

**Wisconsin
Sue Michalek**

History

1. When was the student unit-record (SUR) system established?
1973.
2. By whom?
Mandated by the Board of Regents (BOR), implemented by this office (Office of Policy Analysis and Research).
3. For what purpose (e.g., resource allocation/funding formula, IPEDS, tracking student retention/ graduation, tracking students across institutions)?
All of the above. To provide data to assist the BOR and University of Wisconsin (UW) System officers better manage the system. In the 1970s and '80s, it was used as the base of the funding formula.

Coverage

1. What institutions are included in your SUR system?
All institutions in the UW System: two doctoral/research universities, 11 four-year comprehensive universities and 13 two-year freshman/sophomore 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?
Each semester, including summer term.
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
No.

Data Management and Manipulation

1. Who has authority over changing data elements and definitions?
System Administration's Office of Policy Analysis and Research, working in concert with campuses.
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?
A student identification number is used; that number may be, but need not be, the SSN. No, there are no plans to discontinue the use of SSNs.
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?
Yes, campuses determine who has access to their data.
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?
Via restricted use/access.
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?
Yes, through data sharing agreements. Aggregate reporting only and where cell size is sufficiently large.
7. Have you cooperated with other state higher education agencies to share data? If so, please explain.
On a limited, specific project basis, shared/obtained data with other public higher education sectors, unemployment insurance and drivers license records via data sharing agreements.

Reporting and Use of Data

1. What kinds of statistics and reports are generated regularly using SUR data?
Fall enrollment by institution, accountability reports, IPEDS, Fact Book and several other standard reports can be found on our Web site: www.uwsa.edu/opar.
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)?
Standard is six years, though we also calculate it for four and five years.

3. What kinds of research projects have recently been undertaken by the state or system using SUR data resources?

No response.

4. What are the biggest challenges you face with respect to using SUR data resources for analysis and reporting?

Balancing requests for access to the database with maintaining privacy.

Overview

1. Have there been any significant developments in regards to your SUR since 2002?

None.

2. Is there anything that you would like to add that we have not addressed?

No.