

Date: December 3, 2012

Subject: UW Data & Washington State's Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System (PCHEES)

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (E2SHB 1795) of 2011 introduced several new accountability requirements for institutions of higher education in the state. One of the bill's provisions required that institutions report annual performance data.

In response to this requirement, a new performance dashboard based on data from the Public Centralized Higher Education Enrollment System (PCHEES) is becoming publicly available today. This brief aims to inform the UW community of the information collected by PCHEES, while the dashboard itself is discussed in greater detail in a [companion brief](#).

What is PCHEES?

The Office of Financial Management (OFM), in partnership with the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), created PCHEES in 1998. PCHEES was initially built to provide data for the Higher Education Enrollment Reports, Budget Driver Reports, and Public Higher Education Enrollment Projections [published by OFM's Forecasting Division](#).

In response to growing demands for information about public four-year institutions, PCHEES was expanded to include data on student admissions, enrollment outcomes, and degree completions. This additional data is intended to satisfy the research needs of the HECB (now the Washington Student Achievement Council) and the OFM's Educational Research and Data Center (ERDC). It also serves as the primary source for public four-year education data in the ERDC's [Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System \(P-20\)](#), which is intended to map students' outcomes from early learning through postsecondary education and into their careers.

Over the past year, OFM created and implemented the [Statewide Public Four-Year Dashboard](#) to deliver an overview of enrollment, retention, and graduation for different demographic groups across the State's public four-year institutions. Today, the Dashboard was updated to provide more detailed enrollment, progress, and degree information for each institution (but not each campus) separately.

Given the Legislature's growing thirst for information, PCHEES is likely to rise in prominence over the next few years. Consequently, the Office of Planning and Budgeting has worked in close partnership with the Office of the Registrar and other campus units over the last year to ensure that the data we provide to PCHEES is as accurate and as complete as possible.

What type of information does PCHEES collect?

Every quarter, each public four-year institution makes two data submissions to PCHEES: one on census day and one at the end of the quarter. The following information is provided **for each student taking at least one for-credit course**:

Student Demographics: Beyond the usual personal characteristics such as name, birth date, sex, race and Hispanic identity, PCHEES also collects information on Washington State residency, U.S. immigration status, veteran status, and self-reported disability status. In addition, it tracks the student's primary enrollment campus and site, class standing, major and GPA. The financial information PCHEES collects is limited to whether students pay resident or non-resident

tuition (after exemptions and waivers), whether they pay any self-sustaining course fees, the types of tuition exemptions and waivers they receive, and whether they receive Pell or State Need grants or any veteran benefits.

Student Course Registration: The UW reports all the course sections in which a student is enrolled for credit, whether or not the student is repeating the course, whether the student's registration is state-funded, the number of credits the student has attempted and earned, as well as the grade outcome. We also report on the student's academic level, first major, primary campus, term GPA, and cumulative GPA.

Student Admission: One of the goals of PCHEES and the P-20 effort is to track students across institutions. For this reason, PCHEES collects the latest admission information for each enrolled student each quarter, including elements such as student type (freshman, transfer, graduate, etc.), running start affiliation, county, state and nation of origin, completion information for any previous institution attended, previous credits earned (AP, IB, and others), as well as standardized test scores (SAT, ACT).

Student Completion: For every UW degree granted in a given quarter, PCHEES collects information on majors, minors, and the number of credits earned. In the case of students earning teacher certifications, the UW is also required to provide their teaching certification number.

Programs Offered: The PCHEES system tracks the field of study and concentration (as described by the classification of instructional programs - CIP - codes) for every degree the UW offers.

Courses Offered: The PCHEES system tracks the course name, number and subject CIP code of every course we offer. It also tracks the type of instruction (lecture/seminar/lab, etc.) and delivery (face-to-face/correspondence/web-based, etc.), the site of delivery, and, if applicable, the type of online delivery.

Opportunities for Internal System Improvements

Any effort to compile data across various institutions with distinct reporting practices is bound to have difficulties. Although OPB has made a concerted effort to comply with PCHEES data requirements, there remain a few student and course characteristics that we simply cannot provide at this time. OPB will continue to work with data custodians across the three campuses to improve data collection and reporting practices, gradually perfecting the accuracy and usefulness of the data we submit to PCHEES.

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