Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

- Created in 1992 as a data collection program for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
- According to the Higher Education Act of 1965, all institutions that participate in federal financial aid must complete all IPEDS surveys
- More than 7500 institutions complete the surveys each year
- IPEDS is used to describe and analyze basic trends in seven postsecondary education areas:
  - **Institutional Characteristics-** Basic data on an institution such as contact information, tuition and fees, etc.
  - **Institutional Prices-** More detailed breakdown of tuition and fees, including estimates of students budgets
  - **Enrollment-** Due to the great variance in types of postsecondary institutions, data is collected on fall enrollment, first-time students, age of students, a 12-month head count, instructional activity, and the entering class
  - **Student Financial Aid-** Data collected on first-time and full-time students who have received financial aid, grants, and scholarships
  - **Degrees and Certificates Conferred-** Data on the number of students that complete a program based on the type of program and degree or certificate earned
  - **Student Persistence and Success-** Data on first-year retention rates and graduation rates
  - **Institutional Human and Fiscal Resources-** Data about employees' positions, salaries, and backgrounds; and financial data about revenues, expenditures, assets, and liabilities
- The IPEDS Data Center allows users to obtain data on several factors of any institution and compare trends
- College Navigator is a tool for consumers to retrieve information compiled from IPEDS data on institutions