

**Oregon (Community College System)
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History

1. When was the student unit-record (SUR) system established?
In 1994-95.
2. By whom?
State Office of Community Colleges Services.
3. For what purpose (e.g., resource allocation/funding formula, IPEDS, tracking student retention/ graduation, tracking students across institutions)?
Funding, advocacy, course/program approval, workforce strategies, education reform strategies, diversity, system accountability.

Coverage

1. What institutions are included in your SUR system?
All public community 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?
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?
We collect transcript level data – we collect each quarter, five times a year for enrollment data. Once per year for degrees data.
5. Are there plans to collect data more frequently or on a different cycle?
No.
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?
Yes, we collect this type of data (remedial, ESL, GED, ABE, adult high school diploma, high school completion courses, and hobby/recreation courses). Some of our courses have credit and others don't – we collect them all.

Data Management and Manipulation

1. Who has authority over changing data elements and definitions?
Oversight committee that makes recommendations to commissioner. This is a collaborative process.
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. We talk about discontinuing the use of SSNs, but we are using it still. K-12 uses an ID that we are working on incorporating into our system.
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. We are working towards this.
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 [can we have a copy]?
We follow federal guidelines pretty strictly. We also get legal approval before any data is shared and yes, we do have a statement (please see our web site).
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?
No.
6. Do you link SUR data within your state to other databases?
UI wage record and high school records – they send us information (SSN) and we put this together with our records and send back.
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?
Annual enrollment reports and annual fact book.
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)?
Yes we do generate graduation and retention rates for institutions and the state as a whole; we do use the IPEDS method (for the most part).

3. What kinds of research projects have recently been undertaken by the state or system using SUR data resources?
Projections, student success, retention, transfers and ad hoc impact reports on community colleges and the economic.
4. What are the biggest challenges you face with respect to using SUR data resources for analysis and reporting?
We need more staff – the turnover of college staff who submits is the real problem. We have to go back to square one with the staff as to why it is important, why we need the data by the deadline, etc. Data quality is reduced because of these issues.

Overview

1. Can you give me a quick update on events affecting the SUR database since 2002? Have there been any significant developments in regards to SUR (like use of different technology, use of web for data submission by institutions, legal issues)?
The Database is used quite a bit by the State legislature – a large percentage of my time is spent on questions, background information, organizing data, and reports for the legislature based on the information found in the database.
2. Is there anything that you would like to add that we have not addressed?
No.