

Higher Education Data, Policy, and Leadership Resources

A Reference Guide for Department Chairs and Academic Leaders

Web resources reviewed August 2026. Historical or discontinued resources are identified where applicable.

Core National Higher Education Data Sources

These are important sources for understanding enrollment, graduation, finances, staffing, and institutional performance.

Resources

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

- <https://nces.ed.gov/>

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

- <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>

Digest of Education Statistics

- <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest>

Condition of Education

- <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/>

College Navigator

- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Data.gov

- <https://www.data.gov/>

U.S. Census Bureau Education Statistics

- <https://www.census.gov/topics/education/educational-attainment.html>
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Student Success, Retention, and Graduation

Resources focused on persistence, transfer, retention, graduation, and student outcomes.

Resources

National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

- <https://nscresearchcenter.org/>

National Student Clearinghouse

- <https://www.studentclearinghouse.org/>

Student Achievement Measure (SAM)

- <https://www.studentachievementmeasure.org/>

SAM Institutional Data

- <https://www.studentachievementmeasure.org/participants>

College Results Online

- <https://collegeresults.org/>

Education Trust

- <https://edtrust.org/>

College Scorecard

- <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>
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Research, Graduate Education, and University Productivity

Resources related to research activity, doctoral education, federal funding, and institutional classification.

Resources

Science & Engineering Indicators

- <https://nces.nsf.gov/indicators>

NSF Academic Institution Profiles

- <https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/profiles/>

NCSES Interactive Data Tool

- <https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/ids>

Carnegie Classifications

- <https://www.carnegiefoundation.org/our-work/postsecondary-innovation/carnegie-classifications/>

Council of Graduate Schools

- <https://cgsnet.org/>

Center for Measuring University Performance

- <https://mup.umass.edu/>

Web of Science

- <https://clarivate.com/products/web-of-science/>
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Faculty, Workload, Compensation, and Academic Careers

Resources concerning faculty productivity, workload, engagement, compensation, and workplace climate.

Resources

NEA Almanac of Higher Education

- <https://www.nea.org/about-nea/our-members/higher-education-faculty-staff>

Delaware Cost Study of Faculty Workload

- <https://ire.udel.edu/cost/>
- *Historical resource; study discontinued after 2024.*

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

- <https://nsse.indiana.edu/>

COACHE

- <https://coache.gse.harvard.edu/>

PayScale

- <https://www.payscale.com/>
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Institutional Finance, Costs, and Funding

Resources focused on budgeting, expenditures, state appropriations, and cost analysis.

Resources

Grapevine

- <https://grapevine.illinoisstate.edu/>

Delta Cost Project (AIR)

- <https://www.air.org/project/delta-cost-project>

Student Debt Resources (TICAS)

- <https://ticas.org/posd/home>
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Diversity, Equity, Access, and International Education

Resources focused on student diversity, equity, minority-serving institutions, and global engagement.

Resources

Open Doors (Institute of International Education)

- <https://opendoorsdata.org/>

NCES HBCU Data

- <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=667>

National Longitudinal Survey of Freshmen

- <https://web.sas.upenn.edu/nlsf19992003/about/>
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Policy, Governance, and State Higher Education Systems

Resources used by policy analysts, governing boards, state agencies, and higher education leaders.

Resources

NCHEMS

- <https://nchems.org/>

SHEEO

- <https://sheeo.org/>

Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

- <https://www.sreb.org/>

State Postsecondary Education Structures Handbook

- <https://repository.lib.fsu.edu/islandora/object/fsu:267109>
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Florida Higher Education Resources

Important resources for Florida department chairs and academic administrators.

Resources

Florida Board of Governors Fact Books

- <https://www.flbog.edu/universities/key-university-info/university-fact-books/>

Florida Legislature

- <https://www.leg.state.fl.us/>

Florida Fiscal Portal

- <https://floridafiscalportal.laspbs.state.fl.us/>

OPPAGA

- <https://oppaga.fl.gov/>

Florida Auditor General

- <https://flauditor.gov/>

Florida Statutes

- <https://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/>

Florida 12-Hour Law

- https://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1012/Sections/1012.945.html
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Campus Safety and Accountability

Resources addressing compliance, safety reporting, and campus transparency.

Resources**Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis**

- <https://ope.ed.gov/campussafety/#/>

College Scorecard

- <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>
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Benchmarking and Institutional Comparison

Tools for comparing institutions on admissions, finances, graduation rates, student demographics, and outcomes.

Resources**Common Data Set Initiative**

- <https://commondataset.org/>

IPEDS

- <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>

College Navigator

- <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Results Online

- <https://collegeresults.org/>

College Scorecard

- <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>
-

News, Publications, and Higher Education Commentary

Resources useful for staying informed about trends and policy developments.

Resources

Chronicle of Higher Education

- <https://www.chronicle.com/>

Inside Higher Education

- <https://www.insidehighered.com/>

Higher Ed Data Stories

- <https://www.highereddatastories.com/>
 - *Archived; final post February 24, 2025.*
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Career and Workforce Resources for Students

Resources

My Next Move

- <https://www.mynextmove.org/>

O*NET Online

- <https://www.onetonline.org/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook

- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Glassdoor

- <https://www.glassdoor.com/>

MyMajors

- <https://www.mymajors.com/>
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Notes

Historical Resources

- Delaware Cost Study (discontinued after the 2024 cycle).
- Higher Ed Data Stories (ended February 24, 2025).

Reference Books for Department Chairs and Academic Leaders

Department Chair Resources

- *The Essential Department Chair* (Jeffrey Buller)
- *Positive Academic Leadership* (Jeffrey Buller)
- *Best Practices in Faculty Evaluation* (Jeffrey Buller)
- *The Department Chair Primer* (Don Chu)
- *Academic Leadership* (Deryl Leaming)
- *Managing People* (Deryl Leaming)
- *Leading Academic Change* (Ann Lucas)
- *Communication Skills for Department Chairs* (Higgerson, Cashin & Gmelch)
- *Working with Problem Faculty* (Crookston)
- *Time Management for Department Chairs* (Hansen)
- *The Teaching Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Improved Performance and Promotion/Tenure Decisions* (Peter Seldin, J. Elizabeth Miller, Clement A. Seldin, Wilbert McKeachie)
- *The Academic Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Documenting Teaching, Research, and Service* (Peter Seldin, J. Elizabeth Miller)
- *The Administrative Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Improved Administrative Performance and Personnel Decisions* (Peter Seldin, Mary Lou Higgerson)
- *Strengthening Departmental Leadership: A Team Building Guide for Chairs in Colleges and Universities* (Ann Lucas.)
- *The University: An Owner's Manual* (Henry Rosovsky)

Leadership and Change Management

- *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* (Covey)
- *Leading Change* (Kotter)
- *Our Iceberg Is Melting* (Kotter & Rathgeber)
- *The One Minute Manager* (Blanchard & Johnson)
- *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* (Lencioni)
- *Death by Meeting* (Lencioni)
- *The Five Temptations of a CEO* (Lencioni)
- *Silos, Politics and Turf Wars* (Patrick Lencioni)
- *How the Way We Talk Can Change the Way We Work* (Kegan & Lahey)
- *When Employees Don't Do What They're Supposed to Do* (Fournies)
- *Gung Ho* (Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles)

Books and Articles for Department Chairs and Academic Leaders

Academic Leadership

- Dettmar, Kevin. *How to Chair a Department*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2022.
- Hey, Jeanne. *The Balancing Acts of Academic Leadership: A Guide for Department Chairs and Deans*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2021.
- Kouzes, James, and Barry Posner. *Leadership in Higher Education*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2019.
- Nielsen, Larry. *Provost: Experiences, Reflections, and Advice from a Former “Number Two” on Campus*. 2013.

Articles

- Hayes, Gillian R. “On Leading People Who Don’t Want to Be Led.” *Inside Higher Education*, May 12, 2026.

Academic Leadership Classics

- Buller, Jeffrey. *The Essential Department Chair: A Comprehensive Desk Reference*, 2nd ed. Jossey-Bass, 2012.
- Buller, Jeffrey. *Positive Academic Leadership: How to Stop Putting Out Fires and Start Making a Difference*.
- Chu, Don. *The Department Chair Primer: What Chairs Need to Know and Do to Make a Difference*, 2nd ed. Jossey-Bass, 2012.
- Gmelch, Walter, and Val Miskin. *Chairing an Academic Department*. Atkins Publishing, 2004.
- Gunsalus, C. K. *The College Administrator’s Survival Guide*. Harvard University Press, 2006.
- Higgerson, Mary Lou, William E. Cashin, and Walter H. Gmelch. *Communication Skills for Department Chairs*. Jossey-Bass, 1996.
- Leaming, Deryl R. *Academic Leadership: A Practical Guide to Chairing the Department*, 2nd ed.
- Leaming, Deryl R. *Managing People: A Guide for Department Chairs and Deans*.
- Lucas, Ann F. *Leading Academic Change: Essential Roles for Department Chairs*. Jossey-Bass, 2000.
- Lucas, Ann F. *Strengthening Departmental Leadership: A Team-Building Guide for Chairs in Colleges and Universities*. Jossey-Bass, 1994.
- Rosovsky, Henry. *The University: An Owner’s Manual*. W. W. Norton & Company, 1990.

- Seldin, Peter, and Mary Lou Higgerson. *The Administrative Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Improved Administrative Performance and Personnel Decisions*. Jossey-Bass, 2004.

General Leadership

- Brown, Brené. *Dare to Lead*. Random House, 2018.
- DeWitt, Peter. *Collaborative Leadership: Six Influences That Matter Most*. 2017.
- Feltman, Charles. *The Thin Book of Trust: An Essential Primer for Building Trust at Work*. Thin Book Publishing Co., 2021.

Leadership Classics

- Covey, Stephen R. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Simon & Schuster.
- *On Leadership*. Harvard Business Review, 2011.
- Kotter, John P. *Leading Change*. Harvard Business Review Press, 1996.

Issues in Higher Education

- Arum, Richard, and Josipa Roksa. *Academically Adrift*. University of Chicago Press, 2011.
- Alexander, Bryan. *Peak Higher Ed: How to Survive the Looming Academic Crisis*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024.
- Berg, Maggie, and Barbara Seeber. *The Slow Professor: Challenging the Culture of Speed in the Academy*. University of Toronto Press, 2025.
- Bollinger, Lee. *University: A Reckoning*. W. W. Norton & Company, 2026.
- Daniels, Ronald J. *What Universities Owe Democracy*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2021.
- Hrabowski, Freeman. *The Resilient University*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024.
- Lukianoff, Greg, and Jonathan Haidt. *The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure*. Penguin Press, 2019.
- Lukianoff, Greg, and Rikki Schlott. *The Canceling of the American Mind: Cancel Culture Undermines Trust and Threatens Us All—but There Is a Solution*. Simon & Schuster, 2025.
- McNeely, Ian. *Unfettered University: Public Higher Education in an Age of Disruption*. Columbia University Press, 2025.
- Rosenberg, Brian. *“Whatever It Is, I’m Against It”: Resistance to Change in Higher Education*. Harvard Education Press, 2023.

Faculty Evaluation and Teaching Effectiveness

Evaluating Faculty

- Buller, Jeffrey L. *Best Practices in Faculty Evaluation: A Practical Guide for Academic Leaders*.
- Seldin, Peter, and J. Elizabeth Miller. *The Academic Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Documenting Teaching, Research, and Service*. Jossey-Bass, 2008.

Teaching Effectiveness and Evaluation

- Wieman, Carl. *Improving How Universities Teach Science*. Harvard University Press, 2017.
- Teaching in Higher Ed: <https://teachinginhighered.com/>
- DiYanni, R., & Borst, A. (2020). *The craft of college teaching: A practical guide*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Bain, K. (2004). *What the best college teachers do*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Stachowiak, B. (2020). *The productive online and offline professor: A practical guide*. Sterling, VA: Stylus Publishing.
- Inside Higher Ed : AI and Teaching Resources Collection
- Chronicle of Higher Education: How AI Is Changing Higher Education
- U.S. Department of Education. Office of Educational Technology (2023):
- Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2025). *Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work*.
- Seldin, Peter, J. Elizabeth Miller, Clement A. Seldin, and Wilbert McKeachie. *The Teaching Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Improved Performance and Promotion/Tenure Decisions*, 4th ed. Jossey-Bass, 2010.

Time Management

- Hansen, Christian K. *Time Management for Department Chairs*. Jossey-Bass, 2011.
- Blanchard, Kenneth, and Spencer Johnson. *The One Minute Manager*. Berkley Books, 2016.
- Tracy, Brian. *Eat That Frog!* Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2025.

Building Morale and Managing Conflict

- Crookston, R. Kent. *Working with Problem Faculty: A Six-Step Guide for Department Chairs*. Jossey-Bass, 2012.
- Chronicles of Higher Education. *Strengthening Faculty Morale*. 2026.

Managing Meetings, Teams, and Administrative Tasks

- HBR Guide to *Making Every Meeting Matter*, Harvard Business Review Press, 2016.

- Lencioni, Patrick. *Death by Meeting*. Jossey-Bass, 2004.
- Lencioni, Patrick. *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*. Jossey-Bass, 2002.
- Lencioni, Patrick. *Silos, Politics, and Turf Wars*. Jossey-Bass, 2006.

Additional Readings

- Fitzpatrick, Kathleen. *Generous Thinking: A Radical Approach to Saving the University*. 2019.
- Mirivel, Julien C. *The Art of Positive Communication: Theory and Practice*. 2014.
- Miller, John G. *QBQ! The Question Behind the Question: What to Really Ask Yourself to Eliminate Blame, Victim Thinking, Complaining, and Procrastination*. 2012.
- Scott, Kim. *Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity*. 2019.