CCATT Webinar: Data Basics for Higher Education

June 18, 2024



Questions to ask when evaluating institutional data

Cohort:

- 1. What is the student cohort? Which students are included in these data? Which students are not included?
- 2. Are these new students? Returning students? Adult students? Dual credit students? Full-time and/or part-time students? Transfer or workforce students? Credit or non-credit students?
- 3. What other student groups are important to your college?

Timing:

- 1. What year are these from?
- 2. If the data are from a single year, is it possible to collect trend data to see how the data are changing year over year?

Data disaggregation:

1. Are the data disaggregated? By race, age, income, gender, first-generation status, full-time/part-time status, etc.?

Connection between data and institutional priorities:

- 1. How are these data connected to our institutional priorities?
- 2. What do these data tell us about whether we are making progress towards our institutional priorities?

Student Experience:

1. What do these data tell us about the student experience at our college?

What's missing?

- 1. What additional questions do these data raise?
- 2. What additional data do we need to answer these questions?
- 3. What qualitative data (through focus groups, interviews, etc.) should we collect to better understand what students experience?