

Texas
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History

1. When was the student unit-record (SUR) system established?
Universities and academic components of community colleges in 1973. Health-related institutions in 1978 and the vocational-technical components of community colleges in 1985.
2. By whom?
Texas Education Code. Subchapter C. 61.051 Powers and Duties of Board.
3. For what purpose (e.g., resource allocation/funding formula, IPEDS, tracking student retention/ graduation, tracking students across institutions)?
T.E.C. Subchapter C. 61.051 Powers and Duties of Board.
 - (a) The board shall establish and maintain a management information system that includes the presentation of uniform statistical information that is appropriate to planning, financing, and decision-making rather than regulation.

Coverage

1. What institutions are included in the SUR system?
Universities and academic components of community colleges in 1973. Health-Related institutions in 1978 and the vocational-technical components of community colleges in 1985. Independent colleges and universities began reporting student data in fall 2002 and degree data in fall 2003. Career Schools that offer associate degrees were required to report annual student and degree report in fall 2004.
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?
Independent colleges and universities began reporting student data in fall 2002 and degree data in fall 2003. They do not submit a summer report and the fall and spring data is limited. Career Schools that offer associate degrees were required to report an annual student and degree report in fall 2004.
3. Are there plans to expand the system's coverage in terms of institutions? Please explain.
We are evaluating whether to collect student level student and degree data on "Extension Programs" at public universities. Extension programs are defined as ones that do not get state funding.
4. When are data of which type collected (e.g. term/quarter/semester census date, annual, end of term, etc.)? Other reporting cycles?
Public institutions is by Term—effective census date.
Independent institutions are for fall and Spring Terms —effective census date.

Career Schools that offer associate degrees are annual

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 included?
Public community colleges are allowed to report continuing education (CEU) students (CBM00A) and classes (CBM00C) by quarter. The following link will get one to the reporting requirements. <http://www.txhighereddata.org/ReportingManuals.cfm>

Data Management and Manipulation

1. Who has authority over changing data elements and definitions?
There is an internal Data Committee.
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 SSNs are the key link; we have no plans to discontinue the use of SSNs.
3. Can campuses access datasets themselves? If yes, who has access and how is this managed?
No.
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?
Privacy and FERPA issues -- As a state educational authority, we are not permitted to re-disclose personally identifiable student information without the consent of the student. All SUR data that is disclosed to researchers must be encrypted in a manner that will not permit the identification of any student. Disclosure of SUR data to institutions of higher education is done in accordance with a policy that requires our institutions to designate certain data as "directory information" or to have the specific consent of the student for such disclosure.
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?
A P-16 data warehouse began being developed in 2001 with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the State Board of Education Certification. (matched at TEA). UI Wage records (matched internally) have been matched for community, state, and technical college students over the last 9 years and released back to the college if they have signed a confidentiality form.

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?
Enrollment and graduation reports, university accountability reports, and Community College Data Profiles can be found at our web site:
<http://www.txhighereddata.org/>
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)?
Based on the IPEDS definition of Graduation Rate Survey- 6-yrs for universities and 3-yrs for community and technical colleges.
3. What kinds of research projects have recently been undertaken by the state or system using SUR data resources?
University Accountability (<http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/Accountability/>)

High school to College (<http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/HSCollLink.cfm>)

1992 cohort of 7th graders through higher education
<http://www.txhighereddata.org/Topics.cfm#SpecInterest>

First-time undergraduate application, acceptance, enrollment
<http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/AppAccEnr.cfm>
4. What are the biggest challenges you face with respect to using SUR data resources for analysis and reporting?
Staff resources for analysis; FERPA limitation of small cell counts that might disclose a student's identity; internal workload to match external reports like UI Wage records due to FERPA which had been done by the Workforce Commission.

Overview

1. Have there been any significant developments in regards to your SUR system since 2002?
Detail edit procedures changed from mainframe to server applications; edit 6 times a day rather than once a day; working on a more user friendly server-based display of historical data versus the mainframe version called PREP; high school to college linkage is live at the CB website at <http://www.txhighereddata.org/Interactive/HSCollLink.cfm>; and at TEA's website at <http://www.texaseducationinfo.org/tpeir/Index.asp>