

Defining Full-Time /Part-Time Status in the Completion Rate Calculation

INTRODUCTION

This methodology was developed to determine the full-time/part-time status of students in the calculation of post-secondary completion rates to better understand students' pathways.

LIMITATIONS OF EXISTING RESOURCES

The Learner and Enrolment Reporting System has a field that marks students' full-time/part-time status, however, this status may change over time. Many existing completion rate methodologies define full-time/part-time students by using the status of their first enrolment record. This definition may not accurately reflect the status of the students throughout their program of studies.

METHODOLOGY FROM A LONGITUDINAL PERSPECTIVE

The basic idea of this methodology is to calculate the weighted average sessional enrolment values of a student, who was included in a starting cohort, throughout the program of study and up to the completion timeline, among all actively enrolled sessions.

For those who were included in the starting cohort and were identified as completers in Step One (refer to the methodology document for the steps), the weighted average sessional enrolment values are calculated using the sessional records between the year in which they are identified as a part of the starting cohort and the year in which they are identified as a completer in the same cohort.

For those who were included in the starting cohort but were not identified as completers in Step One (refer to the methodology document for the steps), the weighted average sessional enrolment values are calculated using the sessional records between the year they are identified as a part of the starting cohort and the year their enrolment records last appear in the same cohort within the completion timeline in Step One.

The weighted average sessional enrolment value for each student is calculated as

Total FLE¹ value of all actively enrolled sessions / total number of actively enrolled sessions

Full-time status is assigned to those who have weighted average sessional enrolment values of 0.2 or over. Part-time status is assigned to those who have weighted average sessional enrolment values below 0.2.

¹ FLE: Full Load Equivalent. For definition and related statistics, refer to <https://open.alberta.ca/opendata/system-wide-fle-enrolment-within-the-alberta-post-secondary-education-system>