



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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September 15, 2010

Subject: Higher Education Completion Rate Report

To: Chancellor, State System of Higher Education
Presidents of Four Year, Public Colleges and Universities
Presidents of Private, Not-for-Profit Colleges and Universities

From: Dr. Albert Happ, Chief, Division of Higher Education
Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education

Act 88 was signed into law July 29, 2002 and requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to collect and report the completion rates of Pennsylvania residents enrolled in undergraduate programs. This memo is to inform you of this legislation and how the Department of Education will meet the requirement for 2010. A portion of the legislation reads:

Section 114. Report of Graduate Rates for Certain Colleges and Universities —

(a) The Department of Education shall annually conduct a survey related to completion of undergraduate degree programs by students who are residents of this commonwealth in four (4) year, public colleges and universities and in private, not-for-profit colleges and universities in this commonwealth. The survey shall include the following information for each college or university:

1. the number and percentage of first-time, full-time students who graduate in four (4) years or less; and
2. the number and percentage of first-time, full-time students enrolled in approved five (5) year programs who graduate in five (5) years or less.

Data for 2009-2010 will be gathered from ALL institutions identified in the legislation. Directions and survey forms are attached. Report data for multi-campus institutions as a single entity.

If you have questions concerning this request, feel free to contact Dr. Rod Niner, Higher Education Associate, Division of Higher Education, (717) 772-3623 or email at rniner@state.pa.us.

Your cooperation and participation with this data collection is appreciated.