

Technical Review Panel Nos. 37 and 40 Outcomes of the Advisory Committee on Measures of Student Success

Final Actions

The Advisory Committee on Measures of Student Success recommended that the Department of Education (ED) broaden the coverage of student graduation data to reflect the diverse student populations at 2-year institutions and improve the collection of student progression and completion data. In response, ED released an action plan for improving measures of postsecondary student success in support of the Administration's college completion agenda and based on those recommendations. RTI International, the contractor for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) web-based data collection system, convened two meetings of the IPEDS Technical Review Panel (TRP)¹ in Washington, DC to address these needs.

On February 28 and 29, 2012, RTI convened TRP 37 to discuss selected outcomes of the Advisory Committee on Measures of Student Success. The panel consisted of 48 individuals representing institutions, researchers and other data users, state governments, the federal government, higher education associations, and others. This TRP suggested that NCES clarify the definition of a degree/certificate-seeking student for IPEDS reporting purposes and collect certain outcome information in IPEDS for first-time, part-time students.

On October 23-24, 2012, RTI convened TRP 40 to continue the discussion regarding additional selected outcomes of the Committee, particularly its recommendation that outcome information be collected for non-first-time undergraduate students. The panel consisted of 48 individuals² representing institutions, researchers and other data users, state governments, the federal government, higher education associations, and others. This TRP suggested that NCES collect certain outcome information in IPEDS for non-first-time students similar to information that was proposed by the first panel for first-time, part-time students. The panel also suggested that similar outcome information be collected for first-time, full-time students.

Following each meeting, RTI posted a summary of the TRP suggestions to the web (https://edsurveys.rti.org/IPEDS_TRP/Default.aspx) for public comment. RTI solicited comments by notifying keyholders and coordinators through a "This Week in IPEDS" email announcement and encouraged member associations involved in the TRP to notify their constituents and stakeholders. Comments were left open for approximately 30 days. The comment period for suggestions from TRP 37 closed on May 29, 2012. RTI received 21 comments from interested parties in response to the posting. The comment period for TRP 40 closed on January 14, 2013. RTI received 36 comments from interested parties in response to the posting. Following the comment periods, RTI outlined recommendations for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) based on the outcomes of the TRP meetings and subsequent public comment periods. NCES has taken the actions listed below.

¹ Meetings of the IPEDS TRP are conducted by RTI to solicit expert discussion and suggestions on a broad range of issues related to postsecondary education and the conduct of IPEDS. The TRP is designed to allow the public to advise and work with RTI to improve IPEDS data collection and products, data quality, and user-friendliness. The TRP does not report to or advise the Department of Education.

²This was a new panel of 48 individuals. Several individuals (including members of the National Postsecondary Education Cooperative) participated on both panels.

Changes to IPEDS Data Collections, 2014-15 and 2015-16

NCES requested and received clearance from the Office of Management and Budget on the following proposed changes to the IPEDS data collection for 2014-15 and 2015-16:

- **Clarify the definition of degree/certificate-seeking student.**
 - Degree/certificate-seeking students: Students enrolled in courses for credit who are seeking a degree, certificate, or other formal award. This includes students who:
 - received any type of federal financial aid,
 - received any state or locally based financial aid with an eligibility requirement that the student be enrolled in a degree, certificate, or transfer-seeking program; or
 - obtained a student visa to study at a U.S. postsecondary institution
 - High school students also enrolled in postsecondary courses for credit are not considered degree/certificate-seeking.

NCES implemented the clarified definition of degree/certificate-seeking student in 2014-15.

- **Implement new Outcome Measures (OM) component.**
 - Collect outcome measures data from degree-granting institutions on four cohorts of entering degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students. The four cohorts are as follows:
 - full-time, first-time;
 - part-time, first-time;
 - full-time, non-first-time; and
 - part-time, non-first-time.
 - For each of the four cohorts, collect the status update at 8 years after the cohort enters the institution, with award and/or enrollment information collected for at the 6-year and 8-year time points.
 - Academic reporting institutions report using a fall cohort; program and hybrid reporting institutions report using a full-year cohort.

The OM data collection was first collected in the IPEDS 2015-16 collection year, with a preview year in 2014-15.

Proposed Changes to the Outcome Measures Component, 2017-18

NCES has received thoughtful public comments and expert suggestions for improving the OM survey to collect more information on Pell Grant recipients, as several TRPs (TRPs 24, 37, 40, 45, and 50) have encouraged NCES to collect information on this vulnerable population.

In February 2016, NCES requested clearance from the Office of Management and Budget for the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 IPEDS data collections. The clearance package included several proposed changes, including a proposal to begin collecting outcome information on Pell Grant recipients in the OM component starting with the 2017-18 data collection. The initial proposed change for the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 collections was the addition of a fifth cohort, Pell

Grant recipients; however, after reviewing feedback in response to the request for comments³ on proposed changes, NCES determined the expansion of the OM component to collect data on Pell Grant recipients would benefit from broader industry input. RTI convened TRP 50 in August 2016 to discuss the potential for further changes to this component and the impact of the changes to institutions, researchers, and the Department of Education. The proposed changes were originally suggested during the 60-day and 30-day public comment periods and were further discussed and formulated during TRP 50. NCES submitted a subsequent IPEDS clearance request to OMB in November 2016 for proposed amendments to the OM component for the 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 data collections. NCES received clearance from OMB to implement the proposed changes to the OM component, starting with the 2017-18 data collection for entering cohort year 2009-10. (See Final Actions from TRP 50 https://edsurveys.rti.org/IPEDS_TRP_DOCS/prod/documents/TRP50_FinalAction.pdf for approved changes to the OM component for the 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 data collections).

³ (Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 32, pp. 8181- 8182, February 18, 2016)