

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?