

## **Report and Suggestions from IPEDS Technical Review Panel #21 Issues of Concern to Non-Degree-Granting Institutions**

**SUMMARY:** The technical review panel suggests a number of changes to the IPEDS survey forms to further refine the data collected from non-degree-granting institutions, improve data quality and comparability, and decrease the institutional reporting burden. Comments from interested parties are due to Janice Kelly-Reid, IPEDS Project Director at RTI International, at [jrk@rti.org](mailto:jrk@rti.org), by March 28, 2008.

On January 15-16, 2008, RTI International, the contractor for the IPEDS web-based data collection system, convened a meeting of the IPEDS Technical Review Panel (TRP), in Washington, DC. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit input from the postsecondary community regarding ways in which the IPEDS data collection system can be further refined to improve data collection from non-degree-granting institutions. The panel members included 35 individuals representing federal government, state government, institutions, national data users, associations, and others. The TRP discussed several changes to the survey forms that would better capture data from non-degree-granting institutions.

### **Background**

In 1999, before IPEDS data collection moved to the current web-based format, non-degree-granting institutions completed a shorter version of IPEDS reporting requirements via paper-based consolidated survey forms. However, when the transition to the web-based collection was made, the consolidated forms were not incorporated into the new system. The web-based system in general allows for customization of the IPEDS components for different types of institutions. RTI International called this meeting of the TRP to discuss whether the data collection for non-degree-granting institutions could be *further* refined to provide more relevant and better quality data for this group of institutions, while maintaining a reasonable reporting burden on these sometimes small and often under-resourced institutions.

A total of 2,300 non-degree-granting Title IV institutions report to IPEDS annually. Although IPEDS data in general are widely used, statistics for non-degree-granting institutions are rarely published. For instance, only one table in the annual NCES publication *Digest of Education Statistics* applies to these institutions. Further, IPEDS includes survey items that are not applicable to non-degree-granting institutions.

### **Discussion**

The TRP reviewed the eight IPEDS survey component forms and scrutinized all of the data elements currently being collected. Primarily, the panel discussed whether survey components could be revised for non-degree-granting institutions in order improve the accuracy and comparability of data, as well as to decrease institutional burden. The panel suggested the following changes to the forms:

<b>SUGGESTED CHANGES TO IPEDS FORMS FOR NON-DEGREE-GRANTING INSTITUTIONS</b>	
<b>Survey Component</b>	<b>Suggested Changes for Non-Degree-Granting Institutions</b>
<b>Institutional Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate Student Charges and Room and Board in Part D (currently only 42 non-degree-granting institutions report these data).</li> <li>• Eliminate Athletic Association in Part E (currently, less-than-2-year institutions do not report this information but 2-year and 4-year institutions that are non-degree-granting do).</li> </ul>
<b>Completions</b>	No changes
<b>12-Month Enrollment</b>	No changes
<b>Human Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate the following categories—primarily instruction, instruction/research/public service, primarily research, and primarily public service—into one category: “Staff whose primary responsibility is instruction, research, and/or public service.”</li> <li>• Combine the EAP and Fall Staff sections into one section: for odd-numbered years, require the reporting of data by race/ethnicity and gender, and for even-numbered years, make optional the reporting of race/ethnicity and gender.</li> </ul>
<b>Graduation Rates</b>	<p>No changes</p> <p><i>Note: A GRS validity study is currently being conducted. Once it is complete, the usability of the data for non-degree-granting institutions will be analyzed.</i></p>
<b>Fall Enrollment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate column 2 (transfers-in) and column 5 (non-degree/certificate seeking) from <i>Part A – Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Gender</i>. The panel noted that transfers-in data are rarely applicable to non-degree-granting institutions and are not a good measure for the population of students in the sector. Thus, many non-degree-granting institutions do not track transfers-in.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Financial Aid</b>	No changes
<b>Finance (FASB, Not-for-Profit)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Screening questions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminate the endowment assets screening question (SQ3).</li> <li>- Eliminate the intercollegiate athletic expenses screening question (SQ4).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Part A – Statement of Financial Position, Pages 1 and 2:</i> Eliminate</li> <li>• <i>Part B – Summary of Changes in Net Assets:</i> Eliminate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note that Total revenues and investment return (Line 01) would be collected in Part D (Line 16), and Total expenses (Line 02) would be collected in Part E, Line 13.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Part C – Student Grants:</i> No changes.</li> <li>• <i>Part D – Revenues and Investment Return:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminate Line 12, Sales and services of auxiliary activities</li> <li>- Eliminate Line 13, Hospital revenue</li> <li>- Eliminate Line 14, Independent operations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Part E – Expenses by Functional and Natural Classification:.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminate Line 07, Auxiliary enterprises</li> <li>- Eliminate Line 09, Hospital services</li> <li>- Eliminate Line 10, Independent operations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Part H – Value of Endowment Assets:</i> Eliminate</li> </ul>
<b>Finance (FASB, for-profit)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Part A – Balance Sheet Information:</i> Eliminate</li> <li>• <i>Part B – Summary of Changes in Equity:</i> Eliminate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note that Total revenues (Line 01) would be collected in Part D, Line 09; and Total expenses (Line 02) would be collected in Part E, Line 07.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Part C – Student Grants:</i> No changes</li> <li>• <i>Part D – Revenues and Investment Return:</i></li> </ul>

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<b>Survey Component</b>	<b>Suggested Changes for Non-Degree-Granting Institutions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminate Line 07 – Sales and services of auxiliary activities</li> <li>• <i>Part E – Expenses by Function:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminate Line 04 – Auxiliary enterprises</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Finance (GASB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Screening questions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminate the reporting models for special-purpose governments, such as the colleges and universities screening question (SQ3).</li> <li>- Eliminate the intercollegiate athletic expenses screening question (SQ4).</li> <li>- Eliminate the endowment assets screening question (SQ5).</li> <li>- Eliminate the screening question on the number of component units using GASB and FASB standards (SQ6).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Part A – Statement of Net Assets:</i> Eliminate</li> <li>• <i>Part B – Revenues and Other Additions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eliminate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Line 05 – Sales and services of educational activities</li> <li>○ Line 06 – Sales and services of hospitals</li> <li>○ Line 07 – Independent operations</li> <li>○ Line 20 – Capital appropriations</li> <li>○ Line 21 – Capital grants &amp; gifts</li> <li>○ Line 22 – Additions to permanent endowments</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Part C – Expenses and Other Deductions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to collect operating and nonoperating expenses by function, but eliminate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Line 11 – Auxiliary enterprises</li> <li>○ Line 12 – Hospital services</li> <li>○ Line 13 – Independent operations</li> <li>○ Line 16 – Interest</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Part D – Summary of Changes in Net Assets:</i> Eliminate  <i>Note: Line 01 (Total revenues and other additions) is already collected in Part B (Line 25) and Line 02 (Total expenses and deductions) is already collected in Part C (Line 19).</i> </li> <li>• <i>Part E – Scholarships and Fellowships:</i> No changes</li> <li>• <i>Part F – Component Unit That Uses FASB Standards –</i> Eliminate</li> <li>• <i>Part G – Component Unit That Uses GASB Standards –</i> Eliminate</li> <li>• <i>Part H – Details of Endowment Assets –</i> Eliminate</li> <li>• <i>Parts I, J, K, L – Data for Bureau of the Census:</i> No changes</li> </ul>

### **What are the reporting implications of these suggestions?**

If the suggestions are implemented, the Institutional Characteristics, Enrollment, Human Resources, and Finance survey forms for non-degree-granting institutions would be modified and the reporting burden reduced.

### **Comments**

RTI is concerned about improving data integrity and quality for non-degree-granting institutions while reducing the reporting burden. **We encourage interested parties to send any comments or concerns about this topic to Janice Kelly-Reid, IPEDS Project Director, at [jrk@rti.org](mailto:jrk@rti.org), by March 28, 2008. Please include the following in the e-mail subject line: Issues of Concern to Non-Degree-Granting Institutions – Comments.**