cohort Report for Each Academic Year?

Given a search data of "20010915", for example, the academic year will be reported as 2001-02 and the records relevant for this year will be the following:

- **Enrollment records** for terms which end between 9/16/2001 and 9/15/2002 (regardless of their begin dates) where students were enrolled at a full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time or less-than-half-time status. Specific enrollment records where the student's status was reported as "W" (withdrawn), "D" (deceased), or "A" (leave of absence) are not included.
- **Degree records** with award dates between 9/16/2001 and 9/15/2002. The query counts all bachelor's, master's, professional and doctoral degrees as valid four-year degrees and uses the school reported degree level or degree title information when available. Otherwise, the institutional type (Less-than-2-year, 2-year or 4-year) is used to determine the level of the credential. In summer 2016, Student Tracker for Colleges and Universities was re-written and certificates are now included in the cohort report.

A student could have multiple records for each academic year, however, they will only be counted in one outcome for each academic year using the following hierarchy.

Outcome Category	Outcome	Priority
Completion	Four-year degree from your institution	1
	Four-year degree from other institution	2
	Two-year degree from your institution	3
	Two-year degree from other institution	4
	Certificate from your institution *	5
	Certificate from other institution *	6
Retention/Persistence	Retained at your institution	7
	Retained at other four-year institution	8
	Retained at other two-year institution	9

* new category as of Summer 2016

So, for example, if a student had the following records for 2001-2002, the report will reflect priority = 3.

- Enrollment from the submitting institution (priority = 7)
- A two-year degree from the submitting institution (**priority = 3**) ← The report would count the student in this outcome
- Enrollment from another four-year institution (priority = 8)

➤ **Once a student receives a 2-year degree, can he/she ever be counted again in the Cohort report?**

Yes. Two-year degrees are not terminal events in the enrollment and graduation summary table. Therefore, for a student who completes a 2-year degree, any subsequent enrollment or degree completions will be counted in subsequent years. Table 1 records their initial 2-year degree and Table 2 records their subsequent activity. Institutions who include both 2-year and 4-year graduates in their graduation rates need to have the initial 2-year degree counts backed out of Table 1. For institutions that participate with VSA's College Portrait, this is handled by VSA's code after the Cohort Report data is uploaded to the College Portraits site. For institutions that do not participate with College Portrait but would like similar Success and Progress calculations, there is an Excel spreadsheet which produces some basic measures. Please see the link on the bottom of page 15.

➤ **Once a student receives a 4-year degree, can he/she ever be counted again in the Cohort report?**

No. Receiving a degree categorized as Bachelors or above is a terminal event in the enrollment and graduation summary table. Once a student has completed a four-year degree, all subsequent enrollment and degree records are not counted. For example, if a student completes a four-year degree from an institution and later returns to your campus and completes another four-year degree, the second four-year degree is not counted.

➤ **What are Tables 2A and 2B?**

Table 2 is also presented as two additional tables, 2A and 2B.

- Table 2A gives information on students who subsequently enrolled after earning their first 2-year degree from the **submitting** institution.
- Table 2B gives information on students who subsequently enrolled after earning their first 2-year degree from **another** institution.

The sum of corresponding values in 2A & 2B yields the total in Table 2. So the sum of the ‘Retained at your institution’ numbers in light blue in 2A and 2B for 2010-11 yields the dark blue total in Table 2. Similarly for the green and orange values.

8	=	6	+	2
3	=	1	+	2
38	=	8	+	30

Table 2: Subsequent Enrollment and Graduation Summary for 2-Year Graduates
(Counts for 2-Year graduates who subsequently enrolled or completed at another institution that participates with the National Student Clearinghouse)

Description	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Four-year degree from your institution	4	6	8	6	8	10	10	0	0	0	0
Two-year degree from your institution	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Four-year degree from other institution	5	6	8	7	10	12	3	0	0	0	0
Two-year degree from other institution	11	10	17	20	21	20	25	0	0	0	0
Retained at your institution	21	28	33	38	38	40	36	0	0	0	0
Retained at other four-year institution	7455	7166	7048	7117	6819	6555	6504	126	11	30	28
Retained at other two-year institution	1261	1302	1315	1218	1059	781	496	11	1	3	2

Table 2A: Subsequent Enrollment and Graduation Summary for 2-Year Graduates from SUBMITTING Institution only (subset of Table 2)

Description	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Four-year degree from your institution	4	2	6	3	3	5	5	0	0	0	0
Two-year degree from your institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Four-year degree from other institution	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Two-year degree from other institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retained at your institution	4	5	7	6	8	7	5	0	0	0	0
Retained at other four-year institution	0	1	3	3	3	6	4	0	0	0	0
Retained at other two-year institution	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

Table 2B: Subsequent Enrollment and Graduation Summary for 2-Year Graduates from OTHER Institution only (subset of Table 2)

Description	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Four-year degree from your institution	0	4	2	3	5	5	5	0	0	0	0
Two-year degree from your institution	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Four-year degree from other institution	5	6	8	6	10	12	2	0	0	0	0
Two-year degree from other institution	11	10	17	20	21	20	25	0	0	0	0
Retained at your institution	17	23	26	32	30	33	31	0	0	0	0
Retained at other four-year institution	7455	7165	7045	7114	6816	6549	6500	126	11	30	28
Retained at other two-year institution	1261	1302	1315	1217	1059	780	495	11	1	3	2

3. **Detail Report:** Student level data in a .csv file. The detail report contains specific enrollment records and graduation indicators for every submitted student for whom data was available in the NSC database. If a student has a block (either by the student or school) at an institution, then their records from that institution will not be displayed. This block has no impact on their records from other institutions. Therefore, in some cases, the detail file may present only a partial view of a student’s history.

A partial detail report is shown below. This is the enrollment and degree history for student Rosanna Danna.

Your Unique	First Name	Middle	Last Name	Name Suffix	Record	Search Date	College Code/Bra	College Name	College	2-year / 4-	Public / Private	Enrollment Begin	Enrollment End	Enrollment	Class	Enrollment	Enrollment	Enrollment	Graduated?	Graduation Date	Degree Title	Degree Major 1	Degree CIP 1	Degree Major 2	
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	006871-00	THOMAS N VA		2	Public	20100109	20100508	H					N						
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	006871-00	THOMAS N VA		2	Public	20110820	20111217	H					N						
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	006871-00	THOMAS N VA		2	Public	20120107	20120507	F					N						
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	006871-00	THOMAS N VA		2	Public	20130107	20130506	F	A		300101		N						
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	006871-00	THOMAS N VA		2	Public	20130520	20130730	L	A		300101		N						
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	006871-00	THOMAS N VA		2	Public	20130821	20131216	F	A		300101		N						
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	006871-00	THOMAS N VA		2	Public	20140113	20140512	F	A		300101		N						
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	006871-00	THOMAS N VA		2	Public	20140820	20141215	L	A		240103		N						
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	006871-00	THOMAS N VA		2	Public								Y	20140514	CERTIFICA GENERAL		240199		
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	003728-00	OLD DOMI VA		4	Public	20140823	20141206	H			260101		N	20140514	ASSOCIATI SCIENCE/E		300101		
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	003728-00	OLD DOMI VA		4	Public	20140823	20141205	H	B		260101		N						
	ROSANNA	A	DANNA		Y	20100101	003728-00	OLD DOMI VA		4	Public	20150110	20150428	H	B		260101		N						

*** Please note:**

Students with school-specific blocks are counted in the aggregate counts on the Cohort Report. However, the students’ records (from the schools where the blocks are in place) are excluded from the detail file.

Therefore, it’s to be expected that the aggregate student total will often be higher than the number of students in the detail file whose Record Found Indicator flag = ‘Y’.

Detail Report FAQs

➤ What records are provided on the detail report?

If a student can be matched using the information in the request file, then the following records are included on the detail report, provided that they are not FERPA-blocked:

- All enrollment records from participating institutions whose term end dates are after the search date you provided in your request file
- All degree records from participating institutions whose award dates are after the search date you provided in your request file.

➤ What records are omitted?

Records are excluded from the detail report in the following situations:

- The records are not within the Search Date window
- The student attended an institution that does not participate with NSC
- No records could be found for the student at a particular institution
- The student has a FERPA block at a particular institution
- A school has blocked the release of a student's academic records
- The student could not be matched due to an error or omission in the request file

➤ International Students

NSC may not be able to report complete information regarding the pathways and completions of international students because:

- They often do not have consistent unique identifiers within one institution or across multiple institutions
- They may not be consistently reported by the institutions they attend.

➤ What are the enrollment statuses and why are they sometimes missing on the detail report?

NSC uses the following enrollment statuses:

F	Full-time status
Q	Three-quarter-time status
H	Half-time status
L	Less-than-half-time status
W	Withdrawn

Note that these enrollment statuses are defined by the institutions.

Some schools consider enrollment status to be non-directory information, meaning it cannot be shared, therefore, enrollment status for all students at that institution will be blank.

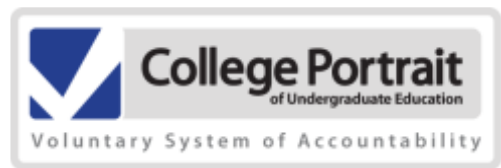
About the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)

The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) is a joint initiative between the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). The voluntary initiative by four-year public institutions provides comparable, transparent information on the undergraduate student experience to students, families, policymakers, and other stakeholders through a common web report – the College Portrait. It also enables prospective students and their parents to directly compare specific information between colleges, such as student achievement, via the Web.

The VSA was created in 2007 as an effort to hold public institutions more accountable for student learning and development. More than 80 higher education leaders from 70 public institutions participated in the creation and development of the VSA and the College Portrait.”

Through the College Portrait template, the VSA gives the public access to comprehensive reports on participating institutions, including institutional and student body characteristics, tuition, learning process, and core outcomes. The data elements included in College Portrait were identified and evaluated based on input from student/family focus groups, feedback from the higher education community, and research on higher education. The majority of the data elements selected are from currently available data sources with established definitions and reporting conventions.

For more information on the VSA, please contact the executive director, Christine Keller (ckeller@aplu.org), or visit www.voluntarysystem.org. For more on the College Portrait, visit www.collegeportraits.org.



How to Format your VSA Submission

The data returned in the Aggregate (Cohort) Report (Tables 1, 2, 2A & 2B) can be used to populate the VSA College Portrait’s “Success and Progress Rate Table”. If you need instructions on how to enter your CO query results into your VSA College Portrait, please see pages 16-17 of the document accessible by the link below:

https://cp-files.s3.amazonaws.com/39/CPAdministrativeGuide_2012-13.pdf

If you are not a VSA member but would like to produce similar results, then for your convenience, the Clearinghouse has created a report template in Excel to generate graphs and charts that illustrate your cohort query results. <http://www.studentclearinghouse.org/colleges/files/COQueryReportTemplate.xlsx>.

About the Student Achievement Measure (SAM)

The Student Achievement Measure (SAM) tracks student movement across postsecondary institutions to provide a more complete picture of undergraduate student progress and completion within the higher education system. SAM is an alternative to the federal graduation rate, which is limited to tracking the completion of first-time, full-time students at one institution.

For institutions of higher education, SAM offers an innovative reporting tool that provides a more comprehensive overview of student outcomes and includes a greater number of students. For policymakers and the public, SAM provides a more complete picture of student progress on the path to a degree or certificate.

SAM is a joint initiative of the six national higher education presidential associations: the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU). Funding for the initial two years is provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, AASCU, and APLU.

For more information on the SAM, please contact the executive director, Christine Keller

(ExecutiveDirector@studentachievementmeasure.org) or visit <http://www.studentachievementmeasure.org>.

