

UW System Participation in the College Portrait

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The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSASM)



National Association
of State Universities
and Land-Grant Colleges

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FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION

Impetus for VSA

- Demonstrate accountability and stewardship to public
- Measure educational outcomes to identify effective educational practices
- Assemble information that is accessible, understandable, and comparable

Commission on Future of Higher Education

“Lack of useful data and accountability hinder policymakers and the public from making informed decisions and prevents higher education from demonstrating its contribution to the public good.”

Development of VSA

Higher Education Community

- 1 Foundation
- 2 Associations
- 20 Meetings
- 82 Committee Members
- 110 Monitors

UW System Involvement

- Task force leadership
- Work group participation
- All UW System campuses will participate as early adopters

Audience

- Students and families
- Public
- Policymakers, legislators
- Accreditors, institution and state boards
- Campus faculty and staff

College Portrait

- 5-page web reporting template
- Standard, comparable format
- Data elements based on focus groups, higher education community, research
- Most elements compiled from currently available data sources

College Portrait

- Student and Family Information
- Student Experiences and Perceptions
- Student Learning Outcomes

College Portrait

A Voluntary System of Accountability
(VSA™)

ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION IS THE BROAD RANGE OF DIVERSE INSTITUTIONS, EACH WITH ITS OWN DISTINCTIVE MISSION. COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SELECT THE INSTITUTION THAT IS THE BEST MATCH FOR THEIR INTERESTS, ABILITIES, AND GOALS. WE PRESENT THIS INFORMATION TO HELP STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW COLLEGES ARE ALIKE IN SOME WAYS, DIFFERENT IN OTHERS. THE ITEMS IN THE COLLEGE PORTRAIT WERE SELECTED BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MANY FOCUS GROUPS AS WELL AS EXPERTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION. WHILE THESE ITEMS WILL GIVE YOU VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO COLLEGE LIFE, THEY WILL NOT CAPTURE THE FULL RANGE AND RICHNESS OF THE EXPERIENCE. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHECK OUT COLLEGE WEB SITES AND VISIT CAMPUSES TO GET A MORE COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOU.

Related UW System Efforts

- Achieving Excellence/Accountability Report
- Know How 2 Go
- LEAP; Liberal Arts & America's Promise

Next Steps

- National project will be formally launched in December
- Continuing work on the template to refine reporting and assessment tools
- Development of each campus-based College Portrait is underway
- Live on campus websites this spring