Cradle-to-Career Data and Tools Advisory Board Proposal Form

Instructions:
Per the Governance Manual proposal forms submitted will address significant gaps regarding whether the data system is providing access to actionable information. Please note there should only be one proposal per form.

Name:

J. Oliver Schak

Proposal Title: *no more than 50 characters*

Graduate School Completion Rates by Field of Study

- By checking this box, I understand that if my recommendation is one of the top recommendations identified by the Advisory Board, I will be presenting my idea at the Fall Advisory Board meeting.

Type of Proposal[1]:

- Changes to practical tools for students *(Complete section one)*
- Adding data points not available through the P20W data set or adjusting (including the removal of) the existing P20W data points *(Complete section two)*
    - Please note a proposal form(s) can recommend adding one data point or several clearly related data points to the data system.

Section One: Changes to Practical Tools

1.What is the nature of the gap regarding access to actionable information?

[1] The C2C Governance Manual notes that DTAB members can also submit recommendations related to the data request process and changes to tools such as dashboards. As the data request process and the dashboards are not yet live, those sections have been removed from the 2024 version of this form.

2. What type of tool should be developed?

3. How would a tool address the gap?

4. Who would be the likely user(s) of the tool?

5. How does the tool relate to the mission and vision of C2C?

Section Two: Adding Data Points Not Available Through the P20W Data Set or Adjusting the Existing P20W Data Points

1.Please state the research question of interest that cannot be fully addressed with the existing data elements in the P20W Data System.

Little is known about the share of graduate-level students who successfully complete their degree. Federal data on persistence and degree completion is in most cases limited to undergraduates. Students, leaders, and community members deserve to know more about how well graduate schools see students through to graduation, and how quickly students complete their intended degree.

Research has documented inequities in graduate school success for women and students of color, particularly at programs that focus on STEM (see Posselt, 2020, "Equity in Science"). Outcome data that's broken down by school, field of study, gender, and race and ethnicity are critical elements to informing this knowledge base.

2. How does this research question relate to the mission and vision of C2C?

The availability of graduate school success rates would empower students to better navigate educational options beyond a four-year degree. Removing gaps in completion data would spotlight programs that best support the

success of graduate students of all backgrounds and facilitate conversations about evidence-based improvements at graduate schools, spanning the state and nation.

3. Please propose additional data element(s) needed in order to successfully address the research question of interest.

The P20 Data System should add detailed enrollment information on graduate students by postsecondary school and field of study (e.g., 5-digit CIP or major), including indicators on when and where students started their graduate-level studies. Collected data points should be sufficient to enable the construction of program-level outcomes cohorts and student persistence and success metrics (e.g., share of students who earn their degree within six years of program entry).

4. Please verify that the proposed data element(s) do not already exist in the P20W Data System.

These do not exist, as detailed information about enrollment by field of study is only available for undergraduate students (based on website documentation).

5. If the P20W Data System does not currently include the proposed data element(s), can the proposed data element(s) be derived from the existing data element(s) in the P20W Data System?

No, derivation requires the construction of graduate-level enrolment cohorts by school and field of study.

6. If the P20W Data System does not currently include the proposed data element(s), are there existing data element(s) closely related to the proposed data element(s)? If so, please list them and why they are not sufficient to answer the proposed research question.

There are similar elements for undergraduate students only. The system also has information on who earns a graduate each year, but this does not tell us who did and did not complete their program, who remains enrolled in their program after starting their studies, and how much time it typically takes to complete a specific masters or Ph.D. program.

7. C2C keeps a repository of previous data elements that were either a) considered during the planning process or b) proposed through the mechanisms as outlined in the Governance Manual, but were ultimately not included in the P20W, along with related feasibility studies. Do any of the data element(s) being proposed overlap with the data elements in this repository? (New proposals can build on or duplicate prior proposals. It is helpful for proposers to share that context, including prior related feasibility studies.)

This indirectly overlaps with a prior proposal to track retention and persistence by major among undergraduate students.

8. Are the proposed data element(s) already collected by a state-level entity? For data element(s) already collected, please answer question nine. For data element(s) not collected, please answer question ten.

I would recommend that a feasibility study examine how to collect these elements from the UC and CSU segments, as an initial starting point.

9. [For proposed data element(s) already collected] To the extent possible, please share details pertaining to the proposed data element(s). Relevant details may include but are not limited to: a) corresponding entity that collects and houses the data element(s); b) specific variable name(s) used in the originating data system; and c) timeframe available.

IPEDS provides a framework on collecting and disseminating data on graduate school completions by field of study (i.e., CIP). Nearly all postsecondary schools report these data. This proposal calls for analogous data to be collected on initial and ongoing enrollment at graduate school programs. Typically, students apply and enroll at specific graduate schools and programs, allowing school data systems to track enrollment and persistence from entry to exit. This proposal asks C2C to conduct a study on how to collect these data from schools or segments so that the researchers can create graduate-level cohorts and student success rates by field of study.

10. [For proposed data element(s) not collected] Please propose institution(s) that would be most suited for the new data collection effort.

11. Please explain the desired level(s) of grain size for each data element proposed. (i.e., individual-level, institution-level, or other aggregated levels)? Multiple grain sizes may be requested for each proposed data element.

Individual-level for enrolment by school and field of study

12. Please explain the intended use case(s) for the proposed data elements (i.e., dashboards, query builder, or the research request tool)? Multiple use cases may be requested for each proposed data element.

With these new data points, a data story could tell the public the fraction of students who earn their graduation degree within six years by school and program. The story could additionally track how many students finish with their desired degree, with a strong focus on opportunity gaps by gender and race. Additionally, a time-to-degree metric on the dashboard could highlight the average number of years students take to earn their degree in each program. Such a metric would inform affordability considerations for students about the true financial and opportunity costs of different educational pathways that go beyond four-year college.