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Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Planning

October 2022

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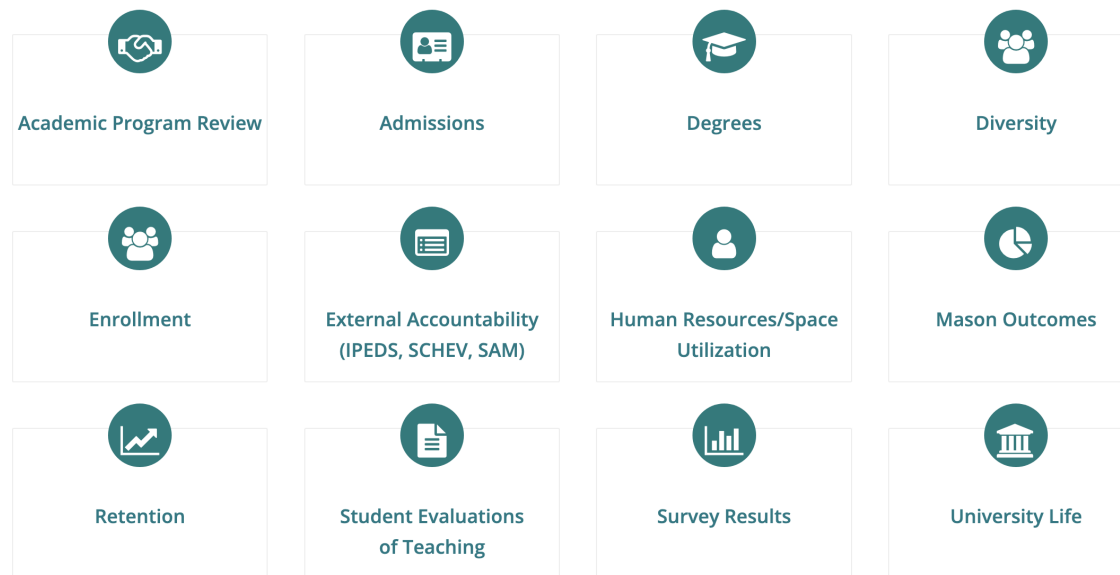
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Self-Service Resources

OIEP is excited to extend its comprehensive suite of resources that provides end users access to valuable assessment and institutional effectiveness data, including for units completing Academic Program Review (APR). OIEP has developed a [portfolio of reports and dashboards](#) which allow users to gain valuable insight into current and historical trends taking place at Mason regarding enrollment - including a new DFW dashboard, degrees awarded, retention, diversity, and more. Users can drill down into the data by school or college, program, year, race/ethnicity, and other variables (VPN is needed for off-campus access to OIEP dashboards).

As a way of assisting users in finding the most appropriate dashboards, OIEP offers a [Reports and Dashboard Index](#) which shows users the available dashboards and reports. Additionally, the index provides a list of the variables contained within each dashboard or report. Since users may be unfamiliar with some of the terminology used in the dashboards and reports, OIEP created a [Glossary of Terms](#) that clearly explains the meaning behind the terms used. Finally, new users

who need guidance on navigating the reports and dashboards can find video tutorials on OIEP's YouTube channel: [Institutional Effectiveness at Mason.](#)



New Data Request Form

OIEP and the Office of the University Registrar (OUR) have partnered to create a single, streamlined data request process to route requests to the appropriate office.

OIEP focuses on producing data aligned with Commonwealth of Virginia (SCHEV) and U.S. Department of Education (IPEDS) standards and definitions. Sometimes referred to as “official” data, this information is normalized to allow comparisons across institutions both within Virginia and the United States and is often based on a specified snap of time, e.g. faculty and staff information aligns with dates required by the U.S. Department of Education. Given this, OIEP’s expertise lies in supporting data requests that must align with these externally defined standards. Additionally, OIEP provides expertise in conducting advanced statistical analyses and research on issues of import to Mason such as student success, faculty satisfaction, etc.

In contrast, data for specific students or courses needed for grant applications/reporting and operational planning often use different standards. Further, the sensitive nature of the data requires the expertise of OUR given their FERPA expertise.

Examples of requests that will be directed to OUR:

- Directory information
- Row level student data requiring FERPA expertise
- Anonymous student information
- Lists of courses, etc.

And to OIEP:

- Aggregate data aligned with official reporting methodologies
- Statutory compliance reporting
- Advanced statistical analysis
- Information drawn from multiple data domains, e.g. faculty and students

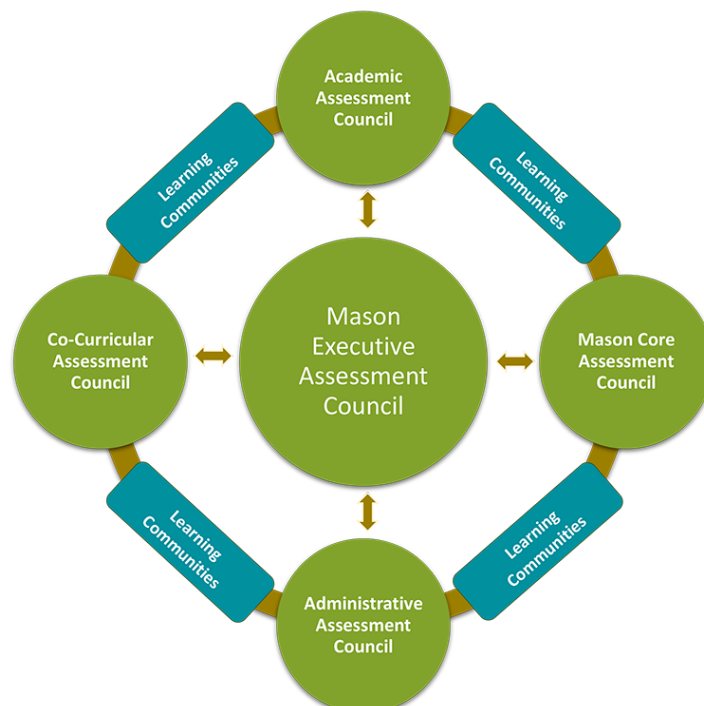
To ensure the production of valid and reliable data, OIEP asks that all data requests be submitted at minimum two weeks prior to the desired deadline. The new form can be found on the [OUR](#) and [OIEP](#) websites.

OIEP Data Request and Services

Mason Assessment Councils

Building on the success of the long-standing Mason Academic Assessment Council (MAAC) and the positive feedback from SACSCOC during Mason's recent reaffirmation process, OIEP is leading the expansion of Mason's assessment council structure.

The newly launched [Mason Executive Assessment Council](#) (MEAC) is a university-wide committee devoted to overseeing assessment strategies in academic, co-curricular, and administrative units while providing guidance to the various assessment councils. The council will support best practices in assessment and ensure Mason remains compliant with state and regional assessment standards. In addition to the MEAC, this fall saw the launch of the Administrative Assessment (AdAC), Co-Curricular (CCAC), and Mason Core (MCAC) councils.



Mason Core Assessment

The 2022-23 academic year marks the beginning of a new assessment cycle for the Mason Core Curriculum. Each semester, instructors who are teaching in the Mason Core will be asked to submit a sample of their course materials and student work, which will be aggregated and assessed as part of the larger Mason Core area in support of ongoing student learning improvement and professional development. In Fall 2022, we are gathering materials from Information Technology/Computing and Quantitative Reasoning.

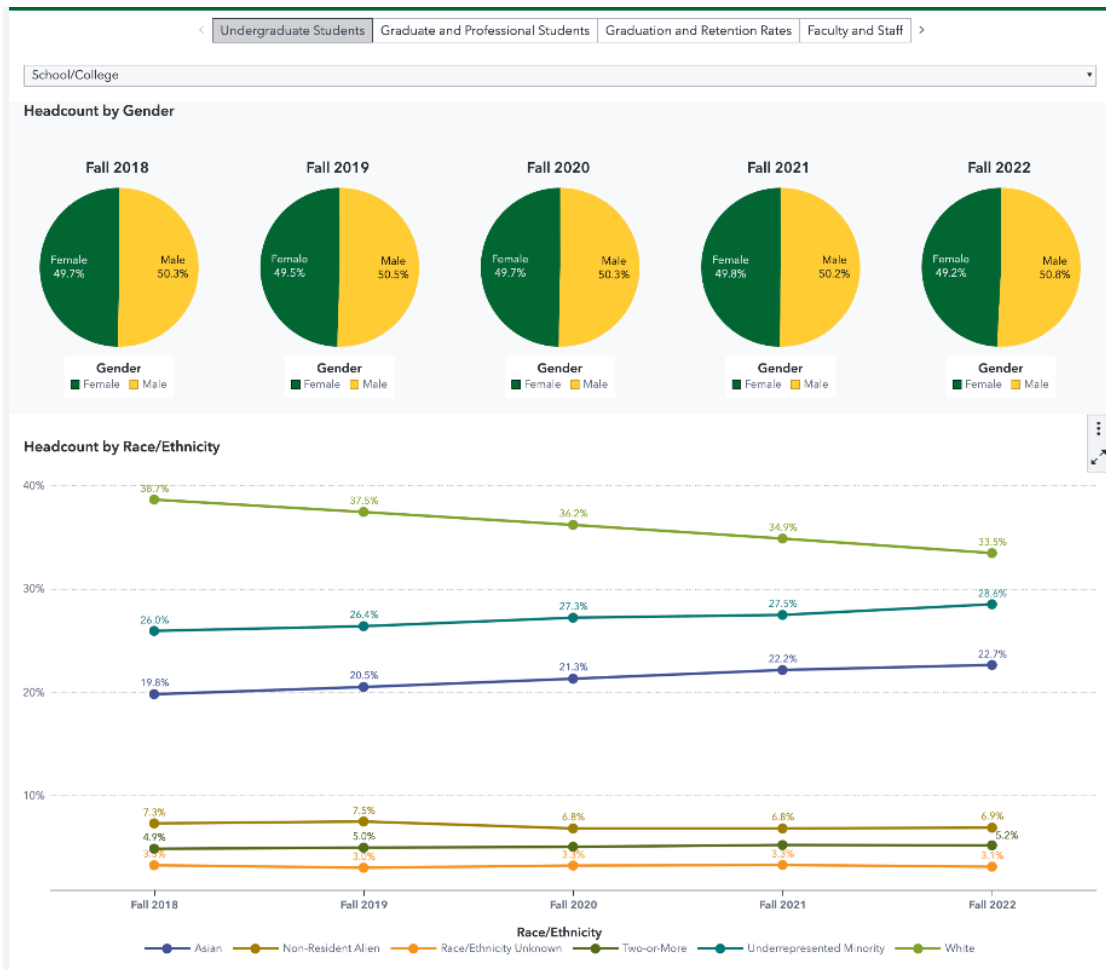
Gina Polychronopoulos, Associate Director for Curricular Assessment, will be facilitating the overall assessment process for Mason Core in collaboration with the Office of Undergraduate Education, Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning, the Mason Core Committee, and the Mason Core Assessment Council. In November, she will be offering information sessions about the assessment process for Mason Core, including detailed instructions on what course materials to submit and how. All faculty are welcome, but we especially encourage those who are teaching in the areas of Information Technology/Computing and Quantitative Reasoning to attend. Please keep an eye out for the email invitation to come. Information sessions will be hosted on Zoom for ease of attendance.

Mason Core Assessment

Data Dashboard In Depth: Diversity at Mason

The [Diversity at Mason dashboard](#) offers a 5-year trend analysis of gender and race/ethnicity within our student, faculty, and staff populations. Data can be filtered by the following:

- Undergraduate and Graduate/Professional Students
 - School/College
- Graduation and Retention Rates
 - Retained, Graduated, Not Enrolled/Not Graduated
 - School/College
 - Major
- Faculty and Staff
 - Division
 - Employee Category



This dashboard is only accessible from the Mason network. If you are off campus, you will need to use VPN to view.

Explore OIEP Dashboards

Tk20 Replacement

Mason's Tk20 contract for annual academic and administrative assessment reporting expired in August. The RFP process for its replacement is well underway with the expectation of having a new tool implemented for AY 2022-23 reporting by late spring 2023. All unit reports and documents in Tk20 have been extracted and archived. Information on implementation and training for the new tool will be shared as it becomes available. Stay tuned!

Learning Opportunities

All OIEP workshops and trainings are recorded and available on OIEP's [YouTube](#) channel: *Institutional Effectiveness at Mason*. Please check our website regularly as upcoming workshops will be added in the coming weeks.



Available Workshops and Trainings

Staff Spotlight: Chris Lee and Brandon Nzekwe



Dr. Chris Lee is Assistant Director of Co-Curricular Assessment in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning. She works with University Life units in annual assessment and program review. Through workshops and consultations, Chris supports units to strategically define annual goals and outcomes to measure program effectiveness and student success outcomes. With co-curricular units and other campus stakeholders, Chris leads the Co-Curricular Assessment Council. The council is dedicated to advancing best practices in co-curricular assessment across the institution. Additionally, she has led efforts in establishing Co-Curricular Program Review, first through a pilot, and now an official launch with units undergoing the process on a seven-year cycle. Using mixed methodology approaches, she is interested in research that explores college students' sense of belonging, culturally relevant assessment, and student success outcomes. Her work on [Sense of Belonging in a Culturally Engaging College Campus](#) was presented at the 2021 University Life Student Success Symposium. Chris also enjoys opportunities to engage students with learning, and this past year, she was a guest lecturer in the Higher Education Program at Mason, and University Life Graduate Student Academy.

Dr. Brandon Nzekwe joined OIEP in the role of Senior Research Analyst in 2021. Brandon champions the student and course enrollment census data process and ensures



that data is valid, reliable, and ready for state and federal statutory compliance reporting. He is the official liaison to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and helps to coordinate Mason's annual reporting submissions to SCHEV. Given Brandon's critical role in the census data process, part of his portfolio includes providing training to assist in the onboarding of new OIEP employees to ensure effective and accurate use of census data. He also supports the development of various data tools to increase Mason's access to readily available data. For example, Brandon was instrumental in the creation of OIEP's [Undergraduate Time to Degree / Credit Hours to Degree](#) dashboard, the first of its kind. He is passionate about the democratization of data which empowers stakeholders from a variety of technical backgrounds to have access to accurate and reliable data to support informed decision-making. Outside of the office, Brandon engages in community outreach and mentorship in Fairfax County and serves as the Scholarship Committee Chair for the Psi Alpha Alpha Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.



Learn About the OIEP Team



Questions, concerns, or feedback? Contact us at oiiep@gmu.edu.

Explore our available resources at <https://oiiep.gmu.edu>.



<https://oiep.gmu.edu>

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