

# NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®

## Post-Secondary Data Partnership

### PDP Critical Data Elements for Reporting

This guide outlines the key data elements collected for the Postsecondary Data Partnership (PDP) necessary to produce accurate Key Performance Indicator (KPI) measurements. PDP relies on a combination of elements from each institution's cohort and course files. Participating institutions submit twice per year and complete a one-time questionnaire to help tailor reports for each institution. In addition, supplemental institutional data is provided through the Clearinghouse's EnrollmentVerify and DegreeVerify services.

#### Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Reports by Critical Data Intake Elements

This document provides an overview and description of the eight KPI reports and includes the following:

- A list of each KPI report and their key metrics (Figure 1)
- Critical data elements that comprise each KPI Report and original data files (Table 1)
- Data elements necessary to provide a full-range of disaggregates for each report. (Table 2)

[For detailed definitions of each data element, please consult the [PDP Submission Guide](#). Details on how specific KPI measurements are calculated can be found on the [Methodology](#) page included on the dashboard.]

#### Impact of Missing, Unknown or Otherwise Incomplete Data Submissions

Submitted institution cohort and course files goes through a validation process before the data is incorporated into final KPI reports. These validations can range from checks to ensure a value submitted for a particular field is alphabetic or numeric or that it contains the correct number of digits -- to confirming whether values contained in a field are among a specific, predetermined list. Along with an indicator as to whether a field is required or optional, these initial validations are clearly laid out in the PDP Submission Guide in the "accepted values" and "business rules" columns.

Even though each file must pass an initial validation process before it is accepted for processing, reports may still be incomplete even if a data submission technically meets all requirements listed in the submission guide. For example, if any single field contains "Unknown" values for all students or if all the fields for a group of students are missing, final reporting could be severely impacted.

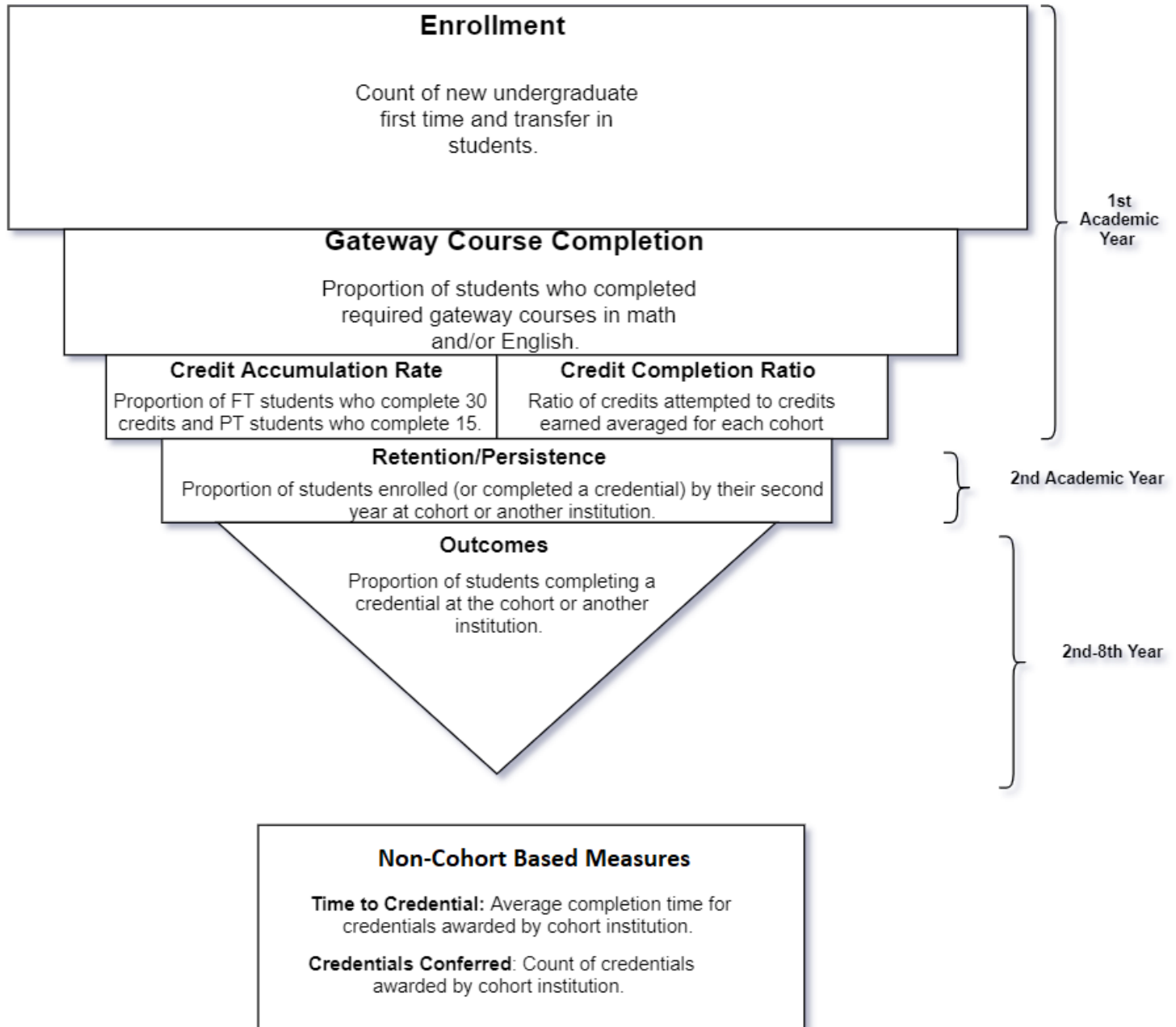
Additionally, some disaggregates that may not be critical to fundamental KPI calculations, such as whether a student was previously dual enrolled while in high school, are composed of optional data elements. While certain data points may be optional, they can provide valuable context, without which a final KPI report may not be as useful.

While the PDP's rigorous quality checks help identify issues early, the PDP also aims to provide flexibility to reduce reporting burden and account for the variety of data available to participating institutions, even in cases

of required fields. As such, inaccurate, missing, unknown or otherwise incomplete values may not always be identified prior to reporting. Please note that errors or delays in submitting data to other Clearinghouse services may impact the quality of PDP reporting.

**Figure 1: Key Performance Indicators**

## Cohort Measurements



**Table 1: Key Performance Indicators by Critical Intake Elements**

Key Performance Indicator	Critical Fields in PDP Cohort File	Critical Fields in PDP Course File	Other Critical Elements Collected by NSC
First Year Gateway Course Completion	Cohort Cohort Term Enrollment Type Gateway English Status Gateway Math Status	Term Math or English Gateway Course End Date Grade	Term grid in questionnaire Grade scale in questionnaire
First Year Credit Completion Ratio	Cohort Cohort Term Enrollment Type	Term Course end date Number of Credits Attempted Number of Credits Earned	Term grid in questionnaire
First Year Credit Accumulation Rate	Cohort Cohort Term Enrollment Type	Term Course end date Number of Credits Attempted Number of Credits Earned	Full-Time credit threshold by term collected in questionnaire Term grid in questionnaire
Enrollment	Cohort Enrollment Type		
Outcomes	Cohort Enrollment Type		Up-to-date and complete records with NSC enrollment and degree reporting services
Retention/Persistence	Cohort Enrollment Type		Up-to-date and complete records with NSC enrollment and degree reporting services

Time to Credential (Non-Cohort)			Up-to-date and complete records with NSC enrollment and degree reporting services
Credentials Conferred (Non-Cohort)			Up-to-date and complete records with NSC enrollment and degree reporting services

**Table 2: Key Performance Indicator Disaggregates by Critical Intake Elements**

Key Performance Indicator Dashboard Disaggregates	Critical Fields in PDP Cohort File	Critical Fields in PDP Course File	Other Critical Elements Collected by NSC
Cohort	Cohort		
Cohort Term	Cohort Term		
Gender			Up-to-date and complete records with NSC enrollment and degree reporting services
Pell Grant Recipient		Pell Recipient	
Enrollment Type	Enrollment Type		
Attendance Intensity	Cohort Term	Number of Credits Attempted	Term grid in questionnaire
Age Group	Cohort Cohort Term Birth Date		Term grid in questionnaire
Race/Ethnicity	Race Ethnicity		
Math Academic Preparedness		Math Placement	
English Academic Preparedness		English Placement	
First Generation	First Gen		
GPA Group		Overall GPA	

Credential Seeking		Degree Type Sought	Up-to-date and complete records with NSC enrollment and degree reporting services
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