



What Works & What Doesn't in Common Data Set Financial Aid Reporting

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AIR Annual Forum 2015

Current Cumulative Debt Questions

- + **H4. Provide the percentage of the class who borrowed at any time through any loan programs** (institutional, state, Federal Perkins, Federal Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized, private loans that were certified by your institution, etc.; exclude parent loans). Include both Federal Direct Student Loans and Federal Family Education Loans. _____%
- + **H4a. Provide the percentage of the class who borrowed at any time through federal loan programs** – Federal Perkins, Federal Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized. Include both Federal Direct Student Loans and Federal Family Education Loans. NOTE: Exclude all institutional, state, private alternative loans and parent loans. _____%
- + **H5. Report the average per-undergraduate-borrower cumulative principal borrowed of those in line H4.** \$ _____
- + **H5a. Report the average per-undergraduate-borrower cumulative principal borrowed, of those in H4a**, through federal loan programs – Federal Perkins, Federal Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized. Include both Federal Direct Student Loans and Federal Family Education Loans. These are listed in line H4a. NOTE: Exclude all institutional, state, private alternative loans and parent loans. \$ _____

Proposed Changes to Improve Cumulative Debt Data

- + **Issue:** Debt burden is ever-increasing topic of public and research interest but current data are not as comprehensive as desired.
- + **Proposal:** Revise H4/H4a & H5/H5a and add the following:
 - Number in graduating class and number of graduates who borrowed each type of student loan
 - Details about nonfederal loan borrowing (state, institutional, private):
 - Number and percentage of class receiving nonfederal loans
 - Average per-borrower cumulative undergraduate indebtedness in nonfederal loans
- + **Note:** Colleges are currently instructed to define these groups and report nonfederal borrowing for existing CDS questions.

Mock-Up of 2015-16 Proposed Cumulative Debt Questions

- + H4. Provide the **NUMBER** of students in the 2015 undergraduate class who started at your institution as first-time students and received a bachelor's degree between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. Exclude students who transferred into your institution. _____
- + H5. **NUMBER** and **PERCENT** of students in class (defined in H4) borrowing from federal, nonfederal, and any loan sources, and the average (or mean) amount borrowed:

	Number in the class (defined in H4) who borrowed	Percent of the class (defined above) who borrowed (nearest 1%)	Average (mean) per-undergraduate-borrower cumulative principal borrowed, of those in the first column (nearest \$1)
a) Any loan program: Federal Perkins, Federal Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized, institutional, state, private loans that your institution is aware of, etc. Include both Federal Direct Student Loans and Federal Family Education Loans.		%	\$
b) Federal loan programs: Federal Perkins, Federal Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized. Include both Federal Direct Student Loans and Federal Family Education Loans.		%	\$
c) Institutional loan programs.		%	\$
d) State loan programs.		%	\$
e) Private alternative loans made by a bank or lender.		%	\$

Your Thoughts about Debt Questions

- + What are your reactions to proposed changes to the reporting for cumulative debt?
- + Are there potential areas of concern or questions relating to these changes that should be addressed in the instructions?
- + What are your thoughts about reporting means vs. medians, or reporting both means and medians?

Reporting Need- vs. Non-Need-Based Aid

- + **Issue:** There is ongoing discussion about changing the reporting of need-based vs. non-need-based aid in order to more specifically reflect the aid awarded on the basis of need vs. other factors. Currently, non-need-based aid is reported under need-based dollars, to the extent those dollars met need.
- + **Proposal:** Revise table (H1) to enable separate reporting of need-based vs. non-need-based aid, while still showing how much was used to meet need. For example:

Scholarships/ Grants	Need-Based	Non-Need-Based	
		Used to Meet Need	Not Used to Meet Need
Total (\$24,000)	\$11,000	\$4,000	\$9,000

Questions for Discussion

- + What are pros/cons of moving in this direction to report need-based vs. non-need-based aid?
- + Which CDS financial aid items are the most time-consuming, confusing or difficult for you to complete?
 - Do you have any suggestions for changes or amplifications to the instructions that might help?

Questions for Discussion

- + What about reporting means/medians across all students instead of (or in addition to) only those with debt?
- + Are there any items for which the instructions are different from IPEDS, leading to potentially inconsistent results?
- + How do you use CDS data internally?
<https://www.airweb.org/eAIR/specialfeatures/Pages/Common-Data-Set-Return-Investment.aspx>