

CSU Academic Discipline Reports – Overview

General Comments

The annual CSU Academic Discipline Report (ADR) was made available in mid 2008 on a general public access CSU website . Useful information about this report is given below.

- FTES and FTEF totals for all individual HEGIS categories (01XXX Agriculture, 02XXX Architecture, etc.), as well as certain individual HEGIS disciplines such as Nursing (HEGIS code 12031). Category totals do **not** include contributions from any specific disciplines (within that category) that are reported separately.
- There are two separate sets of subreports: one is organized by HEGIS category within each CSU campus, and the other is by campus within each HEGIS category.
- Printed FTES, FTEF, and SFR totals are consistent with corresponding values on the older APDB Course Section Report. However, the latter is still generated from the APDB systemwide term VSAM section master file, whereas the various ADR subreports are all generated from an Oracle “systemwide” fall term table of section data. However, latter is effectively populated using data contained in the VSAM systemwide file.

Glossary of Various Terms Appearing on ADR Reports

- **AVG CLS SIZE** (average class size) includes only contributions from CS class segments which were reported under the (printed) discipline or category in question and which have CS numbers 01 through 21. The latter encompasses lectures, seminars, labs, and various types of student activities, including performing arts, physical education and intercollegiate sports. The computation of “average class size” involves three steps. First, the sum of reported student enrollment over each qualifying segments is taken. Second, a similar sum is taken on APDB data element “Section Fraction”. (note: “Section Fraction” is used instead of a straight head count to avoid overcounting group coded segments). Third, after both sums have been taken, the first sum is divided by the second to obtain “AVG CLS SIZE”.

NOTE: The APDB element “Section Fraction” is somewhat misnamed, since the value it contains applies to one and only one CS class segment within a given section, as opposed to the entire section (which may contain multiple segments).

- **APDB** (Academic Planning Data Base) is a Chancellor's Office database consisting of section and faculty data reported by each CSU campus every academic term.

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- **C-FACT SECTION** is a sum of the APDB data element “Section Fraction” values taken over all CS class segments which belong to the HEGIS discipline or category in question **and** have CS numbers 01 through 21. “Section Fraction” is used in this computation instead of the enrollment count to avoid overcounting group coded segments (same class offered by two different departments). Each distinct course offering is known as a “section”. A given section can consist of more than one CS mode of instruction, e.g., a lecture (CS Number 01) and a lab (CS Number 15). However, most CSU campuses report the lecture component and the lab component (of a given course) as separate sections.

FTEF (Full-time equivalent faculty) represents the summed total, over the discipline or category in question, of the data element “Total Section FTEF”, which in turn, for a given section, represents the portion of a full time faculty teaching position necessary to support that section. Because the various ADR reports are based on systemwide section data, all reported faculty instructional fractions (IFF) which could not be associated with direct instruction do not make any contribution to the ADR report. In particular, totals on the ADR do not reflect unassigned faculty positions, involving faculty who were reported with non-zero IFF, but did not actually teach any sections. Therefore, (ADR) reported FTEF’s and SFR’s should match corresponding totals on the Course Section Report (CSR). Thus, ADR reported FTEF and SFR values may be slightly lower and higher respectively than in the Faculty Assignments by Department (FAD) report. Another factor contributing to slight differences between the two reports is the fact that any faculty release time is ignored in computing Section FTEF. Specifically the total FTEF for a faculty member is distributed over sections taught based on a weighting of the APDB element “Adjusted Weighted Teaching Units” for each such section. For example, a faculty member with a total IFF of 1.000 and 8 WTU taught in English, 4 WTU taught in History, and the equivalent of 3 units of released time (reported to the C.O. as Other Support Fraction (OSF) or Instructional Administrative Fraction (IAF)--- would have that 1.000 IFF apportioned as 8/12 (0.667) to the English sections taught and 4/12 (0.333) to the History sections taught. Obviously, this distribution formula ignores any release time and any campus determination that the faculty member is paid, for example, 50% by English and 50% by History, or 100% by one department and none by the other.

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- **FTES** (Full-time equivalent students) is obtained via the following formula:

$$\text{Total FTES} = (\text{GSTCU} / 12) + (\text{NGSTCU} / 15)$$

where “GSCU” (graduate student credit units) is the summed total over all sections (which fall under the reporting category in question) of the data element product “Graduate Student Section Enrollment” times “Section Credit Units”, and “NGSTCU” (non-graduate student credit units) is the similar summed total of the product “Non-graduate Student Section Enrollment” times “Section Credit Units”, NOTE: The campus reported Section Credit Units per section is usually equivalent to the credit units listed in the campus course catalog for the course in question.

- **HEGIS** (Higher Education General Information System) is a federal academic discipline classification system. "HEGIS disciplines" are five-digit codes for identifying specific academic areas of study; these codes are reported by various APDB legacy reports, such as the CSR. For example, HEGIS code 04011 represents Biology, which, in turn, falls under the more generic classification 04XXX, commonly known as HEGIS “category” 04 which is entitled “Biological Sciences”. Thus the first 2 digits of a specific HEGIS Code is known as the HEGIS “category” with its own separate title.
- **LVL** represents the Course Level of instruction as follows: LD for (freshman & sophomore) lower division courses, UD for (junior & senior) upper division, and GR for graduate student courses.
- **SFR** (student-faculty ratio) refers to the result of the following arithmetic computation within a given detail row: detail column labeled “FTES” divided by the detail column labeled “FTEF”. See above for definitions of these labels.
- **SMALL SECTIONS** represents an arithmetic sum of the APDB element “Section Fraction” taken over all CS class segments which belong to the discipline or category in question **and** have CS numbers 01 through 21 **and** whose reported section enrollment is **less** than a threshold number which depends on the segment’s reported Course Level as follows: 13 for lower division, 10 for upper division, and 5 for graduate division. “Section Fraction” is used instead of a raw head count to avoid overcounting group coded segments. The total number of small sections reported in the ADR is slightly higher, in general, than in the APDB Section Size Frequency Distribution (SSFD) report, which omits class segments which have CS numbers 10 or 17 and upper division segments with CS number 06.

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- ***UNIQUE COURSES*** is a head count of the total number of distinct concatenated values of APDB elements “Course Abbreviation”, “Course Number” and “Course Suffix”) among the sections that were offered within the discipline or category in question..