



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY**
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

Executive Summary

IPEDS Data Feedback Report

2024

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) is a system of surveys conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to collect data from all postsecondary institutions that receive Title IV funding. IPEDS serves as a comprehensive resource for data on postsecondary education in the United States, covering areas like institutional characteristics, student enrollment, graduation rates, financial aid, and more.

The 2024 IPEDS Data Feedback Report provides a comprehensive overview of Stephen F. Austin State University's (SFA) institutional performance across key higher education metrics, benchmarked against three peer groupings (Appendix A):

- Texas Peers (TXP): 13 institutions
- National Aspirational Peers (NAP): 11 institutions
- IPEDS Selected Peers (ISP): 28 institutions

The report is based on data submitted during the 2023–24 IPEDS collection cycle, with a response rate exceeding 99%. All figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Purpose and Scope

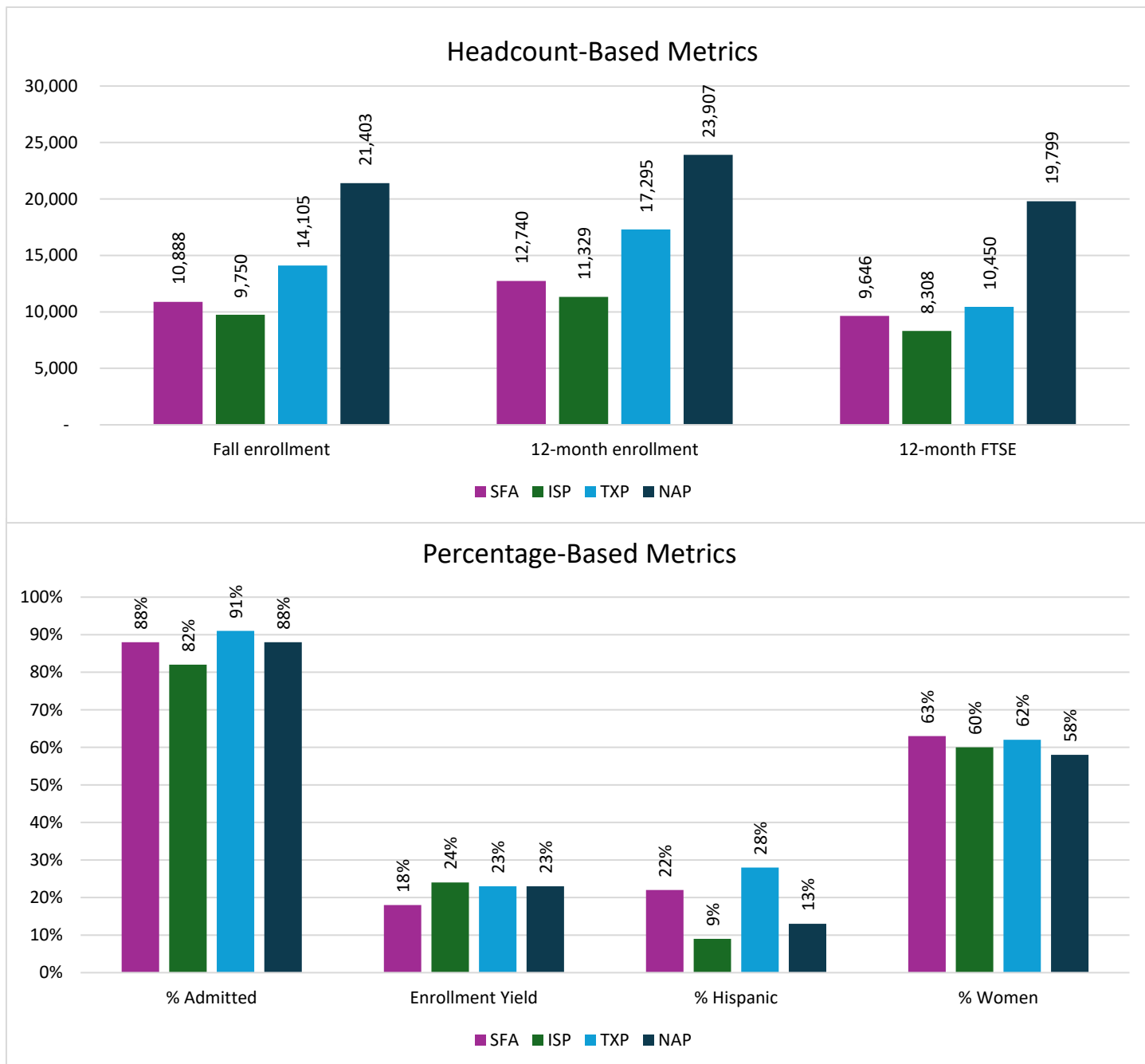
This report supports institutional leaders in evaluating SFA's performance and data quality across eight core areas: admissions, enrollment, retention, graduation, affordability, financial aid, finance, and human resources.

Key Takeaways

SFA demonstrates strengths in degree production, student diversity, and student services investment. However, challenges remain in enrollment yield, affordability, and faculty compensation.

Admissions & Enrollment

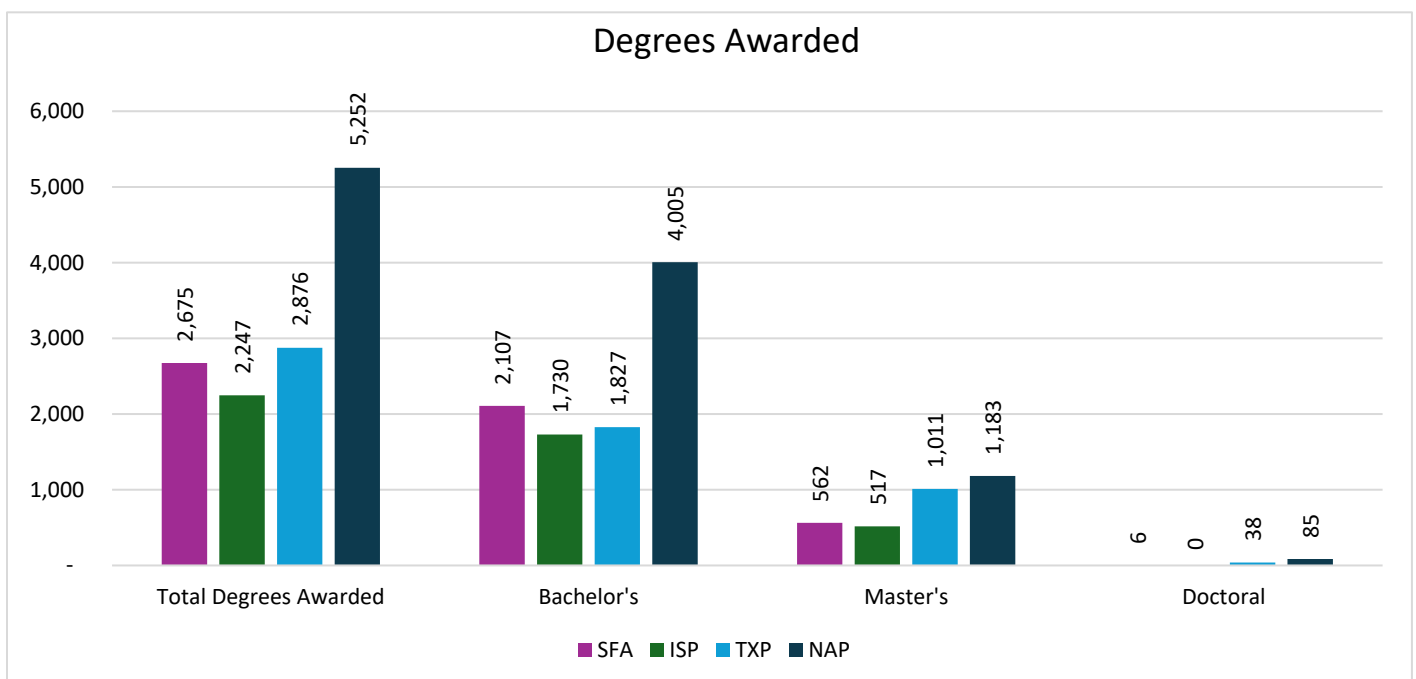
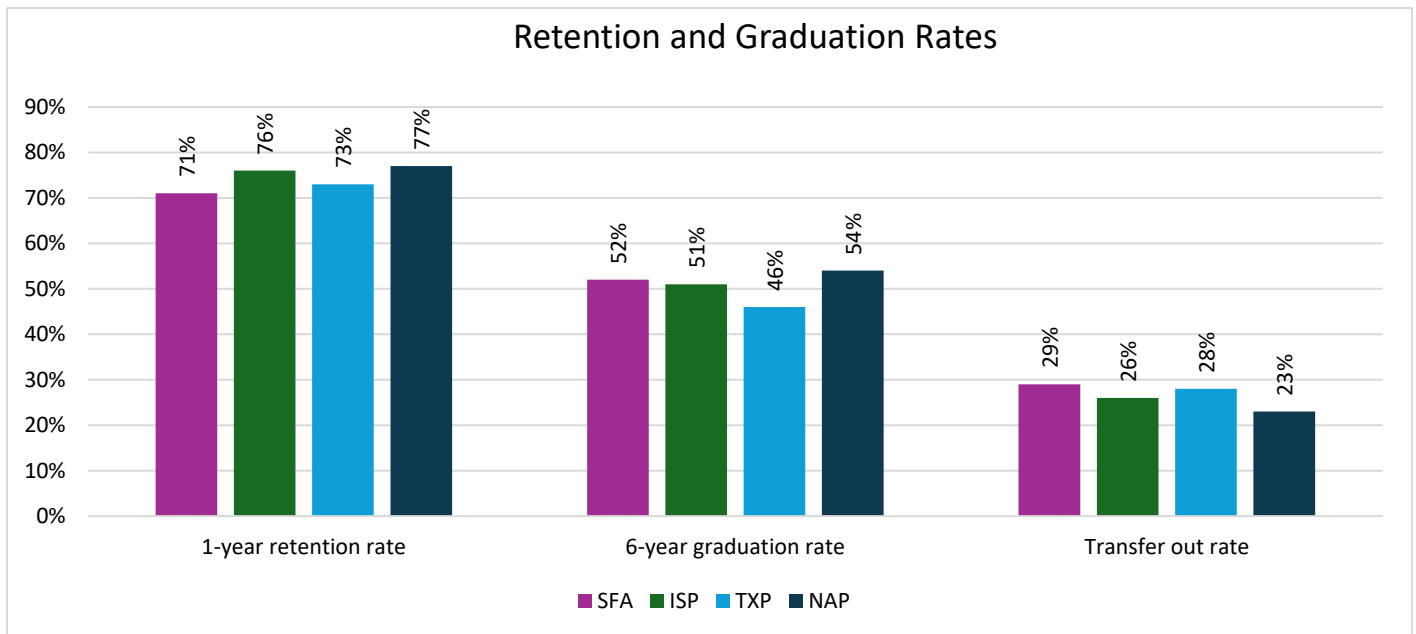
SFA demonstrates a competitive admissions profile with an 88% acceptance rate, aligning closely with peer institutions NAP and TXP. However, SFA's enrollment yield (18%) trails behind its peers, indicating opportunities to strengthen student conversion strategies. Demographically, SFA stands out with the highest percentage of women (63%) and a strong Hispanic student representation (22%), second only to TXP. In terms of scale, SFA maintains a mid-sized enrollment, surpassing ISP but remaining smaller than TXP and NAP in both fall and 12-month enrollment figures. Its 12-month full-time student equivalent (FTSE) suggests a relatively high proportion of full-time students, positioning SFA as a balanced institution with room to grow in student recruitment and retention.



Retention & Graduation:

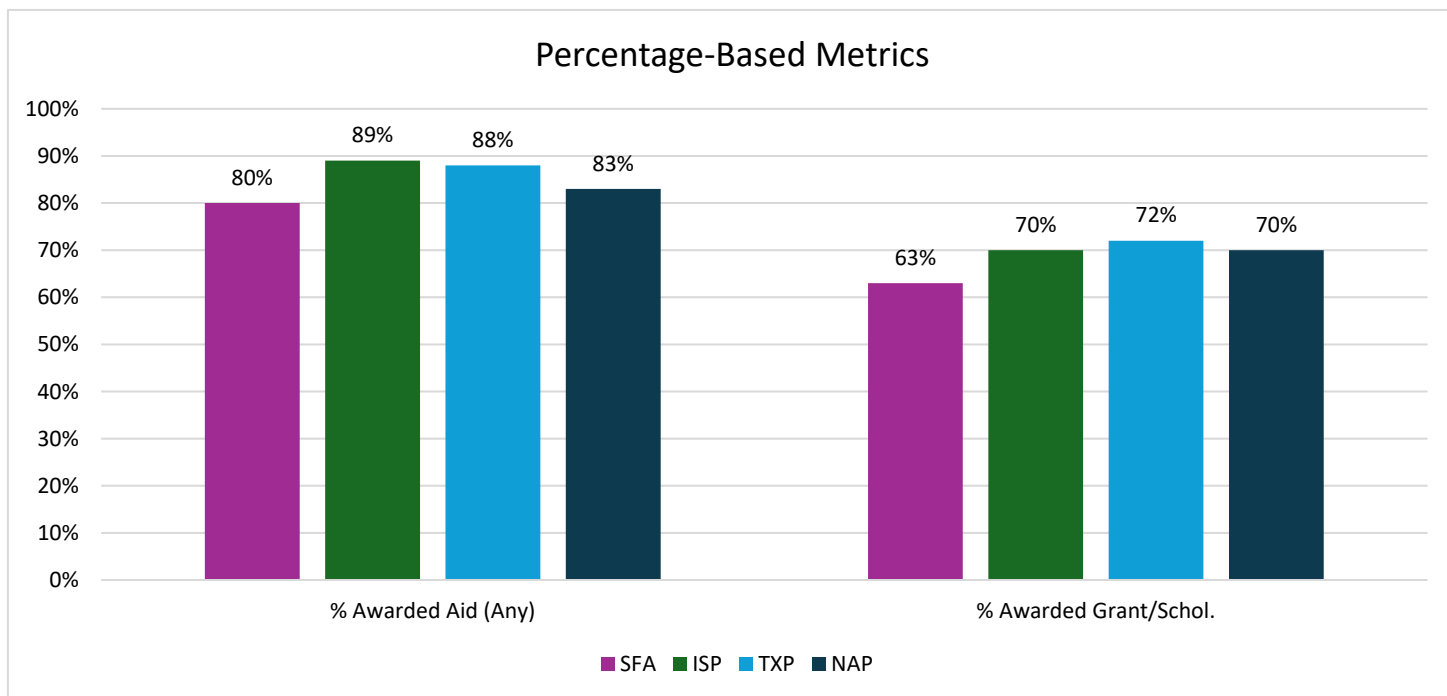
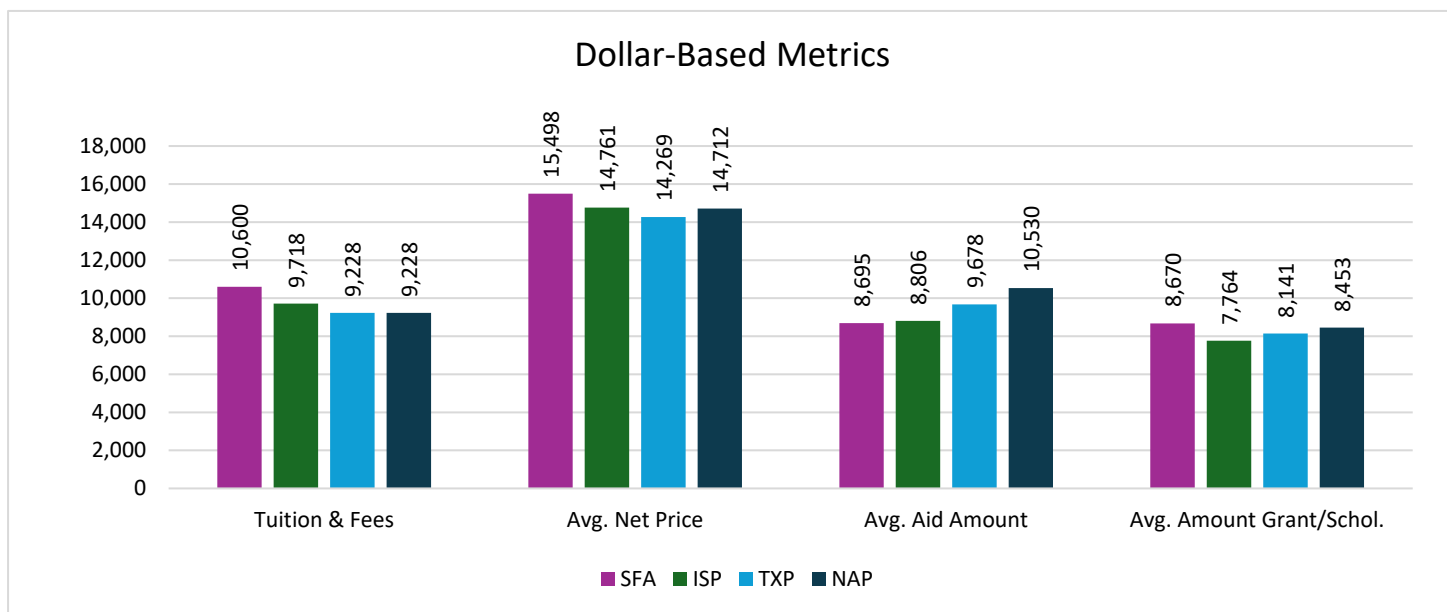
SFA awarded 2,675 total degrees, placing it ahead of ISP but behind TXP and NAP, with the majority at the bachelor's level. SFA conferred more master's degrees than ISP but fewer than TXP and NAP, and awarded a small number of doctoral degrees. SFASU performs strongly in bachelor's degree production relative to its peers, but there may be opportunities to grow graduate programs.

SFA's one-year retention rate (71%) and six-year graduation rate (52%) are competitive, slightly trailing NAP but outperforming TXP in graduation outcomes. However, SFA's transfer-out rate (29%) is the highest among the group, suggesting challenges in student satisfaction.



Affordability & Financial Aid:

Compared to the three peer group medians, SFASU has the highest tuition and average net price, indicating a greater financial burden on students. While 80% of SFA's first-time, full-time students receive some form of aid, this is lower than ISP (89%), TXP (88%), and NAP (83%). Additionally, SFASU awards less generous aid packages on average, and only 63% of undergraduates receive grant or scholarship aid, the lowest among the groups. These figures suggest that SFASU may benefit from strategies to enhance aid accessibility and reduce net costs to remain competitive in student recruitment and retention.



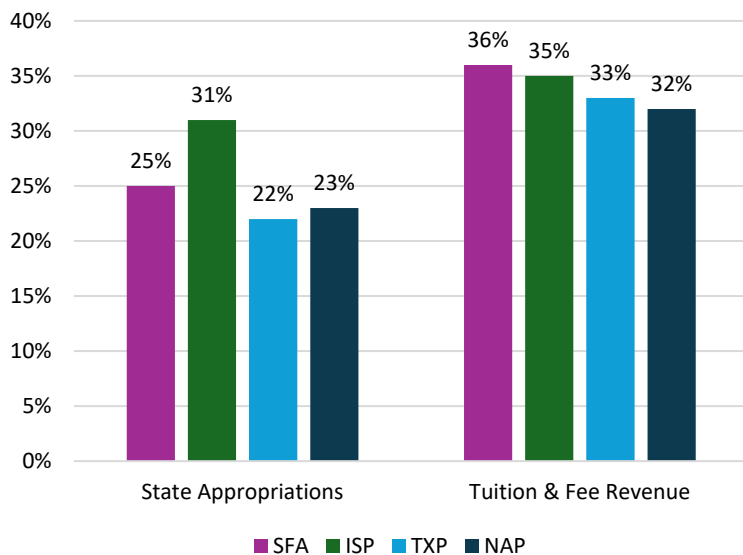
Finance & Human Resources

State appropriations account for 25% of SFA's revenue, lower than ISP (31%) but slightly higher than TXP and NAP (22–23%). Tuition and fee revenue (36%) is the highest among the group, suggesting a greater reliance on student-generated income.

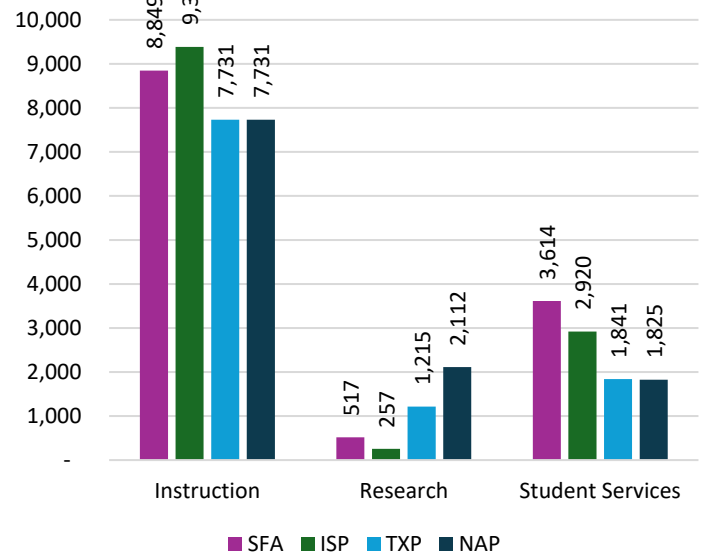
SFA allocates more per student to student services (\$3,614) than any peer, significantly exceeding TXP and NAP (both around \$1,825), and even ISP (\$2,920). Instructional spending per student at SFA (\$8,849) is slightly below ISP but higher than TXP and NAP. Research expenditures (\$517) are modest, placing SFA between ISP (\$257) and the more research-intensive TXP and NAP.

SFA's faculty headcount (555) is higher than ISP and TXP but well below NAP (973). Despite this, average faculty salaries at SFA (\$75,978) are the lowest compared to the peer group medians which may impact faculty recruitment and retention.

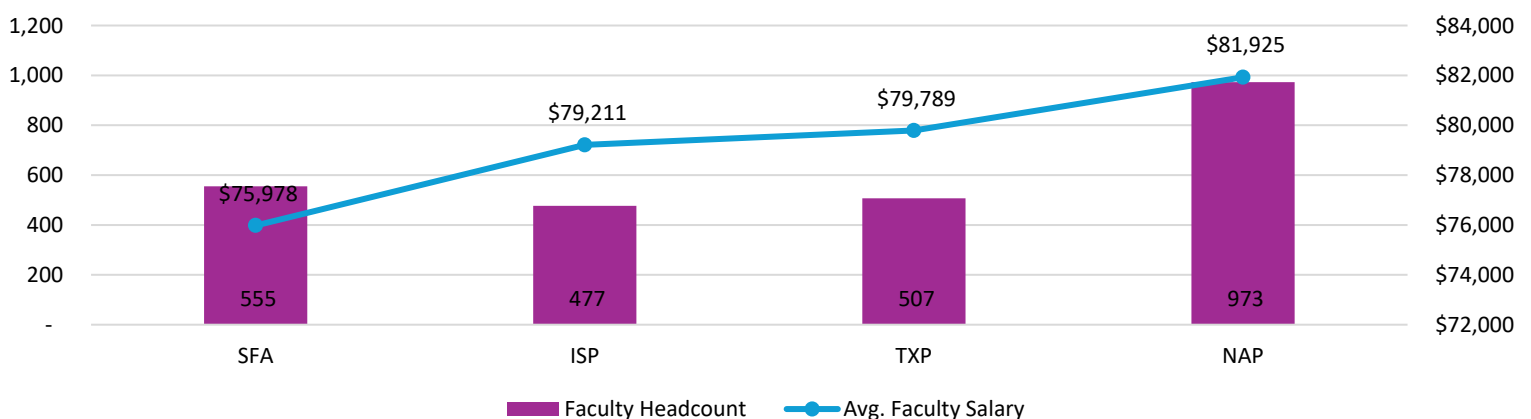
Revenue Sources



Expenses per FTSE



Faculty Headcount and Average Salary



Appendix A

Texas Peers

Methodology

National, regional, state and local criteria were evaluated. Eight criteria points are listed below:

State = Texas

Sector = Public; 4-year or above

Carnegie Classification 2021:

Basic = Doctoral Universities: High Research Activity

Doctoral/Professional Universities

Master's Colleges & Universities: Larger Programs (SFA)

Master's Colleges & Universities: Medium Programs

SACS Level VI institutions were also identified. SACS Level VI indicates the institution offers four or more doctoral degrees and is the current SFA level.

THECB Peer Accountability Group = Comprehensive

60x30xTX region = Southeast

Fall 2022 preliminary headcount enrollment = 9,000-25,000

Texas public 4-year institutions with 100 or more enrolled SFA admitted students in Fall 2022 were noted as admitted student competitors. Admitted student competitors were identified in the Non-Matriculant Details – Undergraduate online dashboard.

SFA met 7 of the 8 criteria since the institution could not be considered a 'competitor' of its non-enrolled admitted students. An established target of over 50% (5 of 8) of the SFA matching criteria was utilized for peer institution selection.

13 institutions met the criteria for peer consideration:

Lamar University (Beaumont, TX)

Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX)

Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX)

Tarleton State University (Stephenville, TX)

Texas A&M University-Commerce (Commerce, TX)

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (Corpus Christi, TX)

Texas Southern University (Houston, TX)

Texas State University (San Marcos, TX)

Texas Woman's University (Denton, TX)

The University of Texas at Tyler (Tyler, TX)

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (Edinburg, TX)

University of Houston -Downtown (Houston, TX)

West Texas A&M University (Canyon, TX)

National Aspirational Peers

Methodology

Using the most recent headcount enrollment available, 37 institutions reported headcount higher than SFA. One institution reported headcount in excess of 100,000 and was eliminated as a clear outlier to all other institutions in the evaluation. The median headcount for remaining 36 institutions is 18,183 and the mean headcount is 19,372. Fourteen of the 36 institutions report headcount of one standard deviation below the group mean and nine institutions indicate a headcount one standard deviation above the mean, leaving a total of 23 institutions as a possible national aspirational peer set.

SFA consistently reports a population of higher than 90% Texas residents. To most closely align a peer set with SFA, the percentage of first-time undergraduate from in-state was evaluated across the 23 possible aspirational peers. The SFA current percentage of first-time in-state undergraduates is 98%. Considering similar aspirational peers with 90% or more first-time in-state undergraduates yields a set of nine primary aspirational peers. Four more of the 23 potential peers are added due to key data element matches such as Carnegie class, close first-time in-state undergraduate percentage, and Pell awards percentage. The top 5 national aspirational peers were selected for highest five-year average annual change. Six institutions of interest were identified by SFA's Second Century Committee.

A total of 11 institutions comprise this peer comparison group:

Appalachian State University (Boone, NC)
Binghamton University (Vestal, NY)
Georgia Southern University (Statesboro, GA)
Georgia State University (Atlanta, GA)
James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA)
Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX)
Tarleton State University (Stephenville, TX)
Texas A&M University-Commerce (Commerce, TX)
The University of Texas at San Antonio (San Antonio, TX)
University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Lafayette, LA)
University of North Texas (Denton, TX)

IPEDS Selected Peer Institutions

Methodology

A group of comparison institutions selected by IPEDS with the following characteristics:

- Carnegie Classification of Master's Colleges & Universities - Larger Programs
- Control of Institution – Public
- Enrollment of a Similar Size

This comparison group includes the following 28 institutions:

Angelo State University (San Angelo, TX)
Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)
Bridgewater State University (Bridgewater, MA)
California State University-Bakersfield (Bakersfield, CA)
California State University-Stanislaus (Turlock, CA)
Central Connecticut State University (New Britain, CT)
Central Washington University (Ellensburg, WA)
Coastal Carolina University (Conway, SC)
College of Staten Island CUNY (Staten Island, NY)
Fort Hays State University (Hays, KS)
Jacksonville State University (Jacksonville, AL)
Murray State University (Murray, KY)
Northwest Missouri State University (Maryville, MO)
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Slippery Rock, PA)
Southeast Missouri State University (Cape Girardeau, MO)
Southern Connecticut State University (New Haven, CT)
Texas A & M International University (Laredo, TX)
The College of New Jersey (Ewing, NJ)
University of Central Missouri (Warrensburg, MO)
University of Central Oklahoma (Edmond, OK)
University of Minnesota-Duluth (Duluth, MN)
University of North Alabama (Florence, AL)
University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls, IA)
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (La Crosse, WI)
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (Whitewater, WI)
West Texas A & M University (Canyon, TX)
William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)
Youngstown State University (Youngstown, OH)