

Standard Operating Procedures

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO)

Degree File

Last Updated: January 7, 2025

I. Purpose

This operating procedure specifies the standard layout of the degree file that partners supply for use in processing and producing the Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO).

II. Notes

Failure to follow the standard file layout may cause data releases to be delayed. Missing SSNs are not an issue, so transfer all records, regardless of availability of SSN for that observation. Please pay particular attention to left/right justification and blank/zero fill. For example, “left justify, blank fill” denotes the variable should begin in the leftmost position and have blanks for any unused characters. “Right justify, zero fill” denotes the variable should have as many “0”s as necessary in the leftmost spots for the value to take up the specified length.

III. Filename Convention

Use SYSTEM_deg_STARTYR_ENDYR.txt where SYSTEM is the agreed upon abbreviation for your school system; STARTYR is the first year of the data you are sending; and ENDYR is the last year of the data you are sending. For example, utsys_deg_2001_2015.txt is the file name for the University of Texas System’s input file with data from 2001 to 2015. Data for a single academic year should still include two years. For example, utsys_deg_2001_2002.txt for academic year 2001-2002.

IV. Observation Level

An observation in this dataset is a unique individual-institution-degree level-degree field (6-digit CIP). For example, an individual who is double-majored should be reported twice in the data, once for each unique 6-digit CIP. Every degree an individual earns should be reported separately as well.

V. Valid Years

We request as many years of historical data as you can send, starting with 2001. If you are unable to go back to 2001, that is fine. We will not process any years before 2001 because of coverage issues with our wage data before that calendar year. If you are sending new years of data, please do not resend data for years from a prior submission, unless explicitly asked to.

VI. Contact

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LEHD PSEO Degree File Format

Position	Label	Data Element	Len	Type	Data Specification
1-9	ssn	Social Security Number (SSN)	9	Character	A 9-digit code indicating each student's Social Security Number. <i>Do not include hyphens. Leave blank if unknown.</i>
10-59	name_first	First Name	50L	String	The first name of the reference student, if known. <i>Left justify, blank fill.</i>
60-109	name_last	Last Name	50L	String	The last name (surname) of the reference student, if known. <i>Left justify, blank fill.</i>
110-117	dob	Date of Birth	8	String YYYYMMDD	The date of birth of the reference student, if known, in YYYYMMDD. <i>Do not include hyphens or other special characters. Leave blank if unknown.</i>
118-123	degcip	Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code	6L	String	A 6-digit code indicating the reference student's area of study. For acceptable values, see link . <i>Do not include periods or other special characters. Left justify, zero fill.</i>
124-125	deglevl_code	Degree/Award Level	2R	String	A 2-digit code indicating the reference student's degree/award level. For acceptable values, see link . <i>Right justify, zero fill.</i>
126-133	date_grad	Date of Graduation	8	String YYYYMMDD	The date of graduation, in YYYYMMDD. If day of month is unknown, you may default to the first of the month.
134-141	opeid	Office of Postsecondary Education Identification (OPEID) Number	8R	String	An 8-digit identification number indicating the reference student's institution. For acceptable values, see link . <i>Right justify, zero fill.</i>