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Standards & Research: Can Standards Make the Task Easier?

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Data Standards

- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems: Banner, Datatel, Peoplesoft
- Business process defines data collection – and shares this resource among ERP modules
- Student record based
- Highest visibility for Data Standards is upon ERP implementation
- ERP implementation strategy may determine level of integration and data integrity.

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Research Types

- Operational: Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM), policy review & compliance, program costing & resource allocation
- Academic: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, program review
- Institutional accountability: Key Performance Measures, Provincial system and national



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Forms of Research Activity

- Student record level: segmentation based on student attribute, cohort analysis based on time parameter and program affinity, predictive analysis.
- Survey: student evaluation of instruction, National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC).
- Institutional description: highest level of aggregation based on externally defined attributes.



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Operational

- Data context is couched in ERP system development
- Institutional data integration: data warehouse or data mart
- Data partners: student as core, other institutional stakeholders
- Organizing standards through a data standards committee



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Typical Data Standard Issues

- Name, date, address formats
- Transcripts: credit, continuing education & extension, co-curricular
- Retention – completion analysis, defining cohorts
- Custodianship for data collection, data integrity, analysis and dissemination



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Data Standard Agencies

- Macleans
- Statistics Canada - PSIS
- CAUBO – university sector financial data
- Regional – Common University Data Ontario (CUDO), Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission
- NSSE, CUSC, Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE)

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Data Standard Agencies

CSRDE conflicting definitions

- Full-time student: Canada 60% full-course load, CSRDE 80%
- First-time & full time is very narrow
- One rate for entire institution – no comparable program level rates reported

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Academic Research

- Issues: student anonymity, use of letter grades, access to grade books, student mobility
- Ad hoc nature of academic research on student education behavior may result in researcher defined 'standards'
- Inclusion of NSSE, CUSC and student evaluation of instruction
- Academic program review: discipline and or program

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Standards & Research Conclusions

- Dynamic nature of systems and stakeholders requires coordination
- Impact is on all involved in the data value chain: collection – dissemination
- Who is central in the standards – research nexus? Primary information officer.
