

Reporting of Race and Ethnicity

In late 2007, the U.S. Department of Education issued guidance on collecting, maintaining, and reporting race/ethnicity data to the department.

This guidance requires educational institutions to use a two-part question when collecting race/ethnicity data by institutions:

- ⇒ The first question is whether the respondent is Hispanic/Latino.
- ⇒ The second question asks the respondent to identify one or more races with which he or she identifies.

Further, the Dept. of Ed. required:

- ⇒ Separating the category "Asian or Pacific Islander" into two separate categories, one for "Asian" and one for "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander".
- ⇒ Broadened the definition for "Native American and Alaska Native" to include original peoples of North and South America (including Central America).

Regardless of the races or races selected, those that answer the first question (Hispanic/Latino?) in the affirmative are reported as Hispanic.

The Department of Education implemented this new policy in its Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) beginning in 2008. The University of Illinois is required to provide input to IPEDS and receives much of its comparative data regarding other institutions from IPEDS.

New IPEDS Reporting Categories
1) Nonresident Alien
2) Race and Ethnicity unknown
3) Hispanics of any race
For non-Hispanics only:
4) American Indian or Alaska Native
5) Asian
6) Black or African American
7) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
8) White
9) Two or more races

Those selecting one or more races are reported as multi-race or "two or more races". Approximately 2.3% of 2010 incoming University of Illinois freshmen self-reported as being of two or more races.

Approximately 50 of the 2010 incoming freshmen selected "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" as their race.

This guidance becomes mandatory for all types of education data reporting with AY 2011 (this year)