Postsecondary Data Partnership

Using PDP for Data Discovery & Decision Support
Course Syllabus
May 15, 2023 – June 30, 2023

Course Description

This online course explores using the PDP to ask critical questions and use intersectional data to explore previously unanswerable questions, identify institutional performance gaps, assess progress toward closing those gaps, and leverage the PDP to support decision-making. The course structure provides a foundation for participants to interact with colleagues and mentors and collaboratively navigate the ever-growing demands for better data to inform better decisions and advance the use of equity-minded language/approach to the work. By offering the course online, participants can access the content when it suits their schedule, along with additional live sessions for real-time engagement, expert insights, live chatting, and Q&A. A summary of these live sessions will be available for those unable to attend the live sessions. In addition, drop-in office hours will be offered weekly for questions and support as needed.

We welcome interdisciplinary teams from a single institution to participate in the course, across student services, academics, institutional research/effectiveness and more. The course is designed for two- and four-year institutional users with PDP dashboards. Participants will engage in dashboard exploration, identify data insights, practice in equity-minded language, and plan use in their home institution.

Learning Outcomes

As a result of completing this course, participants will be able to:

1. Explore the ways in which faculty, staff and administrators can contribute to data exploration and analysis.

2. Describe the key metrics used by the field to measure progress in improving student success outcomes, and how the PDP enables colleges to implement them effectively.

3. Explain how data-informed, equity-minded practices can be put into action at your institution.

4. Use equity-minded language in describing insights gained from PDP dashboards.

5. Apply intersectional use of the dashboards to identify gaps or progress in closing gaps.

6. Explore how the student-level data files can be used to deepen insights found in the dashboards.

7. Explore the use of tools to analyze insights by identifying policies, practices, and processes that impact the outcome.

8. Develop a plan of action to activate the use of the PDP at your institution.

Course Schedule

The online content is asynchronous and, once published, will remain open to participants **for three months** beyond the course end date. Each core lesson has a dedicated week where participants engage with the lesson content and complete the relevant exercises. The online portion is designed to require approximately 2 hours of engagement per week, totaling about 12 hours.

The seven live sessions occur on Tuesdays from 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET on specified dates. Each live session will be announced before the meeting date and include the Zoom link. Participants are encouraged to join the live sessions for the Q & A, but all recordings are available for on-demand viewing.

We will also offer "office hours" sessions on Thursdays, from 4-5 P.M. ET for stop in Q & A.

Week 1: Introduction to the Course and You ARE a Data Person
Week 2: Becoming a Data-Informed Institution / Let's get oriented to the PDP
Week 3: An Equity-Minded approach to data explorations
Week 4: Early Momentum Metrics Dashboards
Week 5: Outcomes Dashboards
Week 6: Benchmarking Dashboards
Week 7: Digging Deeper with the Student-Level Analysis Ready Files/ Moving from Dashboards to Equity-Focused Action

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Course Mentors

Lead Mentors:

- **Dr. Lisa Stich**, Director, PDP Program/Strategic Data & Technology Coach, Achieving the Dream
- **Dr. Bobbie Frye**, Associate Director, Research & Assessment, Achieving the Dream
- **Dr. Benjamin England,** Research Associate, National Student Clearinghouse
- **Ken McVearry**, Senior Specialist, Postsecondary Data Partnerships-National Student Clearinghouse

Support Mentors:

- **TBA, experts in Academic Affairs, Student Services, and Institutional Research**

To learn more about the course, email Lisa Stich: lstich@achievingthedream.org

Syllabus

DATES/TOPICS	LEARNINGS	ACTIVITIES
Week 1 (May 15) **Core Learnings 1:** Course Kick-off & Launch/You are a Data Person Live Session 1, **May 16, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET**	As a result of completing this module you will beprepared to: • Explore the data identity framework • Determine your own current data identity • Develop a plan to enhance your data identity at work, and those with whom you work • Log-in to and navigate the course content • Meet and engage with the mentors to support you • Communicate your goals for the course • Explore how to access the PDP dashboards	• Read book (pg 1-34), *You are A Data Person*, provided with course, and watch video • Introduce your team to colleagues and mentors • Complete Data Identity Assessment • Participate in Live Session 1, May 16, 2023: 4:00-5:00 P.M. ET • Optional: Drop in Office Hours, May 18, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET
Week 2 (May 22) **Core Learnings 2:** Data-Informed Institutions and Dashboards Live Session 2 **May 23, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET**	As a result of completing this module you will be prepared to: • Explore the advantages of becoming a data-informed institution • Describe how dashboards can advance student success and equity • Explain the key student success metrics used in the field, and how they have been operationalized in the PDP • Operate the PDP landing page and Enrollment dashboard • Explore enrollment management insights • Glean tips from early PDP adopters	• Read papers, watch videos, • Complete the Data-Informed Self-Assessment • Complete an exercise with the Enrollment Dashboard • Discuss with colleagues • Participate in Live Session 2, May 23, 2023: 4:00-5:00 P.M. ET • Optional: Drop in Office Hours, May 18, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET
Week 3 (May 29) **Core Learnings 3:** Advancing Equity Live Session 3 **May 30, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET**	As a result of completing this module you will beprepared to: • Explore the definition of equity in a higher education context • Compare equity-minded and deficit-minded data analysis and language • Identify potential equity barriers and disruptors • Create a personal plan of action to advance your own equity work	• Read papers, watch videos • Analyze the frame you work most comfortably in • Develop a personal plan for advancing equity • Participate in Live Session 3, May 30, 2023: 4:00-5:00 P.M. ET

DATES/TOPICS	LEARNINGS	ACTIVITIES
		• Optional: Drop in Office Hours, May 18, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET
Week 4 (June 5) **Core Learnings 4:** Early Momentum Dashboards Live Session 4 **June 6, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET**	As a result of completing this module you will beprepared to: • Explore the effectiveness of Early Momentum Metrics (EMMs) in predicting future success • Use an intersectional approach to explore the EMM metrics • Operate at least one EMM dashboard to identify an equity gap at your institution that merits exploration. • Explore how your institution can use the EMM metrics/dashboards to advance student success	• Read papers, watch videos • Complete EMM dashboard exercises • Discuss findings with colleagues • Complete an action plan for the use of EMM dashboards • Participate in Live Session 4, June 6, 2023: 4:00-5:00 P.M. ET • Optional: Drop in Office Hours, May 18, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET
Week 5 (June 12) **Core Learnings 5:** Outcome Metrics Dashboards Live Session 5 **June 13, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET**	As a result of completing this module you will beprepared to: • Differentiate between different types of outcomes metrics and how they can be used to explore intersectional student data to drive innovation. • Operate at least one Outcomes dashboard to identify at least one intersectional data trend that merits exploration at your institution • Explore how your institution can use the Outcomes dashboards to advance student success	• Read papers, watch videos, • Complete Outcomes dashboard exercises • Discuss findings with colleagues • Complete an action plan for the use of Outcome dashboards • Participate in Live Session 5, June 13, 2023: 4:00-5:00 P.M. ET • Optional: Drop in Office Hours, May 18, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET

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DATES/TOPICS	LEARNINGS	ACTIVITIES
Week 6 (June 19) **Core Learnings 6:** Benchmarking Dashboards) Live Session 6 **June 20, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET**	As a result of completing this module you will beprepared to: • Explore the utility of using benchmarking tools, and how they are used at your institution presently. • Operate at least one benchmarking dashboard to identify at least one intersectional data trend that merits exploration at your institution • Explore how your institution can take advantage of the benchmarking dashboards to advance student success	• Read papers, watch videos, • Complete dashboard exercises • Discuss findings with colleagues • Complete an action plan for use of the benchmarking dashboards • Participate in Live Session 6, June 20, 2023: 4:00-5:00 P.M. ET • Optional: Drop-in office hours, June 22, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET
Week 7 (June 26) **Core Learnings 5:** Using the AR Files/Moving from Data to Action Live Session 7 **June 27, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET**	As a result of completing this module, you will be prepared to: • Describe the purpose and uses of the cohort level,course level, and financial aid student-level analysis ready files • Deepen lines of inquiry identified in the dashboards via the AR files • Employ tools to move from identification of equity gaps to action • Design a plan to take advantage of PDP insights to advance your work in equity and student success.	• Read papers, watch videos, • Participate in the equity wheel exercise. • Formulate critical questions with the AR file • Dialogue with colleagues • Participate in Live Session 7, June 27, 2023: 4:00-5:00 P.M. ET • Optional: Drop in Office Hours, May 18, 2023, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. ET