



Governance and Accountability

The Higher Education Consumer Guide

Policy Statement

These rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Higher Education Rules Establishing the Higher Education Consumer Guide. This policy addresses the content, procedures, and institutional responsibilities for the creation and release of the guide.

Applicable Arkansas Code

Act 539 of 2021

Applicability

This rule is applicable to....

Definitions

1. "Peer institution of higher education" means an in-state or out-of-state state-supported institutions of higher education that is selected to be used for comparative analysis and benchmarking of institutional qualities.
2. "State-supported institution of higher education" means a state-supported two-year or four-year college or university.

Content

The Arkansas Division of Higher Education shall create a Higher Education Consumer Guide that is designed for use by prospective students and parents and legal guardians of prospective students at a state-supported institution of higher education.

The Higher Education Consumer Guide shall include the following information without limitation for each state-supported institution of higher education for the most recent state fiscal year.

1. Retention and graduation rates
2. Cost of tuition
3. Average amount borrowed and loan default rate

4. Admission rate for institutions not determined to be open admission institutions
5. Average composite test scores of students enrolled
6. Job placement within the first three (3) years of graduation
7. Income of college alumni over the first twenty (20) years after completion of credential
8. Percentage of students enrolled from the top 10% of a public high school in Arkansas
9. Average number of semester for completion of an associate or bachelor's degree at the institution.

This information shall be compared with the same information for the state fiscal year preceding the most recent year and the most recent five years.

In addition the Higher Education Consumer Guide shall identify the institutional grouping to which each state-supported institution of higher education is assigned under the Arkansas Higher Education Information System and Peer Institutions associated with each state-supported institution of higher education.

Procedures

The Higher Education Consumer Guide shall be provided by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to each state-supported institution on an annual basis.

The information under the content sections shall be compiled using data from the following sources without limitation:

1. The Division of Higher Education
2. The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), published by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
3. The College Scorecard
4. The Arkansas Economic Security Report
5. The Arkansas State Longitudinal Data System and interstate compacts for the sharing of employment data when reasonably available.

The Higher Education Consumer Guide will be published on the Arkansas Division of Higher Education website.

Institutional Responsibilities

State-supported institutions of higher education shall provide a virtual or hard copy of the higher education consumer guide to all prospective students before completing an application. The prospective student shall verify that he or she has been provided the Higher Education Consumer Guide.

State-supported institutions of higher education shall provide any additional data required by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education for the creation of the Higher Education Consumer Guide upon request.

State-supported institutions of higher education shall make the Higher Education Consumer Guide available on the institution website.

Deadlines

The Arkansas Division of Higher Education shall establish a deadline for the submission of any data required for the creation of the Higher Education Consumer Guide by institutions and any additional deadlines needed for the review and publication of the Guide as required to meet this policy.