

Student Equity Data Guide

Equity Performance Measures

What are Student Equity Performance Measures?

Student Equity Performance Measures are indicators or metrics that can be used to assess the participation and success of equity students. The Australian Government Department of Education (the Department) releases Equity Performance Measure data annually as part of its release of student data. These are calculated from institutional data uploaded to the Department's Tertiary Collection of Student Information (TCSI) system by Table A and Table B Provider institutions in higher education¹. The public release of these data is usually in the second half of the following year (for example, the 2024 Equity Performance Measures were released publicly by the Department in September 2025²).

Which Student Equity Performance Measures are reported?

The Department reports on performance measures for domains such as access, participation, success, retention, attainment, and completion. The summary table on the following page provides an overview of each Equity Performance Measure, including its definition and metric. For each domain, the Department reports equity group enrolment "counts" and/or "rates" that are described in the table. Ratios, which require the use of a suitable benchmark rate, are described further in "Student Equity Data Guide: Selecting and Using Equity Reference Values" available at <https://www.acses.edu.au/publication/student-equity-data-guide-equity-reference-values>.

Where can I get more information or data?

Equity Performance Measures for Australia, states/territories, institutional groupings, and individual institutions are available in various locations online:

1. ACSES Interactive Data Tool - <https://www.acses.edu.au/data/interactive-tool/>
2. Department of Education Data Tables – <https://www.education.gov.au/higher-education-statistics/resources/2024-section-16-equity-performance-data>
3. Department of Education Pivot Tables and Business Intelligence Reports – <https://www.education.gov.au/higher-education-statistics/student-data/selected-higher-education-statistics-2024-student-data>

In addition, custom data requests can be submitted to the Department of Education via <https://www.education.gov.au/higher-education-statistics/higher-education-statistics-data>.

This guide is part of the Student Equity Data Guide Series produced by the Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success (ACSES). This series aims to describe key data areas for student equity in higher education.

Student Equity Data Guides are available on the [ACSES website - acses.edu.au/data](https://www.acses.edu.au/data).

Please contact acses@curtin.edu.au with any feedback or queries.

¹ More information on Table A and Table B Providers is available at <https://www.acses.edu.au/publication/student-equity-data-guide-higher-education-institutions-in-australia/>
² <https://www.education.gov.au/higher-education-statistics/resources/2024-section-16-equity-performance-data>

Equity Performance Measure	Definition	Measure
Access	Commencing student enrolment	Count: Commencing enrolment by headcount of a selected group. Rate/Share: Selected group's commencing headcount divided by total domestic undergraduate commencing headcount.
Participation	Students enrolled in the institution	Count: Total enrolment by headcount of a selected group. Rate/Share: Selected group's headcount divided by total domestic undergraduate headcount.
Success	Proportion of subject load passed by students	Rate: Equal to the Equivalent Full-Time Student Load (EFTSL) passed by students in a selected group as a percentage of EFTSL certified (EFTSL passed, failed, or withdrawn) among all students in this group.
Retention	Rate at which students from the previous year returned to their studies in an institution without completing their course	Rate: Equal to Retained/Base. There are several ways this can be defined. Broadly speaking, for a selected group, "Retained" is defined as students who continued to be enrolled in their institution from the previous year. Base is equal to "all students minus completions" for the selected group at the end of the previous year. For further details, please visit: https://www.tcsisupport.gov.au/glossary/glossaryterm/Retention%20rate Retention rate is a lagging indicator, meaning that retention for 2024 is reported in 2025.
Attainment	Students who completed a course	Count: Graduate headcount of a selected group. Rate/Share: Graduate headcount of a selected group as a proportion of all graduates in an institution.
Completion	Graduate headcount of a selected group after a certain time period, e.g. 6 years or 9 years	Rate: For 6-year completion, is the percentage of students who commenced studying in a given year and completed a degree within 6 years. Completion rates are reported by commencing year, so the 6-year completion rate for 2019 was released in 2024.