

**07/29/2007****UTRN Data Committee Meeting**

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<b>Meeting called by:</b>	Juliette Stoering	<b>Meeting Type:</b>	Data Committee Meeting
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Kathi Ketcheson	<b>Note taker:</b>	Juliette Stoering

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**Agenda item:** First Generation and Financial Aid Indicators                      **Presenter:** Stoering**Background of the problem**

Low income (LI) and first-generation (FG) students are subgroups of particular interest for the Lumina grant, but we have not found a complete data source for creating these indicators for our study cohorts. The only way to derive these at present is through the use of financial aid (FA) data from the community colleges and PSU. The majority of students do not apply for FA, so we would have missing data for the majority of our study cohort.

Options for studying FG/LI and limitations of each

1. Study FG and LI status among the cohorts of community college students (that we have already established) and treat those with no financial aid record as either missing data or assume they are not LI/FG. Only 19% of our community college cohorts have FA records from the community college, which might not be sufficient to represent LI and FG students. For the FG indicator the community colleges would need to extract further, detailed FA information on these students. It is questionable whether the quality of the data for < 20% of the students would be worth the amount of time and effort it would take to extract this information and work with it in the tracking database.
2. Limit the analysis of FG and LI status to students who have a record of enrollment at PSU. PSU has FA records for approximately 46% of those in the community college cohorts who enroll at PSU, however, only approximately 10% of the community college cohorts have enrollment records at PSU. In addition, narrowing the pool to those with records at PSU limits what we know about enrollment patterns that lead to transfer and BA completion.
3. Begin with cohorts of recent PSU graduates and track them back to community college origins. Although we don't yet have an estimate of how many PSU graduates have FA records, we would estimate that we would have a larger number to study, although we would lose the ability to talk about pathways that are UNsuccessful.

### Decisions / next steps

1. For both LI and FG status, use the cohorts of recent PSU grads and their FA data to track pathways backwards. The research question then becomes "among those who are successful are their different patterns and what are they?"
2. In addition, for LI students, also use the existing community college FA data to compare pathways/outcomes of FA recipients based on type(s) of aid received. The research question here is "Does financial support make a difference? What kind makes a difference?"
3. MHCC and PCC will check to see if they have roughly comparable (same term, same types of beginning students) survey datasets that include FG or LI indicators. If these are available with unit record identifiers, we will attempt to forward-track these respondents' pathways.

MHCC and PCC will check into the feasibility of collecting LI and FG data from entering cohorts beginning Fall 2007, so that we can set the foundation for forward-tracking cohorts based on these indicators over the next 6 years.