

ANSWERS: A Web-Based Tool

Created by John Milam



- *Are you searching for sources of data on postsecondary education?*
- *Are you preparing a survey to collect information about postsecondary education?*

About This Tool

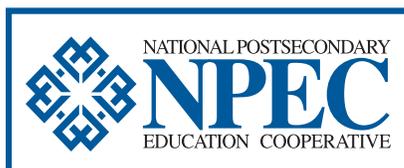
Accessing National Surveys with Electronic Research Sources (ANSWERS) is a web-based tool that can lead you to sources of data on postsecondary education. ANSWERS provides data element definitions that are used in many postsecondary education surveys and identifies where common data element definitions are used across surveys. ANSWERS can assist a researcher to adopt common definitions, or, preferably to use existing data sources to reduce the data burden on institutions and minimize inconsistencies in published data. In addition to identifying sources of data, ANSWERS includes a matrix of data available in national surveys, a question bank, references for survey developers, specialized features for different audiences and an inventory of national surveys. ANSWERS was initiated in 1999 and is continually updated.

Who Can Use This Tool

Survey developers can use ANSWERS for citations, for data element definitions, for survey design, and to find existing surveys that might meet their needs. Policy and data analysts and policymakers will find ANSWERS to be a practical tool for identifying useful data sources. Graduate students can use ANSWERS to find data for a dissertation/thesis, write questions and definitions for a new survey, and learn to use a national dataset.

How To Obtain This Tool

This tool is available on the NCES/NPEC web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/npec/answers>.



The National Postsecondary Education Cooperative (NPEC) is a voluntary partnership of postsecondary institutions, associations, government agencies, and organizations. NPEC's mission is to promote the quality, comparability, and utility of postsecondary data and information that support policy development at the federal, state, and institution levels. NPEC receives funding from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education.