



Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

HEI Data Bulletin No. 4

Date: April 15, 2009

Issue: Enrollment File Eliminations

Files affected: Non-Credit Enrollment (NE), Flexibly Schedule Course Section (FS), Extended Programs (EP), Extended Student (ES), Private Enrollment (PE), Private Degree (PD), Special Cohort (SC)

Description:

HEI Liaisons and Regents staff conducted a review of HEI enrollment files in 2008. It was determined that the following enrollment files should be eliminated from HEI data collections, effective immediately:

1. Non-Credit Enrollment (NE) file
2. Flexibly Schedule Course Section (FS) file
3. Extended Programs (EP) and Extended Student (ES)
4. Private Enrollment (PE) and Private Degree (PD)
5. Special Cohort (SC).

Descriptions of each file and the rationale for elimination follow:

1. Non-Credit Enrollment (NE) file

This is a unit-record file containing data on students in non-credit courses. For the most part, these students are employees of businesses that have contracted with public colleges and universities to receive non-credit education and training. This file has always been optional, and campus submission rates have dwindled to very low rates in recent years.

The problem is that the business customers are very reluctant to supply student rosters with social security numbers. Most of them won't do it. If a school insists on the data, they lose the business.

In addition, to comply with new federal government reporting requirements, we have to adopt more detailed race/ethnicity codes in all HEI enrollment files. To remain current, the NE file format would have to be revised, creating an additional burden on the campus data providers and the HEI programming staff.

The file has never been formally used.

2. Flexibly Schedule Course Section (FS)

This file is submitted each term, and contains a listing of all of an institution's courses that are not offered on the usual academic calendar. This file dates back to the UIS days, when flexibly scheduled courses were more unusual than they are now. The FS data are not used for any current reports but had been used occasionally in enrollment auditing.

3. Extended Programs (EP) and Extended Student (ES)

These two files are used to identify students in bachelor's degree programs that take longer than the standard four years to complete. They were established to identify "timely completers" in the distribution of Success Challenge funds.

Two developments greatly reduce the value of the EP and ES data. First, the Academic Programs (AP) file can now be used to determine the completion time for programs. All of the EP information is subsumed within the AP file. Second, updating the Success Challenge data will no longer be needed after FY 2009.

The next scheduled submission date for the EP and ES is June 15, 2009. It will not be necessary to submit those files at that time.

4. Private Enrollment (PE) and Private Degree (PD)

These are optional enrollment and degree completion files submitted by private colleges and universities. File submission rates are very low. The rationale for the creation of these files was that we would get additional information on student transfers and degree completions. The hope was that we would move up from the initial 50% participation rates toward something approaching 100%. Instead, we moved in the opposite direction, with less than 10% participation currently. Any information that we could get from these files could also be obtained from the National Student Clearinghouse.

5. Special Cohort (SC)

This is an optional data collection that was originally set up to perform the same function that the Cohort Tracking file performs now. The most recent SC file was submitted in 2005.