

Recent Changes to the
Policies, Procedures and
Practices of **Collecting** and
Reporting Student
Race/Ethnicity

Uses of Race/Ethnic Information for Students

Recruiting prospective students

Mandatory reporting

Evaluation of diversity initiatives

Student activities

Eligibility determination

Principles

Race and ethnicity is **self-reported** by students or prospective students.

Data is collected at **time of application** for admission.

Students can **change** their responses at any time.

Race/ethnicity from **test-score loads** is **valuable** for recruiting.

Race/ethnicity is only relevant for **domestic** (non-international) students.

Ownership of Race/Ethnicity Policies and Practices

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Management & Budget

Question wording, categories, federal reporting, collection instrument

UW System Board of Regents

Subcategories, system-wide reporting, compliance (i.e. Lawton)

UW System Administration

Undergraduate applications, data entry (EPCS)

UW-Madison Admitting Offices

Graduate, Law, Pharmacy, Vet Med, Medicine, MBA, data entry, service applications

UW-Madison “Campus Community”

ISIS bio data governance, database management

“Old Question”

Racial/Ethnic Heritage (*check one*):

African American/Black

American Indian or Alaska Native

Southeast Asian (Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Vietnamese)

Other Asian/Pacific Islander

Hispanic/Latino

White/Non-Hispanic

I choose not to respond

“New Question”

Race/Ethnicity *(please answer both a and b):*

a. Ethnicity: Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

Yes No

(if yes, choose one or more from the list below)

Cuban

Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano

Puerto Rican

Other Hispanic or Latino

b. Race: Choose one or more from the list below.

African American or Black

American Indian or Alaska Native *(specify tribal affiliation)* _____

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Cambodian Vietnamese Hmong Laotian

Other Asian

White

Comparison of “Old” and “New”

Major Differences	Old	New
Collection Method	Not dictated	By Institution
Question wording	Up to university	Prescribed
Number of questions	One	Two
Number of selections allowed	One and only one	Not limited
Distinction between race and ethnicity	Not made	Separate questions
New Category	---	Native Hawaiian
Location of Pacific Islander	with Asian	with Native Hawaiian
Southeast Asian subcategories	Detail not collected	Detail collected
Hispanic/Latino(a) subcategories	Not collected	Collected and detailed
“I choose not to respond” allowed?	Not prohibited	Prohibited as choice

Reporting Methodologies

Federal *(for federal reports, such as IPEDS)*

- All **international students** reported in separate category
- All **domestic Hispanic/Latino(a) students** are reported as Hispanic, regardless of other race information
- Remaining **domestic students with more than one race** reported as “2 or more races”
- Remaining **domestic students with a single race** reported by racial category
- Remaining students who didn’t respond to the question reported as “**unknown**”

“Primary” *(alternate method for a single value per student)*

- All **international students** reported in separate category
- All **domestic students** are reported based on a hierarchy that considers all race/ethnic information reported by the student. Hierarchy gives greatest chance of selection to the smallest groups, based on WI census data.
- Students who did not respond to the question are reported as “**unknown**”

Count All *(results in duplicated count of students)*

- All **international students** reported in separate category
- Remaining domestic students are counted once in each and every race/ethnicity reported

Methodology Comparison

	“Primary”	Federal	Count All
Hispanic/Latino(a)	1,522	1,535	1,535
Black or African American	1,264	1,166	1,311
American Indian or Alaska Native	360	210	368
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	53	24	61
Asian	2,371	2,222	2,413
White	30,895	30,895	31,478
Two or more races	---	413	---
Unknown	1,655	1,655	1,655
International	3,979	3,979	3,979
Total	42,099	42,099	42,800

Remaining Issues

Resurveying currently enrolled students

Complications from service applications

Consistent selection of primary value across admitting offices

Consistent selection of primary value for manual data entry

Overwriting test-score loads with values from applications for admission

Compliance with efforts to standardize practices

Implementation of audit function

Training in appropriate use

Dissemination of this information