Graduation Rate Dashboard

Data Validation Questions

* **Question #1: Is the 8-year Absolute Graduation Rate (AGR) < IPEDS 6-yr graduation rate**
* For institutions with a predominantly first-time full-time (FTFT) student population the AGR seems to track equal to or greater than the IPEDS 6-year (150%) graduation rate.

*Institutions with small populations of FTFT students (or relatively high populations of transfer students) may find the IPEDS rates are unpredictable because of the population size and an unreliable comparison to the AGR.*

*It may be worthwhile to investigate in detail what the differences are between the IPED- defined and GRD-defined populations.*

**Question #2: Is the 8-year Unit Redemption Rate (URR) < 8-year Absolute Graduation Rate (AGR)?**

* For most institutions, the URR is expected to track parallel to but slightly higher than the AGR.

*Why? Because students who graduate are generally expected to have taken more units on average than those who did not continue.*

**Question #3: Is ‘d’ (the ratio of non-continuing units to graduating units) = >1?**

* Students who graduate are generally expected to take more units than those who don’t graduate and don’t continue (stop-out, drop-out, withdraw, inactive, etc.).

*If you see the value of ‘d’ rising starting asking questions about the unit and headcount accuracy or, if accurate, ask why are students not graduating when by numerical count they have enough units?*

**Question #4: Is the IPEDS 12-month unduplicated headcount +/-20% of GRD 12-month enrolled student headcount?**

* The IPEDS definition of 12-month unduplicated headcount *is different* than the GRD enrollment headcount (see definitions). In many institutions it is not uncommon that the headcounts are in general agreement (within +/- 20%) depending on the student population. If the IPEDS and GRD headcounts are equal however it may be that the institution has a unique student population or is not applying the GRD definitions.

*It may be worthwhile to investigate in detail what the differences are between the IPEDS-defined and GRD-defined populations.*

**Question #5 Is the IPEDS 12-month graduate headcount +/- 25% the GRD graduate headcount?**

* The IPEDS definition of 12-month headcount of graduate*is different* than the GRD headcount of graduates (see definitions). In most institutions it is expected that the headcounts will be in general agreement (within +/- 25%) depending on the student population. If the IPEDS and GRD headcounts are equal it may be that the institution has a unique student population or is not correctly identifying the differences between the definitions.

*It may be worthwhile to investigate in detail what the differences are between the IPEDS-defined and GRD-defined populations.*