

Data sources for the accountability framework

All performance measures use data that are currently collected by institutions. Collection activity for data reporting that will require additional information from institution administrative or registration systems will be negotiated prior to performance measure definition and adoption, where possible. Ongoing data requests will be incorporated into existing data collection activity where possible to minimize the impact on institutional and ministry practices. Data are used from the following sources:

1. Central Data Warehouse (CDW)

Twenty public post-secondary institutions, including all colleges and institutes and a majority of universities, submit data twice a year to the Central Data Warehouse. The ministry reports used in the accountability framework are based on data published in the standard reports for the October and May submissions. CDW data are generally available approximately six weeks after the submission date.

2. The Research Universities' Council of British Columbia (RUCBC)

Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Northern British Columbia, and the University of Victoria provide data through the Research Universities' Council of British Columbia (formerly The University Presidents' Council). For the 2008/09 reporting period, Royal Roads University will provide data through RUCBC or directly to the ministry. RUCBC produces a glossary of terms and definitions, which can be found here: <http://www.bcheadset.com/glossary.pdf>.

3. Student outcomes surveys

The accountability framework uses student outcome data primarily from two surveys:

- The Baccalaureate Graduate Survey (BGS), which surveys bachelor's degree graduates two years after graduation. BGS data are provided to the ministry by RUCBC for the 2008/09 reporting cycle.
- The Diploma, Associate degree and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) survey (formerly the College and Institutes Student Outcome survey) includes all program completers and former students who have completed a substantial amount of their program (e.g. 24 credits of arts/science courses, or 75% of an applied program). Students must have left their program of study at that institution and not returned for at least two subsequent semesters. Former students are surveyed approximately a year (between nine and twenty months) after they leave an institution. DACSO data are provided to the ministry by BC Stats.

For student outcomes survey data using telephone and web collection methods, data from both methods will be reported as a combined value.

4. Enrolment reporting of student FTEs

Performance reporting for measures based upon student Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) utilize the enrolment reports submitted by each public post-secondary institution. Institutions currently prepare these enrolment reports in accordance with ministry-issued guidelines (CDW reporting institutions), or in accordance with RUCBC guidelines. FTE data are collected directly by the ministry's Funding and Analysis branch.

5. Student Transitions Project (STP)

The Student Transitions Project is a collaborative project between the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, the Ministry of Education, the public post-secondary institutions, and

British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer. This project provides data related to students transitions between high school and post-secondary education.

6. Additional data sources

The following additional data sources are used for data collection activity within the system:

- The PEOPLE data series (Population Extrapolation for Organizational Planning with Less Error) are annual population projections from BC Stats. The most recent projection is PEOPLE 33 released July 2008.
- Ministry of Education Personal Education Number (PEN) database
- Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS)