



Report on the Status of:

Minnesota Laws Chapter 69, Article 3, Section 3;
Minn. Stat. 124D.09 Sud. 10

Concurrent Enrollment Student-Alumni Survey

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About the Minnesota Office of Higher Education

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a cabinet-level state agency providing students with financial aid programs and information to help them gain access to postsecondary education. The agency also serves as the state's clearinghouse for data, research and analysis on postsecondary enrollment, financial aid, finance and trends.

The Minnesota State Grant Program is the largest financial aid program administered by the Office of Higher Education, awarding up to \$180 million in need-based grants to Minnesota residents attending accredited institutions in Minnesota. The agency oversees tuition reciprocity programs, a student loan program, Minnesota's 529 College Savings Plan, licensing and early college awareness programs for youth.

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NACEP Student-Alumni Survey

The following contents were originally included in the December 2017 report, Concurrent Enrollment Grant Program Report to the Legislature, sent on November 28, 2017 to the Higher Education Legislative Committees.

2015 Minn. Stat. 124D.09, subd. 10a requires the Minnesota Office of Higher Education to compile evaluative survey results collected by postsecondary institutions accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships and report the summative results to the committees of the legislature by December 1 of each year. Until winter of 2017, the NACEP evaluative survey - which elicited responses from student-alumni who are one and four years out of high school – was required by NACEP in order to meet accreditation standards.

During late 2016/early 2017, NACEP began hosting focus groups and listening sessions on updating their accreditation standards, a portion of which focused specifically on evaluation standards required for accreditation. Through communication with the Minnesota Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (MnCEP) group and NACEP, it was determined that NACEP would no longer be requiring postsecondary institutions to conduct the evaluative survey that is cited by 2014 Minn. Stat. 124D.09, subd. 10a.

Below you will find a table that includes NACEP’s original evaluation standards and the updated evaluation standards that does not include the student-alumni surveys. Highlighted portions indicate the evaluation standards cited in 2014 Minn. Stat. 124D.09, subd. 10a.:

| Original NACEP Evaluation Standards | |
|--|---|
| Evaluation 1 (E1) | The Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) conducts end-of-term student university/college course evaluations of each course section offered through the CEP. |
| Evaluation 2 (E2) | The CEP conducts an annual survey of CEP alumni who are one year out of high school. Survey includes NACEP essential questions (additional questions may be used). Methodology includes one follow-up contact with non-respondents. Qualified institutional evaluator/researcher collaborates with the CEP to develop the survey and analyze the data. |
| Evaluation 3 (E3) | The CEP conducts survey of CEP alumni who are four years out of high school at least once every three years. Survey includes NACEP essential questions (additional questions may be used). Methodology includes one follow-up contact with non-respondents. Qualified institutional evaluator/researcher collaborates with the CEP to develop the survey and analyze the data |
| Evaluation 4 (E4) | The CEP conducts surveys of participating high school instructors, principals, and guidance counselors at least once every three years. Survey includes NACEP essential questions (additional questions may be used). Methodology includes one follow-up contact with non-respondents. Qualified institutional evaluator/researcher collaborates with the CEP to develop the survey and analyze the data. |

| Proposed (New) NACEP Evaluation Standards | |
|--|---|
| Evaluation 1 (E1) | The college/university conducts end-of-term student course evaluations for each concurrent enrollment course section to provide instructors with student feedback. |
| Evaluation 2 (E2) | The college/university conducts and reports regular and ongoing evaluations of the concurrent enrollment program effectiveness and uses the results for continuous improvement. |

When comparing the original NACEP Evaluation Standards to the new standards, it becomes clear that: 1) NACEP is removing the explicit requirement to conduct alumni surveys; and 2) NACEP is requiring institutions to conduct ongoing program evaluation for continuous improvement- leaving the methods, research questions, etc. up to the colleges/universities (E2). Since NACEP’s evaluation requirement (E2) is much more broad than the original requirement (E2/E3), the institutions may choose to opt out of conducting the alumni surveys altogether. Therefore, data may not be systematically collected from the student-alumni of Minnesota concurrent enrollment programs, or may not be collected at all.

In April 2017, OHE conducted a focus group of eight practitioners who oversee concurrent enrollment, PSEO, articulated credit, and early college programs in metro-region colleges and universities. The purpose of the focus group was to determine how colleges and universities will fulfill NACEP’s new evaluation requirements. One of the questions asked was, “Since NACEP is changing their evaluation standards, do you intend to continue the student-alumni surveys?” The practitioners unanimously agreed that they will no longer conduct the alumni surveys since they are no longer a requirement, and will opt to conduct evaluative studies that can better address issues in real-time, with larger student representation. They did not believe that the student-alumni surveys were helpful for their work or added new information about their program. This is generally due to the low student response rate and the overall consistency of the responses. Practitioners confirmed that they did not gain new insight using the survey results and were eager to experiment with different evaluative methods that could be more useful to their work. No specific methods were mentioned at that time.

Because of the information collected over the course of the year, the Office of Higher Education has determined that it will not be possible to fulfill the reporting requirements of 2014 Minn. Stat. 124D.09, subd. 10a, as institutions will no longer be required to collect the information from students. Without unanimous institutional support for the student-alumni survey method, there will not be consistent or useful data to report.