SUNY Cortland student outcomes verification of posted data procedures

# Graduation and Retention Rate Information

As a SUNY campus, SUNY Cortland’s Institutional Research and Analysis (IRA) office is required to submit detailed student data files to SUNY administration’s Institutional Research office (SUNY-IR) several times every year as part of a comprehensive reporting system referred to as SIRIS (SUNY Institutional Research Information System). Among the required SIRIS files are a Fall Early Student Submission (ESS) file that represents student enrollment information as of the Fall census date; and two Degrees Awarded Data Submission (DADS) files, one for Fall and Spring graduation, one for Summer.

SIRIS incorporates an extensive data verification process to flag data errors and warnings and requires correction of any errors before submissions will be accepted and approved by SUNY administration. SIRIS submissions then become part of a comprehensive longitudinal data warehouse system maintained by SUNY-IR. SUNY Cortland IRA also maintains local copies of all SIRIS submissions.

SUNY-IR uses their data warehouse to submit annual IPEDS Graduation Rate reports and Fall Enrollment reports (which includes retention rates) on behalf of each SUNY campus. The SIRIS Fall ESS submission process identifies the appropriate first-time full-time entering cohorts. The Fall ESS file from one year is matched to the following Fall’s file to determine first-year retention rates. The DADS submissions allow entering cohorts to be matched to degree recipients to determine graduation rates. SUNY Cortland IRA reviews and independently verifies the accuracy of the IPEDS reports submitted on our behalf by SUNY-IR and then posts those graduation rates in the online college catalog. Both graduation rates and retention rates are posted on the IRA webpage, as well as several other internal reports. Multiple staff within the IRA office review the posted data independently to confirm it is accurate and consistent with SUNY-IR and IPEDS data.

# Performance on Licensing Exams

The most common licensing exams at SUNY Cortland are the New York State Teacher Certification Exams (NYSTCE). NYSTCE is administered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) in collaboration with Pearson Education. Every December SUNY Cortland IRA submits the Title II data collection required by NYSED and Pearson. This consists of a student data file identifying every student who completed the prior year enrolled in or graduated from one of our teacher education majors. Pearson matches our student data file to their warehouse of NYSTCE test results and sends results back to IRA for verification. On verification Pearson then loads aggregate pass rates for Title II reporting purposes every Spring as part of the required Title II Report Card. These aggregate NYSTCE pass rates are then posted in our online college catalog, used in our teacher education accreditation reports, and other internal reports.