Rethinking the data collection of identity in Native American students

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President’s Native American Advisory Council
Why does tribal affiliation matter?

- Rooted in tribal self-determination as tribes are the official bodies deciding membership
  - “Do the tribes that students claim to belong to claim them?” – Mark Macarro

- Council members’ concerns regarding Indigenous identity fraud
Definitions for tribe or nation status

• Federally recognized tribes (US): an American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States...Also, federally recognized tribes are recognized as possessing certain inherent rights of self-government (i.e., tribal sovereignty)

• State recognized tribes: tribes and heritage groups that are recognized by individual states for their various internal state government purposes...State recognized tribes are not federally recognized, but federally recognized tribes may also be state recognized
The data
Tribe or Nation Status

☐ I want to receive information about American Indian support services at the University of California. If you want to get more information online click here. [pdf]

☐ Federally Recognized (U.S.)

Please specify tribal affiliation*

☐ State Recognized

☐ Other/Unknown

Your official enrollment in an American Indian/Native American tribe may be considered in the comprehensive review of your application for admission.

☐ I consent to use of my tribal affiliation for purposes of considering my application for admission. I understand that this information is subject to verification.
Tribe or Nation Status

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☐ Federally Recognized (U.S.)

☒ State Recognized

Please specify tribal affiliation*

This is free text

☐ Other/Unknown
Apply UC → UC Data Warehouse
UC Native American Undergraduate admissions, Fall 2016-2018
UC Native American undergraduate applications, admits, and new enrollees headcount – Fall 2016 - 2018

Note: Includes applicants who indicated that they are American Indian/Alaska Native or provided tribal affiliation information on their application. These numbers include applicants who identify with more than one race or ethnicity.
## Undergraduate freshman admit and yield rates, Fall 2016 - 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freshman</th>
<th>Admit rate</th>
<th>Yield rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federally-recognized</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-recognized</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/unknown</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American/Black</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latinx</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemwide</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fall 2018 enrollment for UC Native American undergraduates
2018 Native American undergraduate fall enrollment

• Total: 2,533*
  • Federally-recognized: 563
  • State-recognized: 199
  • Other/unknown: 1,163
  • Did not indicate: 321
  • Null: 287

*Note: Total includes students who indicated that they are American Indian/Alaska Native or provided tribal affiliation information on their application. These numbers include applicants who identify with more than one race or ethnicity. “Null” = student is in our enrollment data but we could not match student’s enrollment data with admissions data because student either applied before 2011 or cannot match on ID.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tribal affiliation, Fall 2018 enrollment</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Other/unknown</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California tribes</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-CA, US tribes</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>1,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Americas</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not mention tribe name or location</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>1,920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Given how IR collects Native American identity, what do we do?
What next?

• Improving how we collect information – Admissions
  • Wording on application
  • Inclusion of a heritage statement?
  • Validation process
  • Plus factor for admissions?

• Have we been over-reporting the number of Native American undergraduates?

• Improving how we share information – Student support staff
  • Use for greater recruitment and outreach
Questions

• How does your institution collect identity for Native American students?

• Does your institution collect tribal affiliation information? If so, how does your institution collect this information? Does your institution verify or validate this information?

• What does your institution do with this information? Who receives this information and how is it shared?