

2026 VSL Data Collection Specs for Public, 2-Year Institutions

Data Variable Name	Variable Type-Length	Required Y/N	Description	Example
Institution Code	CHAR (2)	Y	School's Institution Code.	99
Institution Name	CHAR (140)	Y	Institution Name.	LA Public College
Institution's Common ID for Student	CHAR (12)	N	Institution's unique ID for Student. Required if SSN not available.	LPC09324
Student Identification Number (SSN)	CHAR (9)	Y	Student Social Security Number (SSN).	987654321
Student Last Name	CHAR (60)	Y	Student's Last Name	Doe
Student First Name	CHAR (60)	Y	Student's First Name	Jane
Student Race	CHAR (1)	Y	Code to indicate student's reported race. See full File Specifications for code chart, including UNKNOWN.	8
Student Sex	CHAR (1)	Y	Code to indicate student's reported sex. F=Female; M=Male; N=Not Reported; Other; or Unknown	F
U.S. Citizenship	CHAR (1)	Y	Is the Student a U.S. Citizen. Y=Yes, N=No, U=Unknown.	Y
Parish or State or Country	CHAR (2)	Y	Code to indicate the location of residence for a student. See full File Specifications for codes.	25
Student Date of Birth	DATE (10)	Y	Student's Birthdate. Required Format: MM/DD/YYYY, including leading zeros.	04/09/2001
CIP Code 6 digits	CHAR (6)	Y	A six-character code from the NCES that corresponds to the field of study. Numbers only. MUST MATCH CIP CODE IN PROGRAM INVENTORY.	510707
Program Name	CHAR (140)	Y	Program name. MUST MATCH PROGRAM INVENTORY.	Phlebotomy Technician
Degree Level	CHAR (3)	Y	Code that demonstrates program type and length. See full File Specifications. MUST MATCH PROGRAM INVENTORY.	COV
Increment Key	CHAR (2)	Y	Code that distinguishes between programs with the same CIP Code. Use leading zeroes if necessary. MUST MATCH PROGRAM INVENTORY.	02
Program Modality	CHAR (1)	Y	Delineates if the program is in-person, online, or hybrid. MUST MATCH PROGRAM INVENTORY.	H
Student Enrollment Date	DATE (10)	Y	Date that the student enrolled in the program. Can be years prior to data collection period, but must be prior to completion date. Required format: MM/DD/YYYY. Use leading zeroes if necessary.	06/07/2022
Student Program Status	CHAR (1)	Y	Student's current status on the last day of the reporting period. Could be still enrolled, completed, withdrawn, etc. See Full File Specifications for codes.	C
Student Completion Date	DATE (10)	N	Student's actual completion date. ONLY USE if the previous field is "C". Must be within the reporting period.	12/03/2025
Student Program Certification Status	CHAR (2)	Y	This is about the PROGRAM. Does the program the student is enrolled in lead to an EXTERNAL certification or credential of some sort? CE – the program is able to qualify the student for an external credential. NE – the program does not lead to any external credential.	CE
Received Certification	CHAR (1)	Y	This is about the STUDENT. If known, did the student receive the EXTERNAL credential. This is NOT to indicate if the student completed the program. It is ONLY about EXTERNAL credentials earned by the student. If you do not know if the student earned their external credentials, indicate "N".	Y

Program Work-Based Learning	CHAR (1)	y	As part of the institution's program's requirements, did or will the student complete work-based learning at an outside business, such as a hospital, firm, etc. Y=YES or N=NO	Y
Program Clock Hours	NUM (4)	Y	The number of instructional clock hours needed to complete the student's program of study.	258
Work-Based Learning Paid	CHAR (1)	N	This is about the student's Work-Based Learning. Is the work-based learning component P=Paid, N=Not Paid, or U=Unknown. ONLY required if Program Work-Based Learning ="Y".	P
Work-Based Learning Type & Hours	CHAR (3)	N	This is about the student's Work-Based Learning. How many total hours are attributed to the work-based learning component during the duration of the student's program? ONLY required if Program Work-Based Learning="Y".	CE4
High School Flag	CHAR (1)	N	This is about the STUDENT. Is the student concurrently enrolled in high school while pursuing the VSL program?	N
Prisoner Flag	CHAR (1)	N	This is about the STUDENT. Is the student incarcerated and attending an institution that is authorized to teach prisoners?	N
Inventory Code	CHAR (8)	N	This is for LCTCS only. This is about the PROGRAM. This indicates the 8-character system-level inventory code for the program. MUST MATCH LCTCS PROGRAM INVENTORY.	51070702