

Significance of data types

Different types of data can tell you different things about your program.

What kind of data can we collect?	What questions can we ask about what we find?
▶ Number of students who register for the program	Are our numbers going up or down? Is there anything we can see that might tell us why?
▶ Number of students who actually come the first day	What barriers do I need to help them overcome? How can we change the orientation to get them more excited and engaged so they come back? Why didn't they come back?
▶ Number of students who finish the class	What are the reasons why students finished/didn't finish?
▶ Numbers of students in each level	Are there any levels that you always/sometimes/never get to run? Do you need to recruit more at that level? Should you just offer more classes at the other levels?
▶ Number of students who passed/didn't pass the class	What outcomes still need to be met? What can we do to improve our instruction? Are our assessments testing what they need to?
▶ Number of students who return for the next session	Why do/don't they return?
▶ Total duplicated enrollment	How many seats did we offer? How many did we plan to offer and what is the difference? How full are our classes?
▶ Total unduplicated enrollment	How many actual people did we serve?
▶ Numbers based on demographic information you collected	What percentage of males/females? What percentage have jobs? What percentage have children? What percentage have one goal or another?
▶ Student survey on how students found out about your program	What is working for our outreach? What isn't working?
▶ Focus groups on aspects of the program, for example, whether the program is helping students meet their goals	What do the students think of our program—what can we do more/less of?
▶ Instructor surveys	What improvements do they think can be done? How do they feel about what we are doing?
▶ Student surveys on class satisfaction	Are there any improvements we can make to individual classes? Are there teachers who might mentor other instructors or topics on which we might provide professional development?