Office of Institutional Research

The mission of the Office of Institutional Research (IR) is to provide university leaders, faculty and staff, and state and federal constituencies with timely, easily accessible and accurate information to help create an academic learning environment and to enhance institutional effectiveness.

How Do We Do It?

- IR designs, collects, analyzes, interprets and distributes information, research and survey data to appropriate university individuals and units.
- IR studies and analyzes institutional data to support decisions regarding planning, assessment and evaluation of student learning and institutional effectiveness.
- IR acts as an intermediary between multiple units to bring about change in policies and procedures to ensure better data standardization and integrity.
- IR makes commonly requested information available on our website and generally will use the site to highlight information that may be broadly useful for planning, evaluation, assessment and decision making.
- IR keeps logs of the reports, services and assistance we provide, and regularly assesses our own effectiveness and solicits external feedback on how we may better meet the needs of those we serve.

What We Do?

Data Integrity and Management—IR supports various data collection, storage and clean-up efforts at the university. The office has been tasked with spearheading the Data Integrity Steering Committee, which involves developing relationships among the various data management officers and working with them to ensure the development and use of standard and consistent definitions, developing audit procedures to catch anomalies, and coordinating the inspection of data and information released. IR maintains a growing, centralized library of historical institutional data and seeks to enhance data fluency at the institution.

Research and Analysis—At the behest of the university administrators, faculty and staff, as well as other institutional stakeholders, IR conducts research on contemporary issues related to higher education or to the mission of the university. Internally, IR conducts numerous analyses of university data, including researching student retention, projecting and modeling future enrollment, and longitudinal studies of key performance indicators. Lately institutional researchers have also been taking on an increasing role in policy analysis. New government mandates about reporting, requirements from accrediting bodies, and ratings and rankings such as U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” require institutional research professionals to evaluate external events and demands placed on the university.

External Reporting—IR works with departments across the university to comply with requests from various external entities: the federal government (e.g., Department of Education—IPEDS) and local government, accrediting bodies (e.g., SACS, ABET), numerous publishers of online and print materials (e.g., U.S. News & World Report, Times Higher Education, Princeton Review), and other groups.

Internal Reporting—IR collects and disseminates institutional data to a wide range of administrative and academic offices throughout the university. One of the most important reports generated is the Official Count Report (OCR), which establishes student headcount and credit hours for each term. It is the basis for budgetary and resource allocation as well external reporting. To help with dissemination of university data, IR has begun the process of expanding the institution’s Business Intelligence footprint. Development of an Executive Dashboard is the office’s first step in further increasing data fluency at the university.
What Can We Do For You? How Can We Help?

• Provide the necessary institutional background/demographics for grant proposals, faculty courses, custom requests by college and/or department for historical trends
• Provide students with limited/aggregate data for class projects
• Provide required information for program reviews and assessment
• Provide data to employers/recruiters
• Provide retention/graduation rates analyses
• Provide research and expenditures information

DATA ELEMENTS (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

— STUDENT
  » Credit hours
  » Demographics
  » Test scores/profile information
  » FTE calculations
  » Course grades
  » GPAs

— EMPLOYEE
  » Headcount
  » Demographics
  » FTE calculations

— STUDENT/FACULTY SCHEDULES

Do you have a data request?

Step 1— For all data requests, please visit our website at www.fit.edu/oir.

Step 2— If you are seeking data other than what is available on our website, complete our custom report service form as seen here.

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