

# Alternative Measures Working Group

# Charge

- To examine issues related to measures of student success *other than* progression and completion measures such as retention, transfer, completion, and graduation rates.
  - student learning outcomes
  - employment outcomes,
  - other outcomes associated with missions of two-year institutions

# Members

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# Discussion

- Topics:
  - Overall Considerations
  - Student Learning
  - Developmental Progression
  - Employment
- Each topic considered:
  - Issues
  - Potential Areas for Recommendation
- Example metrics were compiled for the three areas of student success

# Overall Considerations - Issues

- “Success” may mean different things to different students:
  - Whose domain is a particular measure?
    - What is the role of the federal government, states and institutions?
  - How will outcomes be measured?
  - How will acceptable levels of performance be determined?
  - How should data be disclosed or reported?

# Overall Considerations - Issues

- What is the purpose of disclosure/reporting?
  - To improve consumer information?
  - To improve accountability?
  - Consumer's viewpoint needs to be considered here.

# Overall Considerations – Potential Areas for Recommendations

- Alternative measures of student success should be reported.
  - Voluntary reporting:
    - Provides institutional flexibility
    - May reduce burden on institutions
  - Mandatory reporting:
    - If institutions are already reporting it elsewhere.

# Overall Considerations – Potential Areas for Recommendations

- Universal/common measures should be considered, reported in a consistent and accessible format
- Should include student populations that are typically excluded:
  - part-time, developmental ed and others
  - “First-time” cohort should distinguish amongst “first-time in college and “first-time at institution”

# Overall Considerations – Potential Areas for Recommendations

- The Department should weigh the additional administrative burden to institutions against the benefits of transparency with regards to informing students and policy formation.
- The Department should encourage institutions to provide/disclose alternative measures of success.
  - with a user-friendly/accessible format
  - And highlighting important information

# Student Learning - Issues

- Appropriate level of student learning outcomes needs to be defined.
- Area of student learning outcomes is very diverse with many potential items to report.
- Possibly explore learning outcomes across domains of learning:
  - General Education
  - Occupational/Certification
  - Developmental Education

# Student Learning – Potential Areas for Recommendations

- The Department has a role in helping make data more accessible to the public.
  - Should not serve solely as a data repository.
- The Department should find ways to encourage colleges to disclose/report data in a reasonable format.

# Student Learning – Example Metrics

- Pass rates from licensure exams
- Course completion rates
- Results from External Instruments/Surveys:
  - Community College Learning Assessment (CCLA)
  - Community College Student Survey of Engagement (CCSSE)

# Developmental Education Progression - Issues

- Overlap with the Progression and Completion Working Group
- Developmental Education is playing an increasing role in student success at many 2-year institutions.
- Developmental Education for reporting/disclosure purposes needs to be clearly defined.

# Developmental Education Progression- Potential Areas for Recommendations

- Perhaps look at progression as a separate cohort.
- Consider including introductory course success in these measures.

# Developmental Education Progression – Example Metrics

- Overall enrollment
- Success beyond developmental education
  - Those who complete a developmental education course
  - Those who complete a developmental education course and a college-level course in the same subject
- Introductory Course Success within the first two consecutive years.

# Employment - Issues

- Final regulations to ensure program integrity in federal financial aid programs will go into effect on July 1, 2011.
- What measures of employment, particularly those explicitly connected to the mission of two-year institutions could potentially be used?

# Employment - Potential Areas for Recommendations

- Measures of employment outcomes being examined by the Committee should not be tied to the gainful employment reporting that is being proposed in the Department's regulations.
  - Average student debt reporting should be considered, however.
- Service/market areas will need to be well defined.

# Employment – Example Metrics

- Overall Measures:
  - Total workforce enrollment/retention
  - Market Penetration
- Preparation for Employment/Employment Measures:
  - Licensure exam pass rates
  - CTE degree/certificate grads employed/enrolled
  - Wage growth of graduates

# Employment – Example Metrics

- Workforce Development:
  - Enrollment in non-credit workforce development courses.
  - Transition from non-credit to credit.
  - Outcomes of students who complete non-credit programs
  - Volume – annual granting of recognized credentials