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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number in the class (defined in H4) who borrowed</th>
<th>Percent of the class (defined above) who borrowed (nearest 1%)</th>
<th>Average (mean) per-undergraduate-borrower cumulative principal borrowed, of those in the first column (nearest $1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Institutional loan programs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) State loan programs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Private alternative loans made by a bank or lender.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarships/Grants</th>
<th>Need-Based</th>
<th>Non-Need-Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Used to Meet Need</td>
<td>Not Used to Meet Need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ($24,000)</td>
<td>$11,000</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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