



# FAQ

Last updated: 9/23/19

1. **How much does it cost to join VSA Analytics?**
  - The annual fee is \$2,000, but all APLU and AASCU institutions will pay \$1,000. In addition, community colleges who participate in the VFA will also get the reduced cost of \$1,000.
2. **How many campus users can I add for a single subscription?**
  - You can add as many as you would like, if they have an email address that contains the university domain.
3. **Can I create and save my own peer groups?**
  - Yes. This is a new feature that was added in 2019. You can now create and save multiple peer groups and designate them to start in the reports you view.
4. **Can you display the cohort year for the graduation rate reports?**
  - Yes.
5. **What data sources are you using?**
  - VSA Analytics combines data from 4 different sources: IPEDS, NSF's Higher Education Research & Development survey, the Student Achievement Measure (SAM), and the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard. The data are cleaned and merged at the institution level, allowing subscribers to download the data and analyze it using excel or any analytical tool. We will update the data when newer data are available.
6. **Does VSA Analytics include data from non-subscribers?**
  - Yes, data are available for over 4,200 institutions, regardless of whether they subscribe or not.
7. **Can I share this information externally?**
  - Yes, but we ask that you appropriately reference VSA Analytics as the source and inform us of the use if it is shared outside of your campus.
8. **Does the Student Achievement Measure include data for all 4,200 institution?**
  - No, there are approximately 400 – 500 SAM participants, and the number that submit data and agree to publish it may vary year to year. The VSA will display information for all institutions that participated and agreed to publish their data.
9. **Is the comparison group an average or a median?**
  - Average
10. **Is the Federal R&D Expenditure the mean or the median for the comparison group?**
  - It is the mean or the average.