

Maryland Charles Benil

History

1. When was the student unit-record (SUR) system established?
1977.
2. By whom?
Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).
3. For what purpose (e.g., resource allocation/funding formula, IPEDS, tracking student retention/ graduation, tracking students across institutions)?
IPEDS, tracking student retention/graduation, tracking students across institutions, enrollment projections and program review.

Coverage

1. What institutions are included in your SUR system?
Public and only Maryland residents at most independent colleges.
2. Are any independent institutions included (number or percentage)? What about proprietary institutions? Are different kinds of data or different schedules for data collection used for any of these institutions?
Approximately 16 independent colleges and universities participate. This is 60% of all independents – however, these represent the largest independents. Some data is public but it is reported only for Maryland residents at those colleges.
3. Are there plans to expand the system's coverage in terms of institutions? Please explain.
Not at this time.
4. When are data of which type collected (e.g. term/quarter/semester census date, annual, end of term, etc.)? Other reporting cycles?
Enrollment information system – census (fall semester) (SIS)
Degree information system – annual (DIS)
Financial aid information system – annual (FAIS)
5. Are there plans to collect data more frequently or on a different cycle?
Not at this time.
6. Is non-credit enrollment or instructional activity covered (e.g. ABE, ESL, GED, other job-related continuing education activity, etc.)? If so, is this in a separate database and what data elements are captured?
No, we do not collect non-credit or continuing education within the student unit record collection.

Data Management and Manipulation

1. Who has authority over changing data elements and definitions?
MHEC with multi-segment advice.
2. Are SSNs used as a key link? If they are not, what is used instead? Are there immediate or long-range plans to discontinue use of the SSN as a key link?
Yes, no plans to discontinue.
3. Can campuses access datasets (unit records) themselves -- access in what terms (results, unit record data after it has been cleaned, unit-record data value added). If yes, who has access and how is this managed?
No – files (edited versions) are returned to campus upon request.
4. How do you handle privacy and FERPA issues? Do you have an explicit privacy policy and/or policies governing the use of SUR data by third parties such as institutions and researchers?
Commission policy on release of FERPA data includes both legal and statewide review.
5. Have any FERPA or privacy issues come up recently in your state? If so, how have they affected your ability to use student record information?
K-12 segment developing unit record which will not use SSN, but have its own unique student identifiers. MHEC is working with K-12 system on this issue to ensure K-16 linkages are possible.
6. Do you link SUR data within your state to other databases?
We link with UI wage record – on a special project basis to extract wage information. UI staff responsible for the match and data is restricted to project intent. SAT/ACT – for high school data as part of graduate performance feedback report. SAT data match is done by the College Board and data is restricted to the feedback report. We also share enrollment and degree information with the K-12 agency for Perkins reporting and accountability needs of community colleges.
7. Have you cooperated with other state higher education agencies to share data? If so, please explain.
No.

Reporting and Use of Data

1. What kinds of statistics and reports are generated regularly using SUR data?
We regularly compile enrollment, graduation/retention, and transfer reports, which can be obtained by contacting the Research and Policy Analysis Division.

2. If graduation and retention statistics are generated for institutions (or for the state or system as a whole), how are they calculated (e.g. IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey method, other methods)?
Both can be done on any period from one to seven years. State graduation rates are framed upon system level calculations not IPEDS.
3. What kinds of research projects have recently been undertaken by the state or system using SUR data resources?
Enrollment, graduation/retention and transfer reports can be obtained by contacting the Research and Policy Analysis Division at:

www.mhec.state.md.us/publications.research.index.asp
4. What are the biggest challenges you face with respect to using SUR data resources for analysis and reporting?
Staff resources limitations (both IT and research).

Overview

1. Have there been any significant developments in regards to your SUR since 2002?
We now use the Web for data file submissions.
2. Is there anything that you would like to add that we have not addressed?
No.