

Appendix III

Southern Regional Education Board Institutional Categories

For its 31-year history, the SREB-State Data Exchange has recognized the importance of reporting statistical comparisons by institutional category -- unlike most other statistical reports, even today. The mix of types of institutions in the states differs greatly and statewide aggregate comparisons should always be interpreted with caution.

The SREB system for categorizing postsecondary education institutions is designed for use in making statistical comparisons among states and is based on a number of factors relevant to determining resource requirements. Differences in institutional size (numbers of degrees), role (types of degrees), breadth of program offerings (number of program areas in which degrees are granted), and comprehensiveness (distribution of degrees across program areas) are the factors upon which institutions are classified. Other factors relevant to determining resource requirements such as cost differences among programs or externally funded research are not taken into account in the SREB-State Data Exchange categories.

The SREB-State Data Exchange also recognizes that different categorization schemes may be suited to different purposes. Many states use narrower peer group comparisons, sometimes containing institutions outside the SREB region, for purposes other than interstate statistical comparisons. For example, peer group comparisons are found in many funding formulas for postsecondary institutions. The SREB-State Data Exchange assists researchers and planners who may have the need to form comparison groups of their own choosing by sharing the by-college data from the survey since 1995-96. The SREB-State Data Exchange report publishes results using the categories listed below.

Institutions are assigned to categories for a report year using the previous academic year's data on program completions. To keep the statistical comparison groups relatively stable over time and to assure that institutions change categories only when their measures on a criterion are relatively stable, institutions change categories when they meet the criterion for another category for the third consecutive time.

Four-Year Institutions

Four-Year 1 Institutions awarding at least 100 doctoral degrees that are distributed among at least 10 CIP categories (2-digit classification) with no more than 50 percent in any one category.

Four-Year 2 Institutions awarding at least 30 doctoral degrees that are distributed among at least 5 CIP categories (2-digit classification).

Four-Year 3 Institutions awarding at least 100 master's, education specialist, post-master's, or

doctoral degrees with master's, education specialist, and post-master's degrees distributed among at least 10 CIP categories (2-digit classification).

Four-Year 4 Institutions awarding at least 30 master's, education specialist, post-master's, or doctoral degrees with master's, education specialist, and post-master's degrees distributed among at least 5 CIP categories (2-digit classification).

Four-Year 5 Institutions awarding at least 30 master's, education specialist, post-master's or doctoral degrees.

Four-Year 6 Institutions awarding less than 30 master's, education specialist, post-master's or doctoral degrees.

Two-Year Institutions

Two-Year 1 Institutions awarding associate degrees and offering college transfer courses; some certificates and diplomas may also be awarded.

Two-Year 2 Institutions awarding vocational-technical certificates and diplomas; some vocational-technical associate degrees may also be awarded.

Specialized Institutions

Specialized Special purpose institutions with specialized degree programs. These may include medical or health science centers and, in some instances, stand-alone law schools, fine arts schools, or engineering schools.