OP 16: Student Commute Modal Split

2 points available

A. Credit Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions where students use preferable modes of transportation to travel to and from the institution. Commute modal split is a common measure used to evaluate the sustainability performance of a transportation system. Using alternative modes of transportation helps reduce local air pollution and GHG emissions. Walking and biking offer health benefits as well.

B. Criteria

Institution's students commute to and from campus using more sustainable commuting options such as walking, bicycling, vanpooling or carpooling, taking public transportation, riding motorcycles or scooters, riding a campus shuttle, or a combination of these options.

Students who live on campus should be included in the calculation based on how they get to and from their classes.

C. Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions where students attend the physical campus.

D. Scoring

Institutions earn the maximum of 2 points available for this credit by having all students use alternative more sustainable modes of transportation for getting to and from campus. Incremental points are awarded based on the percentage of students that use alternative more sustainable modes as their primary means of transportation. For example, an institution for which 50 percent of students use alternative more sustainable modes and the other 50 percent drive alone would earn 1 point (half of the available points for this credit).

Points for this credit are calculated automatically in the STARS Reporting Tool as follows:

Factor		Total percentage of students using more sustainable commuting options (0-100)		Total points earned
0.02	×	_____	=	**Up to 2**

E. Reporting Fields

Required

- □ Total percentage of students (graduate and undergraduate) that use more sustainable commuting options as their primary means of transportation (walking, bicycling, vanpooling or carpooling, taking public transportation, riding motorcycles or scooters, riding a campus shuttle) (0-100)

- □ A brief description of the method(s) used to gather data about student commuting, including the timeframe for when the analysis was conducted and how a representative sample was reached, if applicable

Optional

- □ Percentage of the institution's students that:
  - Commute with only the driver in the vehicle (excluding motorcycles and scooters) as their primary method of transportation (0-100)
  - Walk, bicycle, or use other non-motorized means as their primary method of transportation (please note that this may include on-campus residents) (0-100)
  - Vanpool or carpool as their primary method of transportation (0-100)
  - Take a campus shuttle or public transportation as their primary method of transportation (0-100)
  - Use a motorcycle, scooter or moped as their primary method of transportation (0-100)
- □ The website URL where information about the programs or initiatives is available
- □ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- □ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- □ Contact information for a responsible party (a staff member, faculty member, or administrator who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

F. Measurement

Timeframe

Report the most recent data available fro within the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.

Sampling and Data Standards

Institutions may use a representative sample to gather data about student commuting behavior. For information about how to measure commuting behavior, see the guidance provided by the Massachusetts Rideshare Program and the South Coast Air Quality Management District..

This credit is scored based on the percentage of students (graduate and undergraduate) using alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle commuting (i.e., more sustainable commuting options). Students who do not regularly attend the physical campus (i.e., distance education students) may be excluded.

G. Standards and Terms

More sustainable commuting options
More sustainable commuting options include transportation modes that do not involve single-occupancy vehicles (i.e. cars with only the driver in the vehicle). Thus, the following commuting options are classified as more sustainable for purposes of STARS reporting: walking, bicycling, vanpooling or carpooling, taking public transportation, riding motorcycles or scooters, riding a campus shuttle, telecommuting or any combination of these options.

Representative sample

A representative sample is a subset of a statistical population that accurately reflects the members of the entire population. A representative sample should be an unbiased indication of what the entire population is like. For example, in a student population of 1000 students in which 25 percent of the students are enrolled in a business school, 50 percent are enrolled in humanities programs, and 25 percent are enrolled in science programs, a representative sample might include 200 students: 50 business students, 100 humanities students, and 50 science students. Likewise, a representative sample of purchases should accurately reflect the institution's total purchases, accounting for seasonal and other variations in product availability and purchasing.

Scoring Example: Student Commute Modal Split

Example University students have the following commuting composition:

- 30 percent live on campus (and, therefore, do not drive alone to commute)
- 15 percent walk, bike, or use non-motorized transportation
- 20 percent take campus shuttles or public transportation
- 5 percent carpool

Total percentage using alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle commuting = 30 + 15 + 20 + 5 = 70

Factor		Total percentage of students using more sustainable commuting options (0-100)		Total points earned
0.02	×	70	=	**1.4**