

CONSUMER INFORMATION PROVISIONS
July 25, 2008

Senate Bill (S. 1642)	House Bill (H.R. 4137)	Conference Draft	Notes/Explanations
<p>New Sec. 132(f) . . .</p> <p>(2) UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE ACCOUNTABILITY NETWORK- Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 2007, the Secretary shall <i>develop a model document for annually reporting basic information about an institution of higher education that chooses to participate, to be posted on the college information website</i> and made available to institutions of higher education, students, families, and other consumers. Such document shall be known as the 'University and College Accountability Network' (U-CAN), and <i>shall include, the following information about the institution of higher education</i> for the most recent academic year for which the institution has available data, presented in a consumer-friendly manner:</p>	<p>New Sec. 133 . . .</p> <p>(j) Consumer Cost Information-</p> <p>(1) INFORMATION FROM INSTITUTIONS- Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007, the Secretary shall post on the College Navigator website and make available to institutions of higher education, students, families, and other consumers, in a consumer-friendly manner, the following information about each institution of higher education for the most recent academic year for which the Secretary has available data:</p>	<p>New Sec. 132 . . .</p> <p>(h) CONSUMER INFORMATION--</p> <p>(1) GENERAL INFORMATION. --Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Higher Education Amendments and College Opportunity Act of 2008, the Secretary shall make publicly available on the College Navigator website, in simple and understandable terms, the following information about each institution of higher education that participates in programs under title IV, for the most recent academic year for which satisfactory data area available.</p>	<p>The conference agreement adopts the House approach, which requires the Secretary to post a specified list of consumer information elements for each institution on the Department's College Navigator website.</p> <p>The list of elements includes some that are not currently collected by the Department of Education. Complying with this requirement will mean that the Secretary will have to expand data collection under the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to obtain the additional required information.</p>

<p>(A) A statement of the institution's mission and specialties.</p> <p>(B) The total number of undergraduate students who applied, were admitted, and enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(C) Where applicable, reading, writing, mathematics, and combined scores on the SAT or ACT for the middle 50 percent range of the institution's freshman class.</p> <p>(D) Enrollment of full-time, part-time, and <i>transfer</i> students at the institution, at the undergraduate and (where applicable) graduate levels.</p>	<p>(A) A statement of the institution's mission and specialties.</p> <p>(B) Total number of undergraduate students who applied, were admitted, and enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(C) Where applicable, reading, writing, mathematics, and combined scores on the SAT or ACT for the middle 50 percent range of the institution's freshman class.</p> <p>(D) Enrollment of full-time, part-time, and <i>transfer</i> students at the institution, at the undergraduate and (where applicable) graduate levels.</p>	<p>(A) A statement of the institution's mission.</p> <p>(B) The total number of undergraduate students who applied to, were admitted by, and enrolled in the institution.</p> <p>(C) For institutions that require SAT or ACT scores to be submitted, the reading, writing, mathematics, and combined scores on the SAT or ACT, as applicable, for the middle 50 percent range of the institution's freshman class.</p> <p>(D) The number of first-time, full-time, and part-time students enrolled at the institution, at the undergraduate and (if applicable) graduate levels.</p> <p>(E) The number of degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who have transferred from another institution.</p>	<p>IPEDS/U-CAN</p> <p>IPEDS/U-CAN</p> <p>IPEDS/U-CAN</p> <p>IPEDS collects. Is on U-CAN, but not for graduate students.</p> <p>NEW ITEM. Transfer student data not on U-CAN and not collected under IPEDS.</p>
---	---	---	---

<p>(E) Percentage of male and female undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(F) Percentage of enrolled undergraduate students from the State in which the institution is located, from other States, and from other countries.</p> <p>(G) Percentage of enrolled undergraduate students at the institution by race and ethnic background.</p>	<p>(E) Percentage of male and female undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(F) Percentage of enrolled undergraduate students from the State in which the institution is located, from other States, and from other countries.</p> <p>(G) Percentage of enrolled undergraduate students at the institution by race and ethnic background.</p> <p>(H) Percentage of enrolled undergraduate students at the institution registered with the office of disability services (or equivalent department) as students with disabilities.</p>	<p>(F) The percentage of male and female undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(G) Of the first-time, full-time, degree- or certificate seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the percentage of such students who are from the State in which the institution is located; (ii) the percentage of such students who are from other States; and (iii) the percentage of such students who are international students. <p>(H) The percentages of first-time, full-time, degree- or certificate-seeking students enrolled at the institution, disaggregated by race and ethnic background.</p> <p>(I) The percentage of undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who are formally registered with the office of disability services (or equivalent office) as students with disabilities, except that if such percentage is three percent or less, the institution shall report “three percent or less.”</p>	<p>IPEDS/U-CAN</p> <p>IPEDS/U-CAN</p> <p>IPEDS/U-CAN</p> <p>NEW ITEM.</p>
---	---	---	--

<p>(H) Retention rates for full-time and part-time first-time first-year undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(J) Percentage of enrolled undergraduate students who graduate within 2 years (in the case of 2-year institutions), and 4, 5 and 6 years (in the case of 2 and 4-year institutions).</p> <p>(I) Average time to degree or certificate completion for first-time, first-year undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p>	<p>(I) Retention rates for full-time and part-time first-time, first-year undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(K) Percentage of enrolled undergraduate students who graduate within 2 years (in the case of 2-year institutions), and 4, 5, and 6 years (in the case of 2-year and 4-year institutions), including by income category, as defined in paragraph (4).</p> <p>(J) Average time to degree or certificate completion for first-time, first-year undergraduate students enrolled at the institution</p>	<p><i>Section 485(a)</i></p> <p>(U) the retention rate of certificate- or degree-seeking, first-time, full-time, undergraduate students entering such institution;</p> <p>(J) The percentages of first-time, full-time, degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who obtain a degree or certificate within—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the normal time for completion of, or graduation from, the student’s program; (ii) 150 percent of the normal time for completion of, or graduation from, the student’s program; and (iii) 200 percent of the normal time for completion of, or graduation from, the student’s program. 	<p>NEW ITEM. However, the language is in another section of the Act—so this information would not have to be posted on College Navigator. (Initially on U-CAN, but we took it off because the method of calculation was flawed.)</p> <p>IPEDS/U-CAN (although we do not include two-year rates) for normal time, and 150% of normal time.</p> <p>NEW ITEM</p>
---	--	---	---

<p>(K) Number of students who obtained a certificate or an associate's, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree at the institution.</p> <p>(L) The undergraduate major areas of study with the highest number of degrees awarded.</p> <p>(M) The student-faculty ratio, and number of full-time, part-time, and adjunct faculty at the institution.</p> <p>(N) Percentage of faculty at the institution with the highest degree in their field.</p> <p>(O) The percentage change in total price in tuition and fees and the net price for an undergraduate at the institution in each of the preceding 5 academic years.</p>	<p>(L) Number of students who obtained a certificate or an associates, bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree at the institution.</p> <p>(M) Undergraduate major areas of study with the highest number of degrees awarded.</p> <p>(N) The student-faculty ratio, and number of full-time, part-time, and adjunct faculty, and graduate teaching and research assistants with instructional responsibilities, at the institution.</p> <p>(O) Percentage of faculty at the institution with the highest degree in their field.</p> <p>(P) Percentage change in total price in tuition and fees and the net price for an undergraduate at the institution in each of the 3 most recent preceding academic years.</p>	<p>(K) The number of certificates, associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees, professional degrees, and doctoral degrees awarded by the institution.</p> <p>(L) The undergraduate major areas of study at the institution with the highest number of degrees awarded.</p> <p>(M) The student-faculty ratio, the number of full-time and part-time faculty, and the number of graduate teaching assistants with primarily instructional responsibilities, at the institution.</p> <p><i>[From Higher Education Pricing Page]</i></p> <p>(5)(A)(iv) The average annual percentage change <i>and average annual dollar change</i> in such institution's <u>tuition and fees</u> for the three most recent academic years for which data are available.</p>	<p>IPEDS/U-CAN (except U-CAN does not include certificates or associate degrees.)</p> <p>IPEDS/U-CAN</p> <p>NEW ITEM. (U-CAN includes student-faculty ratio, which is drawn from the Common Data Set. Does not include teaching assistants with primarily instructional responsibilities; do not believe that data is currently collected anywhere.)</p> <p>(U-CAN has highest degree for <u>full-time</u> faculty; data is from CDS.)</p> <p>NEW ITEM. (IPEDS doesn't collect net price information.)</p>
---	--	---	--

<p>(P) The total average yearly cost of tuition and fees, room and board, and books and other related costs for an undergraduate student enrolled at the institution, for--</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) full-time undergraduate students living on campus; (ii) full-time undergraduate students living off-campus; and (iii) in the case of students attending a public institution of higher education, such costs for in-State and out-of-State students living on and off-campus. 	<p>(Q) Total average annual cost of tuition and fees, room and board, and books and other related costs for an undergraduate student enrolled at the institution, for--</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) full-time undergraduate students living on campus; (ii) full-time undergraduate students living off campus; and (iii) in the case of students attending a public institution of higher education, such costs for in-State and out-of-State students living on and off campus. 	<p>[Higher Education Pricing Page, cont.]</p> <p>(v) The average annual percentage change <i>and average annual dollar change</i> in such institution's <u>net price</u> for the three most recent academic years for which data are available.</p> <p>(O) (i) The cost of attendance for first-time, full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the institution who live on campus;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) the cost of attendance for first-time, full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the institution who live off campus; and (iii) in the case of a public institution of higher education and notwithstanding subsection (b)(1), the costs described in clauses (i) and (ii) for— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) first-time, full-time students enrolled in the institution who are residents of the State in which the institution is located; and (II) first-time, full-time students enrolled in the institution who are not residents of such State. 	<p>(Since tuition & fee and net price information for the 3 most recent academic years are required to be collected under (5)(i) & (ii) of the Higher Education Pricing Page, this calculation could be made from that information.)</p> <p>NEW ITEM. (U-CAN includes the basic information (not broken down by type of student, but uses CDS data to do so. This portion of the template has caused great controversy for comprehensive fee institutions.)</p> <p>[?? It's not completely clear, but it appears that a single "cost of attendance" figure will be used to calculate net price, but several "cost of attendance" numbers will be reported on College Navigator.]</p>
---	---	--	--

<p>(Q) The average yearly grant amount (including Federal, State, and institutional aid) for a student enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(R) The average yearly amount of Federal student loans, and other loans provided through the institution, to undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(S) The total yearly grant aid available to undergraduate students enrolled at the institution, from the Federal Government, a State, the institution, and other sources.</p> <p>(T) The percentage of undergraduate students enrolled at the institution receiving Federal, State, and institutional grants, student loans, and any other type of student financial assistance provided publicly or through the institution, such as Federal work-study funds.</p>	<p>(R) Average annual grant amount (including Federal, State, and institutional aid) broken down by income category as defined in paragraph (4) for a student enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(S) Average annual amount of Federal student loans, and other loans provided through the institution, to undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(T) Total annual grant aid available to undergraduate students enrolled at the institution, from the Federal Government, a State, the institution, and other sources.</p> <p>(U) Percentage of undergraduate students enrolled at the institution receiving Federal, State, and institutional grants, student loans, and any other type of student financial assistance provided publicly or through the institution, such as Federal work-study funds.</p>	<p>(O) The average annual grant amount (including Federal, State, and institutional aid) awarded to a first-time, full-time undergraduate student enrolled at the institution who receives financial aid.</p> <p>(P) The average annual amount of Federal student loans provided through the institution to undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(Q) The total annual grant aid awarded to undergraduate students enrolled at the institution, from the Federal Government, a State, the institution, and other sources known by the institution</p> <p>(R) The percentage of first-time, full-time undergraduate students enrolled at the institution receiving Federal, State, and institutional grants, student loans, and any other type of student financial assistance known by the institution, provided publicly or through the institution, such as Federal work-study funds.</p>	<p>NEW ITEM. (IPEDS doesn't collect. U-CAN initially had a figure for this and for loans, but we dropped it because of the mismatch of years for which the data is available relative to other cost items.)</p> <p>NEW ITEM. IPEDS doesn't collect except for first-time, full-time students. (As noted above, U-CAN initially had a figure for this, but we dropped it.)</p> <p>(U-CAN had this initially, but dropped it as it was not seen as being useful.)</p> <p>NEW ITEM: "any other type of student financial assistance known by the institution" will entail a new collection. (U-CAN includes the grant and loan information.)</p>
--	---	--	--

<p>(U) The average net price for all undergraduate students enrolled at the institution.</p> <p>(V) The percentage of first-year undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who live on campus and off campus.</p> <p>(X) Information on campus safety required to be collected under section 485(f).</p>	<p>(V) Number of students receiving Federal Pell Grants at the institution.</p> <p>(W) Average net price of the institution calculated for each income category, as defined in paragraph (4), for each of the 3 most recent preceding academic years.</p> <p>(X) Percentage of first-year undergraduate students enrolled at the institution who live on campus and off campus.</p> <p>(Y) The institution's cohort default rate, as defined under section 435(m).</p> <p>(AA) Information on campus safety required to be collected under section 485(f).</p>	<p>(S) Number of students enrolled at the institution receiving Federal Pell Grants.</p> <p><i>[From Higher Education Pricing Page]</i></p> <p>(B) The average annual net price for the 3 most recent available academic years for which data are available.</p> <p>(T) The institution's cohort default rate, as defined under section 435(m).</p> <p>(U) Information on campus safety required to be collected under section 485(i).</p>	<p>(U-CAN does not include, although we include the information on our student aid data sheets.)</p> <p>NEW ITEM. (U-CAN has a net <u>tuition</u> figure for aided students. This is the only U-CAN item that institutions have to calculate themselves, based on instructions provided. By far the most difficult and controversial piece of data on the template.)</p> <p>(U-CAN has. Uses CDS data.)</p> <p>(The reference to 485(i) is to campus fire safety; I don't think that's the intent. Believe they wanted to keep it on campus crime in 485(f).)</p>
---	--	--	--

<p>(Y) Links to the appropriate sections of the institution's website that provide information on student activities offered by the institution, such as intercollegiate sports, student organizations, study abroad opportunities, intramural and club sports, specialized housing options, community service opportunities, cultural and arts opportunities on campus, religious and spiritual life on campus, and lectures and outside learning opportunities.</p> <p>(Z) Links to the appropriate sections of the institution's website that provide information on services offered by the institution to students during and after college, such as internship opportunities, career and placement services, and preparation for further education.</p> <p>(W) Information on the policies of the institution related to transfer of credit from other institutions.</p>	<p>(BB) Links to the appropriate sections of the institution's website that provide information on student activities offered by the institution, such as intercollegiate sports, student organizations, study abroad opportunities, intramural and club sports, specialized housing options, community service opportunities, cultural and arts opportunities on campus, religious and spiritual life on campus, and lectures and outside learning opportunities.</p> <p>(CC) Links to the appropriate sections of the institution's website that provide information on services offered by the institution to students during and after college, such as internship opportunities, career and placement services, and preparation for further education.</p> <p>(Z) Information on the policies of the institution related to transfer of credit from other institutions.</p>	<p>(V) A links to the institution's website that provides, in an easily accessible manner, the following information:</p> <p>(i) Student activities offered by the institution.</p> <p>(ii) Services offered by the institution for individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>(iii) Career and placement services offered by the institution to students during and after enrollment.</p> <p>(iv) policies of the institution related to transfer of credit from other institutions.</p>	<p>(U-CAN has, but is totally voluntary for the institution to use or not.)</p> <p>(U-CAN does not have this, but new law will require institutions to disclose these policies.)</p>
--	--	--	--

		<p>(W) A link to the appropriate section of the Bureau of Labor Statistics website that provides information on regional data on starting salaries in all major occupations.</p> <p>(X) Information required to be submitted under paragraph (4) and a link to the institution pricing summary page described in such paragraph.</p> <p><i>This information includes:</i></p> <p>(5) INSTITUTION PRICING SUMMARY PAGE—(A) . . . which list shall, for each institution, include the following:</p> <p>(i) The average, full-time undergraduate tuition and fees for the three most recent academic years for which data are available.</p> <p>(ii) The average annual net price for the 3 most recent available academic years for which data are available. <i>(See page 8. Matches with Senate (U) and House (W).)</i></p>	<p>(This is new, but should not require institutions to do anything.)</p> <p>(Technical error: Reference should be to paragraph (5). It refers to the “Institution Pricing Summary Page” -- “(5) INSTITUTION PRICING SUMMARY PAGE.--(A) . . . The Secretary shall make publicly available on the College Navigator website in a sortable and searchable format a list of all institutions of higher education that participate in programs under title IV, . . .”</p> <p>(U-CAN includes tuition and fees over 5 years.)</p> <p>(U-CAN does not include this. We have an average net tuition figure for 1 year.)</p>
--	--	--	---

		<p>(iii)(I) During the period beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2013, the average net price for students receiving Federal student financial aid under title IV, disaggregated by the income categories described in paragraph (6), for the most recent academic year for which data are available.</p> <p>(II) Beginning July 1, 2013, the average net price for students receiving Federal student financial aid under title IV, disaggregated by the income categories described in paragraph (6), for each of the three most recent academic years for which data are available.</p> <p>(iv) the average annual percentage change and average annual dollar change in such institution's tuition and fees for the three most recent academic years for which data are available.</p> <p>(v) The average annual percentage change and average annual dollar change in such institution's net price for the three most recent academic years for which data are available. <i>(See page 5. (iv) and (v) match with Senate (O) and House (P).)</i></p>	<p>If the information required in (A) and (B) were available, these calculations could be made fairly easily—although it is not clear how useful they would be.</p> <p>The major problem will be the net price calculation. The assumption is that the overall definition of “net price” will be used here. That definition is in section 132(a). [See pages 15-16.]</p>
--	--	--	--

		<p>(vi) A link to the webpage on the College Navigator website that provides the information described in paragraph (1) for the institution.</p> <p>(6) INCOME CATEGORIES-- (A) IN GENERAL- For purposes of reporting the information required under this subsection, the following income categories shall apply for students who received Federal student financial aid under title IV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) \$0-30,000; (ii) \$30,001-48,000; (iii) \$48,001-75,000; (iv) \$75,001-110,000; and (v) \$110,000 and more. <p>(B) ADJUSTMENT-- The Secretary may adjust the income categories listed in subparagraph (A) using the Consumer Price Index if the Secretary determines such adjustment is necessary.</p>	
--	--	---	--

		<p>(Y) In the case of an institution that was required to submit a report under subsection (d)(1), a link to such report.</p> <p>(Z) The availability of alternative tuition plans, which may include guaranteed tuition plans.</p> <p>(2) ANNUAL UPDATES.—The Secretary shall annually update the information described in paragraph (1) on the College Navigator website.</p> <p>(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall regularly consult with current and prospective college students, family members of such students, institutions of higher education, and other experts to improve the usefulness and relevance of the College Navigator website, with respect to the presentation of the consumer information collected in paragraph (1).</p>	<p>(Subsection (d)(1) refers to institutions whose tuition & fees or net price are in the top 5% of institutions in their category over a 3-year period.)</p>
--	--	---	---

	<p>(2) DATA COLLECTION—The Commissioner of Education Statistics shall continue to redesign the relevant parts of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System to include additional data as required by this subsection and to continue to improve the usefulness and timeliness of data collected by such System in order to inform consumers about institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>(4) DATA COLLECTION.—The Commissioner for Education Statistics shall continue to update and improve the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (referred to in this section as ‘IPEDS’), including the reporting of information by institutions and the timeliness of the data collected.</p> <p>Sec. 132(a) DEFINITIONS . . .</p> <p>(2) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of attendance” means the average annual cost of tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, and transportation for an institution of higher education for a full-time, first-time, undergraduate student enrolled in the institution.</p>	<p>(The specific language requiring the Commissioner for Education Statistics to include on IPEDS the additional data required by this section is deleted. However, this will be the effect of having required the publication of new data elements.)</p>
--	--	---	---

		<p>(3) NET PRICE.—The term “net price” means the average yearly price actually charged to a full-time, first-time, undergraduate student receiving student aid at an institution of higher education after deducting such aid, which price shall be determined by calculating the difference between—</p> <p>(A) the institution’s cost of attendance for the year for which the determination is made; and</p> <p>(B) the quotient of—</p> <p>(i) the total amount of need-based grant aid and merit-based grant aid from Federal State, and institutional sources, provided to such students enrolled in the institution for such year; and</p> <p>(ii) the total number of such students receiving such need-based grant aid or merit-based grant aid for such year.</p> <p>(4) TUITION AND FEES.—The term “tuition and fees” means the average annual cost of tuition and fees for an institution of higher education for a full-time, first-time undergraduate student enrolled in the institution.</p>	
--	--	--	--

		<p>(b) CALCULATIONS FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—In making the calculations regarding cost of attendance, net price, and tuition and fees under this section with respect to a public institution of higher education, the Secretary shall calculate the cost of attendance, net price, and tuition and fees at such institution in the manner described in subsection (a), except that—</p> <p>(1) the cost of attendance, net price, and tuition and fees shall be calculated for full-time, first-time, undergraduate students enrolled in the institution who are residents of the State in which such institution is located; and</p> <p>(2) in determining the net price, the the average need-based grant aid and merit-based grant aid described in subsection (a)(3)(B) shall be calculated based on the average total amount of such aid received by full-time, first-time undergraduate students who are residents of the State in which such institution is located, divided by the total number of such resident students receiving such need-based grant aid or merit-based grant aid at such institution.</p>	
--	--	---	--

