

Using Data from

THE COST STUDY

at the University of Delaware

What reports are available in the study?

How can you use the reports to understand your data?

OVERVIEW

The National Study of Instructional Costs and Productivity (The Cost Study) is a **national longitudinal study** that focuses on the academic program-level analysis of **faculty instructional workloads and costs** and provides an improved understanding of **cost differences by academic program** as well as cost trends and cost drivers.

The Cost Study is conducted annually by the Higher Education Consortia (HEC). HEC is composed of a diverse group of over 700 **four-year, public and private, non-profit colleges and universities** that have contributed data to The Cost Study since its inception in the 1990s. In continued collaboration with an advisory board, various regional and national associations, and policy experts, HEC is committed to **guiding research and public understanding** of the changing realities that affect productivity and cost in higher education.

COST STUDY REPORTS

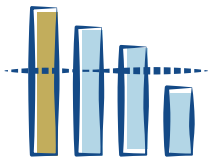
Cost Study Reports provide a summary of the participating institutions and active Classification of Instructional Programs (CIPs) for the current study year. These reports can be especially helpful for determining which institutions are represented in the norm groups and for selecting institutions and programs for a custom peer analysis. Additional information about Cost Study Reports can be found at ire.udel.edu/cost-study-reports/.

Active Institutions—provides information about which institutions participated in the current study year. On the Active Institutions list you can see the name of the institution, along with their FICE code, Carnegie Class, and whether they are public or private.

Active CIPs—provides information about which program CIPs (at the 2-digit, 4-digit, and 6-digit level) are in use for the current study year, sorted by CIP number. Note: at least 5 programs in a norm group category must be available for the norm values to be reported, so not all of the CIPs on this list will have associated norms.

Active Institutions with CIP—allows you to select a single CIP and find which institutions reported a program under that CIP for the current study year. On this report you can see the selected 4-digit CIP (along with a list of all the possible 6-digit CIPs that can roll up to this 4-digit level), the institution name, and the norm group categories applicable for that program (Carnegie Class, Highest Degree, and Percent Undergrad Degrees Offered).

BENCHMARK REPORTS



Benchmark Reports provide comparative data from The Cost Study. Explore the different reports to decide which comparisons are best for your institution! Additional information about Benchmark Reports can be found at ire.udel.edu/benchmark-reports/.

Norms (Norm Tables, Ratio Tables, Quartiles):

the final comparative results from each study year, presented at the 2-digit and 4-digit CIP level. Institutions have access to the Norms from each year they participate in The Cost Study. Data in the Norms are considered a frozen file at the time the Norms are released (preliminary norms: May; final Norms: July). Comparative values are available for three norm groups: Carnegie Classification, Highest Degree Offered, and Percent Undergrad.



HOW TO USE Create reports and visualizations of your institution's data compared to the annual Norms. For example, start with a cost metric such as direct instructional expense per student credit hour, examine which of your programs are above or below the comparative norm data, and then use productivity data (e.g., student credit hours and organized class sections per FTE faculty or research and public service expenses) to help interpret the costs. Workload distribution metrics, such as Percent SCH and OCS by Faculty Category and by Course Level, can also add to the data story.

Peer Analyses: refined means results and row level data of customized peers selected from the full list of participating institutions. Peers can be selected from the Active Institutions with CIP Report or The Cost Study team can recommend data-informed peer groups by request.

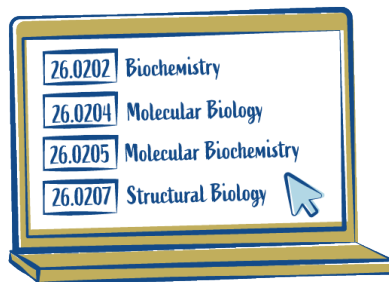


HOW TO USE Peer analyses allow you to obtain results from a select group of institutions, such as a standard benchmark group, a regionally focused group, or aspirational peers. Peer analyses can help provide comparative data when norm results are not available. Program-specific peer analyses also help provide comparative data for unique programs when standard peers are unable to offer a comparison or for interdisciplinary programs that are not easily represented by a single CIP.

Three-Year-Average Report: calculated averages from all programs reported at the same CIP level over the previous three study years.



HOW TO USE With the Three-Year-Average Report, you can begin benchmarking your programs before the final Norms are available. This report is viewable after your institution's data submission has been validated and approved by The Cost Study team.



YOUR INSTITUTION REPORTS



Your Institution Reports provide the data and calculated metrics for your institution only. These reports can be used to save a copy of your annual submission and for comparison with the many Benchmark Reports available. Additional information about Your Institution Reports can be found at ire.udel.edu/your-institution-reports/.

Institution Report: displays the calculated metrics for your institution's data, formatted into the same data tables used throughout the study, and is available as soon as your data is approved by The Cost Study team. Prior to data approval, you can view calculated metrics program-by-program on Page 2 of the data entry forms.



HOW TO USE The Institution Report is the best place to view the calculated metrics for all of your institution's programs. The report defaults to displaying individual programs disaggregated, but you can use the drop-down menu at the top of the form to aggregate metrics at the 4-digit and 2-digit CIP level. You can copy the data to the clipboard one table at a time or use the available links to download the data as a pdf or an Excel file.

Direct Instructional Expense per Student Credit Hour Report:

displays a bar-chart of your institution's data for the Direct Instructional Expense per SCH metric, along with a table showing the calculated value for each CIP. If your institution has participated in The Cost Study since 2015, you can view these years of data side-by-side on the same chart and table.



HOW TO USE This chart provides a quick visual overview of longitudinal fluctuations in this cost metric at your institution and can be helpful during the data validation process.

Page 2 (from the Data Entry Form): displays calculated metrics in all study tables for a single program. Dropdown menus are available that allow you to select a norm group (Carnegie Classification, Highest Degree Offered, or Percent Undergrad) and control (All, Public, or Private) to obtain three-year-average benchmarks. Three-year-average results will be displayed side-by-side with the data from your institution's program.



HOW TO USE This page allows you to immediately view comparative results after entering a single program's data, which expedites data validation, benchmarking, and decision-making.



For more information about The Cost Study:
<https://ire.udel.edu/cost/>

For more information about HEC:
<https://ire.udel.edu/cost/intro-to-hec/>

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