Definitions of the 2004-05 CSRDE & STEM Retention Surveys

Part A: Definitions for All Sections

1. Timing Definition
   The definition of "a year" for this survey is the 12-month period from the beginning of a fall term in one year to the beginning of the following fall term. The fall enrollment status is based on the official reporting date for the IPEDS fall enrollment report.

2. First-Time Freshman (See IPEDS definition)
   "An entering freshman who has never attended any college. Includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended for the first time in the prior summer term. Also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school)."
   Report only full-time, baccalaureate degree-seeking, first-time freshmen in this survey.

3. Admission Score (ACT or SAT)
   Report the average composite ACT or SAT score used by the majority of your freshmen for purposes of admission. Report the recentered SAT composite scores.

4. Ethnic Groups (See IPEDS definitions)
   Black, Non-Hispanic
   "A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa (except those of Hispanic origin)."

   Hispanic
   "A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race."

   Asian or Pacific Islander
   "A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or Pacific Islands."

   American Indian or Alaskan Native
   "A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America or who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition."

   White, Non-Hispanic
   "A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East."

   Nonresident Alien
   "A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States and who is in this country on a visa or temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely."

   Note: There is no need to report in a separate subgroup those who did not identify with one of the above ethnic groups. However, they should be included in the total reported on Page 1 of the survey and noted on the checklist accordingly.
5. Continuation Rates
Continuation rate is the percentage of first-time freshmen in a given fall term who returned to the institution in a subsequent fall term. For example, the “continued to 3rd year” rate for fall 1997 first-time freshmen is the percentage of fall 1997 first-time freshmen who returned for fall 1999. The calculation of continuation rate does not include students who returned to the institution after having graduated from the same institution. For specific time points for reporting, see 2004-05 Survey Documentation Form.

6. Cumulative Graduation Rates
Graduation rate is the cumulative percentage of first-time freshmen in a given fall term who graduated within a designated period of time. For example, the “graduated in five years” rate for fall 1998 first-time freshmen is the percentage of fall 1998 first-time freshmen who graduated from the institution by the fall 2003 term, including those students who completed their courses during the summer of 2003. For specific time points for reporting, see 2004-05 Survey Documentation Form.

Part B: Definitions for Sections II and III

7. Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Disciplines
This survey should include the following STEM disciplines using the CIP 2000 codes: CIP 03.xxxx Natural Resources and Conservation, CIP 11.xxxx Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services, CIP 14.xxxx Engineering, CIP 15.xxxx Engineering Technologies/Technicians, CIP 26.xxxx Biological and Biomedical Sciences, CIP 27.xxxx Mathematics and Statistics, and CIP 40.xxxx Physical Sciences. In addition, it should also include: CIP 01.0000 Agriculture, General; CIP 01.0801 Agriculture and Extension Education Services; CIP 01.09-01.9999 Various Animal Science and Food Sciences; CIP 30.1901 Nutrition Sciences; and CIP 30.2401 Neuroscience.

8. Full-time, First-time Freshman STEM Majors
In Sections II and III, report the first-time, full-time freshmen who declared STEM as their intended majors.

9. Institution-wide vs. Discipline-specific Retention
The cohort group for each year is the same for both Section II and Section III. We are looking for the first-time freshman students who begin as a STEM major at your institution. The only difference between these two sections will be in the rates reported. This is explained below.

Institution-wide Continuation and Graduation Rates (Section II)
For Section II, track the continuation and graduation rates of the first-time freshman students who begin and remain as a STEM major, and ALSO those who begin as a STEM major and switch to a non-STEM major at your institution at some point during their college career.

Discipline-specific Continuation and Graduation Rates (Section III)
For Section III, track ONLY the continuation and graduation rates of the first-time freshman students who begin as a STEM major and continue or graduate with a STEM major at your institution.