

Background

In fall 2010, federal reporting requirements (IPEDS) were changed to adopt the new categories for reporting race/ethnicity data in accordance with the final guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education on October 19, 2007. These changes were necessary to implement the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) 1997 Standards for Maintaining, Collecting and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity.

Before

Prior to the guidance, race/ethnicity data were collected using a one-question format, where respondents were asked to select only one answer from the following list: American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, Black (non-Hispanic), Hispanic, White (non-Hispanic). Race/ethnicity was reported using the following categories:

- American Indian/Alaskan Native,
- Asian/Pacific Islander,
- Black (non-Hispanic),
- Hispanic,
- White (non-Hispanic),
- Non-Resident Alien,
- Race and Ethnicity Unknown.

The Change

The new standards require institutions to collect race/ethnicity data using a two-question format. The first question asks whether the respondent is Hispanic/Latino. The second question asks whether the respondent is from one or more races from the following list: American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (new category) and White. Multiple responses are allowed and are recorded as Two or more races (for those answering yes to Hispanic/Latino, they are recorded as Hispanic/Latino even if they select other races). Hence, the new reporting categories are:

- American Indian or Alaska Native,
- Asian,
- Black or African American,
- Hispanic/Latino (of any race),
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (new category),
- White,
- Two or more races,
- Non-Resident Alien,
- Race and Ethnicity unknown.

After

In fall 2009, the campus collected race/ethnicity information using the old one question format and subsequently resurveyed students and employees in January 2010 with the new two-question format. Detailed results of the resurvey for undergraduate students are presented on the next page.

The table below shows the distribution by race/ethnicity for undergraduate students who reported their race/ethnicity during both surveys. Looking at these results, it is clear that data collected using the old and new formats are not comparable as reporting patterns change, especially given the addition of the two or more races category. Notably, with the exception of Hispanic/Latino, decreases occurred in the former categories (e.g., American Indian/Alaska Native and Black (non-Hispanic)).

**Race/Ethnicity of Undergraduate Students, Fall 2009
Percent of U.S. Citizens Reporting in Both Surveys**

One-Question Results		Two-Question Results	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.5%	American Indian/Alaska Native	0.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	9.9%	Asian	8.8%
		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Black, non-Hispanic	5.5%	Black or African American	4.8%
Hispanic	4.7%	Hispanic/Latino	5.4%
		Two or more races, non-Hispanic	1.9%
White, non-Hispanic	79.4%	White	78.6%

Sources: <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/reic/resource.asp>, OIR Fall 2009 Enrollment Census, January 2010 race/ethnicity resurvey.

Race/Ethnicity of Undergraduate Students, Fall 2009
Using One-Question and Two-Question IPEDS Reporting Conventions

The table below shows the changes in reporting patterns for undergraduate students who were at UMass at the time of the resurvey. The row totals show the race/ethnicity distribution using the one-question format; the column totals show the distribution using the two-question format.

In order to read transitions, follow each row. For example, using the one-question format, 949 students self-reported as Black, non-Hispanic. Of these 758 (79.9%) continued to self-report as Black/African American, 70 (7.4%) reported two or more races, 32 (3.4%) reported being Hispanic/Latino (note that this would include anyone reporting Hispanic/Latino AND Black/African American) and 66 (7.0%) did not report any race/ethnicity. Many students who formerly had not reported race/ethnicity previously did so in the resurvey.

Fall 2009 (one question)	Fall 2009 (two questions)											Total
	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino of any race	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Two or more races, Non-Hispanic/Latino	ALANA Total	White	U.S. Citizen (reporting)	Non-Resident Alien	Race/Ethnicity Unknown	
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	27	-	1	7	1	27	63	15	78	-	6	84
Asian/ Pacific Islander	4	1,408	1	11	20	121	1,565	28	1,593	-	59	1,652
Black, non-Hispanic	3	4	758	32	-	70	867	16	883	-	66	949
Hispanic	-	-	2	733	-	-	735	26	761	-	27	788
ALANA Total	34	1,412	762	783	21	218	3,230	85	3,315	-	158	3,473
White, non-Hispanic	19	7	8	85	1	95	215	12,584	12,799	-	744	13,543
U.S. Citizen (reporting)	53	1,419	770	868	22	313	3,445	12,669	16,114	-	902	17,016
Non-Resident Alien	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	255	-	255
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	2	209	29	79	2	68	389	1,445	1,834	-	759	2,593
Total	56	1,521	789	944	24	380	3,714	14,081	17,795	255	1,603	19,653

Based on students' voluntary self-report.