

Archived Information

GPRA DATA/EVALUATION PROGRAM

Goal: To improve the type and quality of information available about the performance of the postsecondary education programs funded by the Department of Education.	Funding History (\$ in millions)			
	Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Fiscal Year	Appropriation
Legislation: Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2001. Department of Education Appropriation Act, 2001.	1985	\$0	2000	\$3
	1990	\$0	2001	\$3
	1995	\$0	2002 (Requested)	\$1

Program Description

The GPRA Data/Evaluation program, first funded in FY 2000, enables the Department to obtain the data that are needed to measure progress on many Higher Education Act (HEA) program indicators, pursuant to the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). It also allows the Department to carry out comprehensive evaluations and reports for programs that do not have funds designated for such activities. This activity allows the Department to assess the performance of grantees as well as the short- and long-term effects and cost efficiencies of postsecondary education policies.

There are a number of performance indicators in the Strategic Plan, Annual Plan, and individual program performance plans for which more accurate and timely data are needed. Funds for this activity allow the Department to conduct these necessary data collections and analyses. Each year, the Department makes a determination about the specific kinds of data that are needed to evaluate individual programs and gives priority to those that are most critical and feasible. The Department then contracts for well-designed, efficient data collection efforts and studies to obtain the needed information. Following is a list of activities funded in FY 2000:

- Evaluation of the Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants program. Separate studies are being conducted for the Partnership program and for the State and Recruitment Grants programs.
- Formative evaluation of the Learning Anytime Anywhere Partnership program.
- Development and implementation of a performance measurement system for the Aid for Institutional Development and Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions programs.
- Study of the Demonstration Projects to Ensure Quality Higher Education for Students with Disabilities.
- Analysis and collection of GPRA data for the Javits Fellowships and Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need programs.
- Technical assistance in the collection of data from institutions and states for the annual reports on the quality of teacher preparation.
- Development of a Web-based system for collecting performance data for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education program.
- Support for the collection of data on the effects of the student aid programs through the Beginning Postsecondary Student Study being conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics.
- Analysis and collection of GPRA student aid performance measures regarding college enrollment rates, unmet need, completion rates, debt burden, and the returns to student aid.

Program Performance

OBJECTIVE 1: TO FUND STUDIES AND DATA COLLECTIONS NEEDED TO ASSESS THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Indicator 1.1 Improved data on performance: Significant improvement will be made in the quality of data available to measure the performance of the postsecondary programs.

Targets and Performance Data			Assessment of Progress	Sources and Data Quality
Year	Actual Performance	Performance Targets	<p>Status: Target met.</p> <p>Explanation: Projects have been funded in 9 program areas that have or will improve our knowledge of the performance of the postsecondary education programs. Finding from these studies will be presented under the relevant program elsewhere in Volume 2.</p>	<p>Sources: Review of Department efforts. <i>Frequency:</i> Annually. <i>Next collection update:</i> 2001. <i>Data to be reported:</i> 2001.</p> <p>Validation Procedure: None.</p> <p>Limitations of Data and Planned Improvements: None.</p>
2000:	Projects have been funded in 9 postsecondary areas.	Significant improvement in the quality of available data.		
2001:		Significant improvement in the quality of available data.		
2002:		Significant improvement in the quality of available data.		