

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE COMMON DATA SET

The Common Data Set (CDS) was developed by publishers (Wintergreen/Orchard, The College Board, Peterson's, and U.S. News & World Report) in response to the inability of institutions to respond to each of their inquiries. Previously, institutions had to fill out as many as 100 different requests for a variety of publishers and their various publications. Since many of these requests were quite burdensome, many offices could not respond to each inquiry and many publishers did not receive information they wanted. Many of the requests had common data elements and inquiries. The CDS allows institutions to fill out only one form and provide each requestor data on a university in a standardized format.

A standardized set of definitions, data sources (where applicable), and format were agreed upon. The form itself was downloaded from Wintergreen/Orchard and completed by OIR. The completed CDS is then used to answer standard data requests from publishing companies. The CDS includes sections on institutions' general information, enrollment and persistence, freshman admission, transfer admission, academic offerings and policies, student life, expenses, and financial aid.

Publishers are given a printed copy of the CDS or referred to this website. Many publishers request additional information for their guidebooks in addition to the CDS. If the data is available and if time constraints allow us to compile that information, OIR will also complete those additional items.

Some of the definitions in the CDS differ from those reported to the State. The CDS relies heavily on IPEDS information since these Federal reports are standardized and required of all institutions of higher education who receive federal funds. There are differences in definitions and format between the State and Federal reports.

If you have any other questions about our CDS, please contact Ruth Creekmore, extension 2245.