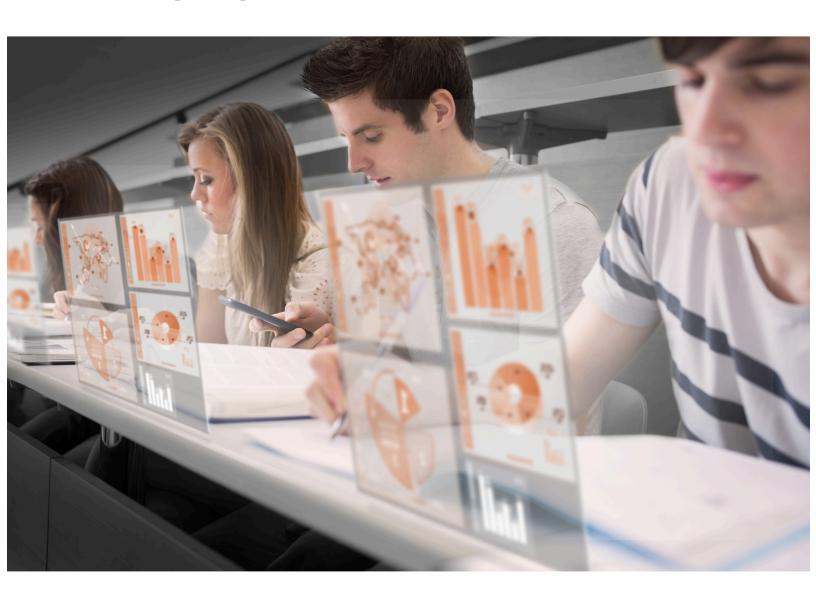
Examining Affordability in Ohio:

Data Toolkit

December 13, 2023







Objective

The data analyzed and presented by Scale Strategic Solutions and Education Strategy Group reflect a *snapshot* of higher education affordability and labor market conditions across Ohio. As such, these data are not evergreen; they must be updated and refined as conversations continue about the cost of higher education in Ohio and its value to Ohio's workforce.

The objective of this Data Toolkit document is to provide a step-by-step guide for Ohio stakeholders that wish to dig more deeply into issues of affordability and the labor market outcomes of their students and graduates. Each section below will provide recommended **national** and **state-level** data sources that will allow institutional researchers (and other higher education professionals) to investigate local labor markets and their intersections with higher education's outputs, as well as data with which institutions can design strategies to make higher education more affordable, particularly for specific student subgroups.

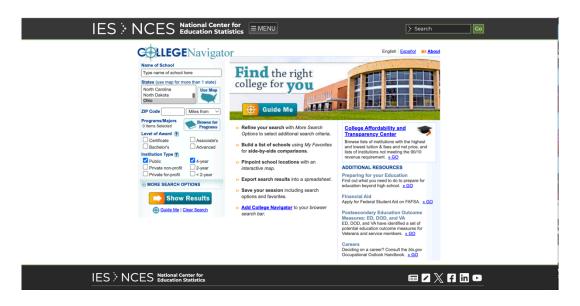
Institutional researchers and other higher education professionals can use the datasets presented below to answer many questions about affordability and graduates' workforce outcomes, including:

- 1. What are the tuition and fees and cost of attendance (COA) at each public higher education institution in Ohio?
- 2. How much financial aid, on average, is awarded to students at each public college or university in Ohio? Is this financial aid merit- or need-based?
- 3. What is the FAFSA filing rate in each of Ohio's K-12 school districts? How do these rates vary across the state?
- 4. What are graduates' workforce outcomes? On average, how much does a graduate of each public higher education institution in Ohio earn in the workforce upon earning a credential?
- 5. What are high-need, high-demand jobs across Ohio? How does this demand vary by region?

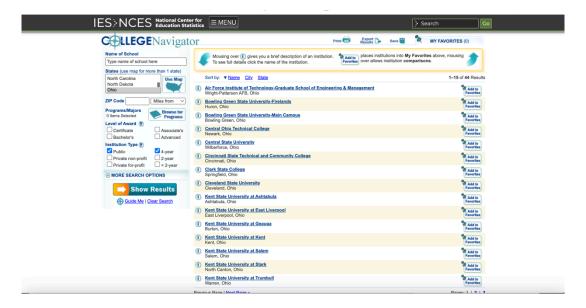
Questions 1 & 2: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) College Navigator and Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) reports and datasets

https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

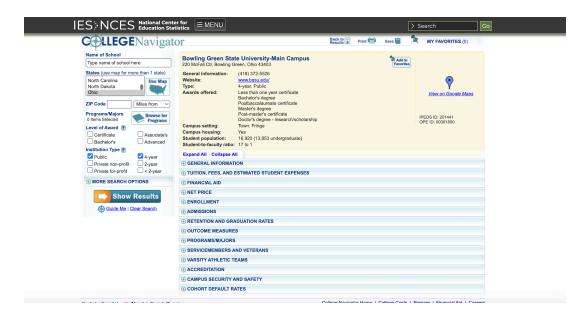
The NCES College Navigator tool provides various data elements that can be used to explore Questions 1 and 2 about tuition and fees and financial aid above. Using the Search Panel on the left side of the home page, institutional researchers and policymakers can limit their search to, for example, public four-year higher education institutions in Ohio:



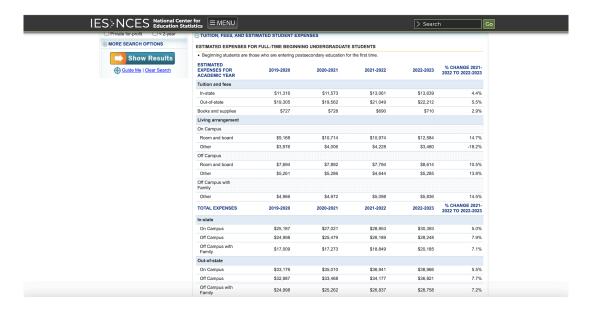
After clicking "Show Results," the College Navigator tool will list all higher education institutions that meet the criteria selected in the Search Panel:



Selecting Bowling Green State University – Main Campus, for example, shows several drop-down categories to explore tuition and fees, financial aid awards, progression metrics, graduation rates, programs offered, etc. To explore Questions 1 and 2 above, users can navigate through the <u>Tuition</u>, <u>Fees</u>, and <u>Estimated Student Expenses</u> and <u>Financial Aid</u> drop down menus:



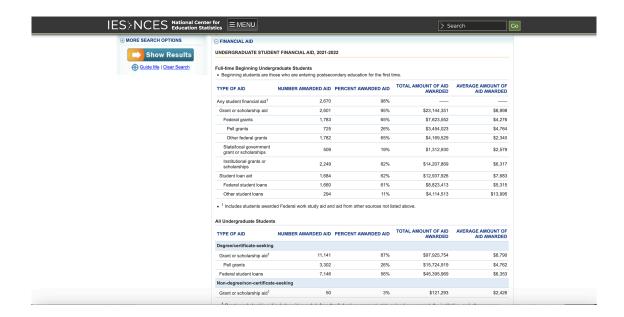
Tuition, Fees, and Estimated Student Expenses:



At the state-level, longitudinal tuition and fees data are available in Excel format from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, should any user wish to conduct additional analyses:

https://highered.ohio.gov/data-reports/data-and-reports-sa/tuition_financial_aid/tution_and_fees/tuition-fees-2007-2022

Financial Aid:



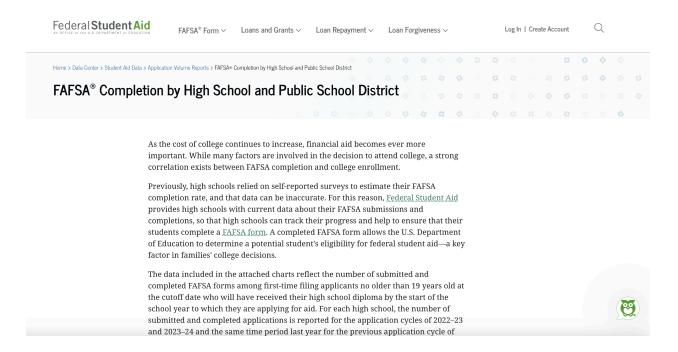
The State of Ohio, via the Ohio Department of Higher Education, produces many annual reports discussing tuition and fees and financial aid across Ohio's public higher education enterprise. These reports and any accompanying datasets are available here:

https://highered.ohio.gov/data-reports/key-topic-areas/dr-tuition-financial-aid/data-reports-tuition-financial-aid/data-r

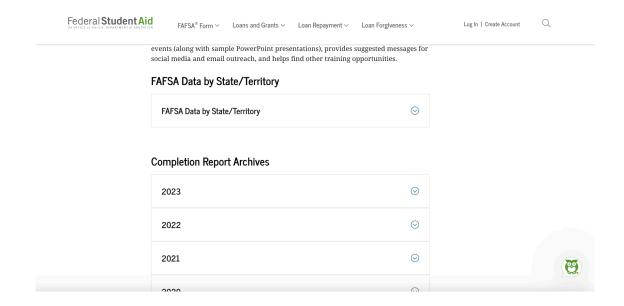
Question 3: Federal Student Aid FAFSA Completion by School District

https://studentaid.gov/data-center/student/application-volume/fafsa-completion-high-school

Filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is strongly correlated with students applying to and enrolling in higher education. It is imperative that institutional researchers and higher education policymakers can track FAFSA filing rates by high school and school district, such that resources may be directed to schools and districts needing additional FAFSA support:

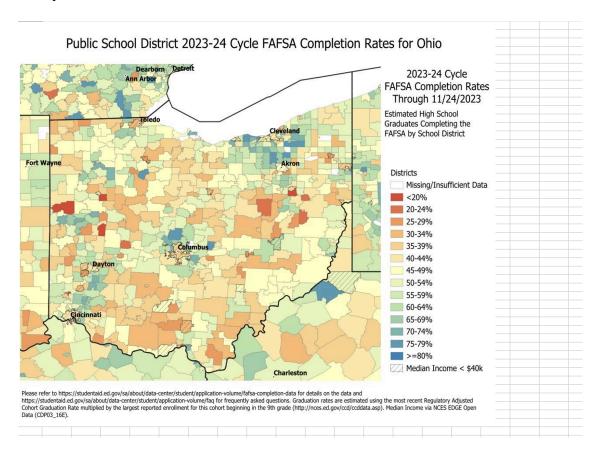


Higher education professionals can navigate this site using the dropdown "FAFSA data by State/Territory" menu to select Ohio. Ohio's FAFSA completion data – organized by high school and district - can be downloaded as an Excel file and used for any relevant analyses:





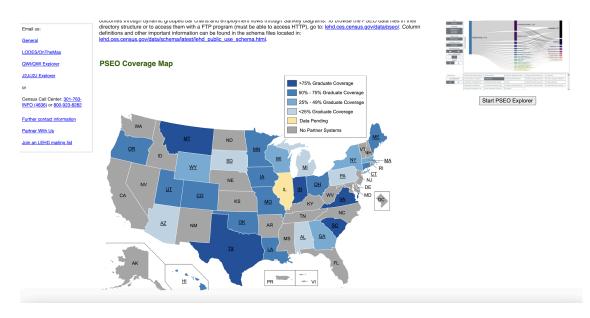
These data are also displayed as a heat map, to depict visually which schools and districts across the state could benefit from additional FAFSA support. Clicking on the fourth tab, labeled "Map OH 2023-24 Current Data" on the Excel sheet above, will display this map presenting the proportion of high school graduates in each district who have filed a FAFSA in the current academic year:



Question 4: Census Postsecondary Education Outcomes (PSEO) data

https://lehd.ces.census.gov/data/pseo experimental.html

The United States Census Bureau's PSEO tool provides college graduates' earnings data, by institution and by major. These data can be used to explore the 1-, 5-, and 10-year earnings of graduates earning degrees in different fields at each higher education institution across Ohio and will help researchers explore Question 4 about graduates' short- and long-term earnings.



After using the map to select Ohio, researchers can use the Search Panel on the left side of the dashboard to select the institution, degree level, and graduating cohorts of interest. Bachelor's degree earners from Bowling Green State University will again serve as the example.

Using the gray boxes at the bottom of the page, users can select the specific major about which they are interested in learning, or include, in this case, bachelor's degrees conferred in all instructional programs:



Using the legend on the left, researchers can assess the average earnings of all Bowling Green State's graduates over 1-, 5-, and 10-years.

Further, if users are interested in comparing earnings by specific majors, these majors can be selected using the gray boxes. For example, when comparing the earnings of Business and Engineering majors, the figure displays six bars to compare the short- and longer-term earnings of graduates by major:



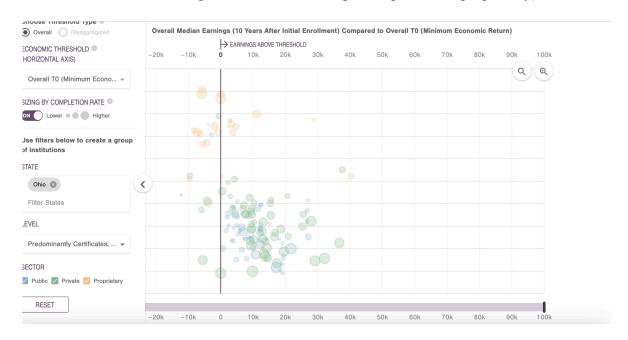
For any user wishing to do additional analysis, data imported into the PSEO dashboard are available in Excel format from the Ohio Department of Higher Education:

https://highered.ohio.gov/data-reports/data-and-reports-sa/data-employment/census-pseo-retention-data

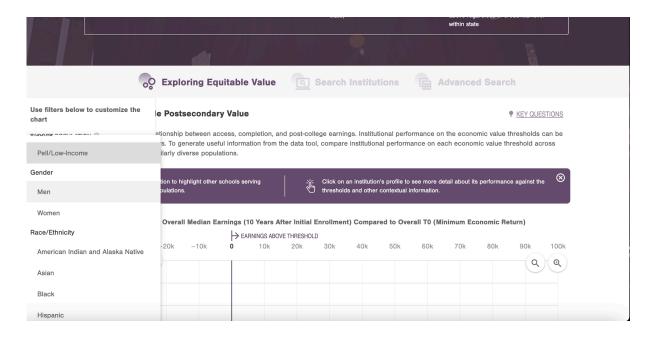
Question 4: Postsecondary Value Commission Equitable Value Explorer

https://equity.postsecondaryvalue.org/datatool

The Equitable Value Explorer provides additional information about students' earnings upon entering the workforce after graduating from one of Ohio's higher education institutions. Using the filters on the left side of the dashboard, users can select Ohio and the degree levels of interest, and can sort on the higher education sector (public, private, or proprietary) of interest:



What is unique about this tool is the use of a minimum value threshold ("Threshold Zero") to determine whether students' earnings over time surpass the cost of earning a credential/degree in Ohio. These data are critical for forthcoming conversations about higher education's return on investment and the value of various credentials in the workforce. Further, users can filter on the earnings of subgroups of students – by income, race, gender, etc. – to determine any implications of equity in higher education and workforce outcomes.

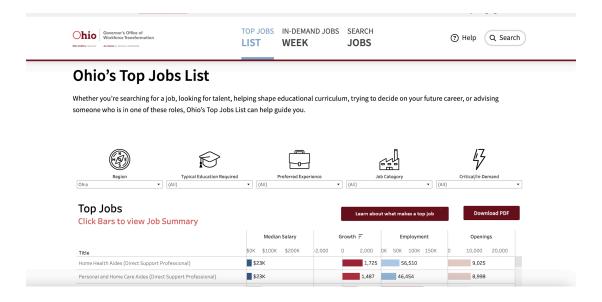


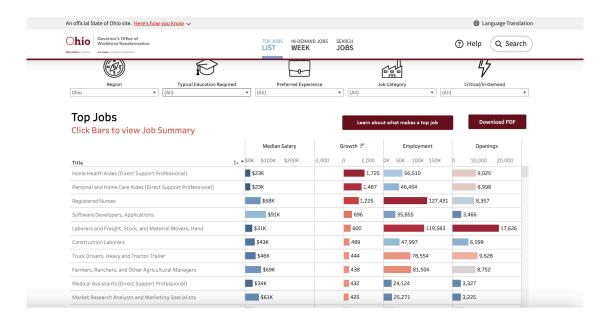
Question 5: Ohio's Top Jobs

https://topjobs.ohio.gov/top-jobs-list/ohios-top-jobs-list

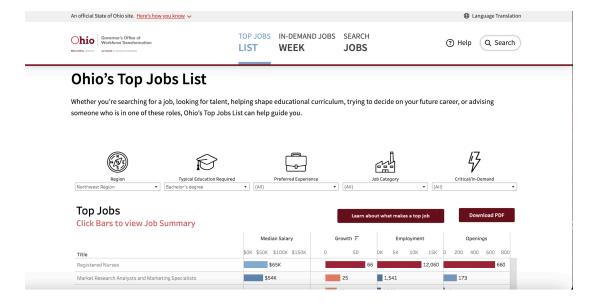
Ohio's Top Jobs is a state-level data dashboard, maintained by the Ohio Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, that lists high demand jobs in Ohio. These data can be sorted by region and degree type needed for employment, as well as experience preferred by employers looking to hire in each field.

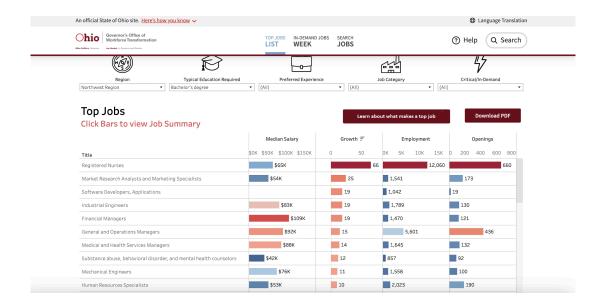
Users can first look at all high need jobs across the state at all education levels, navigating the data dashboard using the five dropdown menus at the top of the page. Each job shows five bar graphs, presenting median earnings, how quickly jobs are growing, total employment, and job openings by field:





Users can also sort by Region and Typical Education Required using the dropdown menus. For example, high demand jobs in Northwest Ohio that typically require a bachelor's degree are shown below. High demand jobs requiring a bachelor's degree in this region include nurses, market research analysts, software developers, and engineers:





https://highered.ohio.gov/data-reports

Using these reports and datasets will allow institutions to compare their performance on various metrics (i.e., retention, graduation rates, tuition and fees, and financial aid awarded) to other public higher education institutions across Ohio, as well as evaluate their own performance – on these metrics and many others - over time. These data are aggregated to the institution-level, rather than the student-level (which are much more widely available at each institution, as will be described below) and provide very important context when considering affordability and workplace outcomes across Ohio's higher education enterprise, and how each institution is performing within this enterprise.

Institutional Level Data

It is important to note that higher education institutions often collect additional data elements and have much more detailed data beyond what is provided to state- and federal-level policymaking entities. As such, institution-specific student-level data is much more nuanced and is often even more useful than the national and state-level data sources mentioned above. This is particularly true, for example, when considering institution-specific financial aid awarded at each institution (i.e., merit scholarships, athletic scholarships, etc.) as contributors to higher education's affordability, and when institutions are attempting to do any data analyses by student subgroup (i.e., sex, race, income, etc.)

Recommended Data Use

The national and Ohio-specific data resources discussed above can be used to explore numerous questions and potential state-level policy proposals – those listed above and many others - related to higher education affordability and workforce alignment. These data can provide greater perspective on many issues including:

- Maintaining or adjusting tuition and fee caps;
- Reevaluating and assessing state-funded financial aid programs (i.e., the Ohio College Opportunity Grant;)
- Targeting statewide and localized efforts to increase FAFSA completion;
- Incentivizing, as appropriate, students to major in programs of study leading to employment in high-need fields; and
- Providing transparent information to students and their families about one's earning potential upon earning a particular degree.

Further, working with various community partners and Communications specialists, this data may be used to inform Ohioans about the role higher education plays in the economic successes of their communities, and strategies to align higher education's offerings with the needs of local workforces. While it is imperative that these data are used to answer relevant policy questions, it is even more critical that data are also communicated in a way that is accessible to those who are less "data fluent" (i.e., infographics, interactive data dashboards, etc.)