

North Dakota Grant Crawford

History

1. When was the student unit-record (SUR) system established?
1998.
2. By whom?
No response.
3. For what purpose (e.g., resource allocation/funding formula, IPEDS, tracking student retention/ graduation, tracking students across institutions)?
No response.

Coverage

1. What institutions are included in your SUR system?

The North Dakota University System campuses:

Bismarck State College
Dickinson State University
Lake Region State College
Mayville State University
Minot State University
Minot State University – Bottineau Campus
North Dakota State University
North Dakota State College of Science
University of North Dakota
Valley City State University
Williston State College

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?
No.
3. Are there plans to expand the system's coverage in terms of institutions? Please explain.
No.
4. When are data of which type collected (e.g. term/quarter/semester census date, annual, end of term, etc.)? Other reporting cycles?
Enrollment (students, courses, majors, demographics): third week (census date), end of semester, annually
Programs Offered/Programs Completed: annually
Faculty Appointments: annually

Vocational / Technical Data (students, courses, demographic): annually
IPEDS Reports: as required
Admissions Exemption Report: annually
FISAP – Annually
Common Data Set – Annually
Homeland Security Information - Annually

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?
Non-Credit enrollment data is captured in separate databases on each campus and then compiled to produce an annual NDUS report. This annual report is aggregate data non-identifiable.

Data Management and Manipulation

1. Who has authority over changing data elements and definitions?
End-User Community in conjunction with University System personnel.
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?
We use EMPLID as the primary key in the NDUS student administration system. However, SS # is a stored value and is populated whenever possible (when the student is willing to provide). The annual reporting, which unduplicates, uses SS # (where available) to accomplish this unduplication.
3. Can campuses access datasets themselves? If yes, who has access and how is this managed?
The current NDUS student administration system is relatively new and data access at the present time is either non-existent or very limited. However, we plan to provide query and report instances where end-users can retrieve data for review, analysis, and reporting. A data warehouse concept is also being review and considered for implementation as dollars become available to do so.
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?
We comply with all aspects of FERPA legislation. We do not have any additional privacy policies.

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?
We have had no FERPA privacy issues that we know about. Professionalism in North Dakota finds us erring on the side of FERPA compliance perhaps even more than the law intended.
6. Do you link SUR data within your state to other databases?
Yes. Higher education and other government agencies have established a separate government agency (FINDET-Follow-up Information on North Dakota Education and Training). Once the FINDET Office has received the data, they match SS number to wage files to determine if students have remained in ND. Data is reported in aggregate format with a suppress feature if the number is less than five.
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?
Most reports and/or statistics are available under REPORTS AND INFORMATION on the North Dakota University System website at: www.ndus.nodak.edu
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)?
The IPEDS Graduation Rate Survey method.
3. What kinds of research projects have recently been undertaken by the state or system using SUR data resources?
Remedial Course and Enrollment Report (not available on line).
4. What are the biggest challenges you face with respect to using SUR data resources for analysis and reporting?
a) Staff resources; b) Our data system (which happens to be PeopleSoft and which is effective-date driven for nearly all data values); and c) Campuses are not inclined to always enter and maintain data consistently.

Overview

1. Have there been any significant developments in regards to your SUR system since 2002?
The new administrative data system has been installed since 2002. It is a web-based system which allows data entry and modification via web.