

Comprehensive Student Records Fact Sheet

What are comprehensive student records?

Student records are more than just transcripts. All types of information are captured about students as they progress through an educational program yet little of this is reflected on institutional documents provided to them and others, after completion of their time at an institution. A comprehensive student record (CSR) is a fuller reflection of student learning and achievement. It includes the traditional transcript, which is still highly valuable within higher education, but expands beyond credits, grades and course titles in chronological order to provide students with a record of meeting learning outcomes.

Why do students need more than a traditional transcript?

It is widely acknowledged today that learning occurs both within and outside the classroom. Accreditors and others have been pressing higher education to identify and assess more than end-of-term grades as measures of learning. They have required institutions to set learning outcomes and then assess them as evidence that what was intended to be learned may have been. Learning outcomes can be found outside the classroom in internships, leadership experiences, service, and many other co-curricular experiences. However, none of these learning outcomes and most co-curricular experiences do not appear on a traditional transcript. Students often struggle to articulate what they learned and the greater value of their experiences to potential employers, graduate and professional schools.

Technology allows us to do more today than ever before. Co-curricular transcripts are emerging, colleges and departments are independently issuing certificates. Social media tools are replacing standard resumes as the dominant mechanism to express qualifications. What is the role of higher education in all these rapidly accelerating areas?

AACRAO and NASPA Partnership

The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) and NASPA: Association of Student Affairs Professionals, aligned under a common purpose. We are working together to help higher education develop models of comprehensive student records that will provide examples of possible CSR's that can be considered, implemented or further developed. Funded by a generous grant from Lumina Foundation, the project started in July 2015 and will conclude in December 2016.

Goals of the CSR Project

1. Accelerate the creation of a comprehensive student record.
2. Develop a framework for the development of these records.
3. Document the operational and policy considerations for registrars, student affairs officers and other higher education professionals to share with their campuses.
4. Document ways in which the credit hour limits or fails to limit the development of student records, especially in light of competency-based education.
5. Directly assist a group of twelve institutions to develop models of comprehensive student records that may include:
 1. Competency-based education;
 2. Learning outcomes for programs/majors/degrees; and/or
 3. Co-curricular learning records and outcomes.
6. Communicate the results of the project to higher education audiences, generally:
 1. During the project to discuss challenges, progress, and results.
 2. At the conclusion of the project to provide models that institutions may choose to emulate.

Who are the pilot institutions?

From the breadth and variety of American Higher Education, 12 institutions were selected. They include community colleges, public and private, rural and urban, regional and flagship colleges and universities from across the United States. Special attention was paid to select institutions that served traditional undergraduates, adult learners, residential students, commuters, under-represented groups, veterans, under-prepared, and highly selective students.

Institution Name	Location	Institution Name	Location
Borough of Manhattan Community College	New York, NY	LaGuardia Community College	Long Island City, NY
Brandman University	Irvine, CA	Stanford University	Palo Alto, CA
Central Oklahoma University	Edmond, OK	University of Houston Downtown	Houston, TX
Dillard University	New Orleans, LA	University of Maryland University College	College Park, MD
Elon University	Elon, NC	University of South Carolina	Columbia, SC
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis	Indianapolis, IN	University of Wisconsin Extension and Wisconsin Colleges	Madison, WI