



# Empowering Data Access:

A discussion about the data that Budget, Planning and Institutional Research can provide, how to access it, and best-practices for use.

*Prepared for the Technology Day  
6/3/2025*

# Agenda

- What BPIR can provide
- Under what conditions we are authorized to fulfill your request
- Why Definitions matter
- Pitfalls of requesting/using small cell-size data
  - Request the most aggregated data that is feasible for drawing conclusions
  - If multiple datasets need to be provided aggregated separately that's fine
  - Could show examples (Retention rates of Pell Native Americans)
- How to use the dashboards
  - Navigate, export, personalize (bookmarks for Power-Users)
- If data isn't in dashboards, putting in a request

# Budget, Planning and Institutional Research

## Who Are We?

We provide data and analyses to the Provost, Senior Leadership, Federal and Local Government, and supply data as-needed to business units around campus.



# Budget, Planning and Institutional Research

## What Limits Us?

- Federal reporting guidelines
- Privacy restrictions
- FERPA restrictions
- Workload and Timing
- Reporting agreements with other offices





# Data Held

And Reported



Headcounts  
and FTEs

Student  
Success

Population  
Demographics

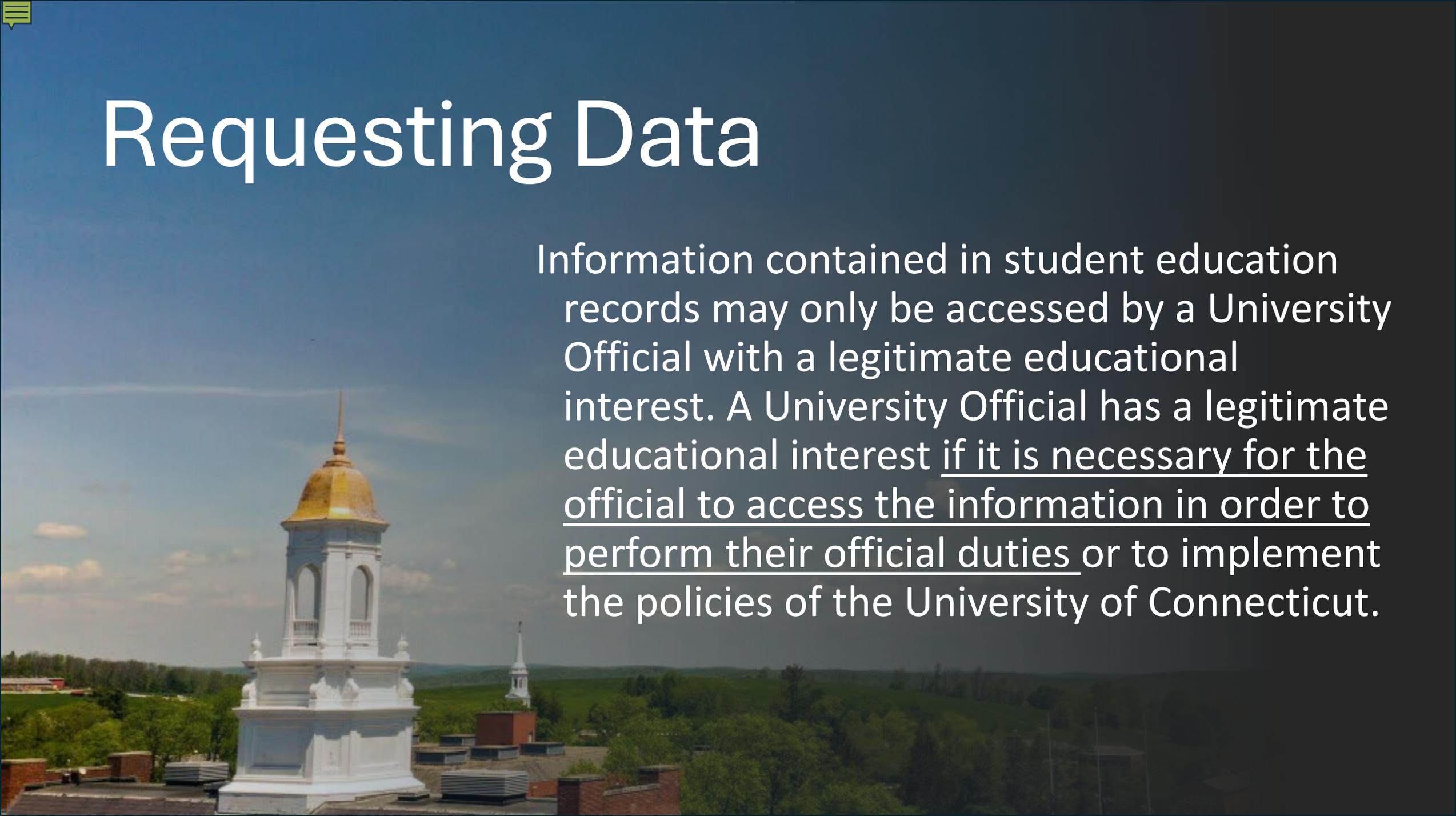
Course  
Information

University  
Operations



# Requesting Data

Information contained in student education records may only be accessed by a University Official with a legitimate educational interest. A University Official has a legitimate educational interest if it is necessary for the official to access the information in order to perform their official duties or to implement the policies of the University of Connecticut.



# Data Requests We Can Fulfill

1



## Provost's Academic Program Review

*For all non-externally accredited  
units*

Accreditation by  
Governing Bodies

2



## Triennial Undergraduate Assessment Cycle

3



Dean or  
Department  
Head Requests

# Data Requests We Can Fulfill

1



University  
Committee  
Requests

2



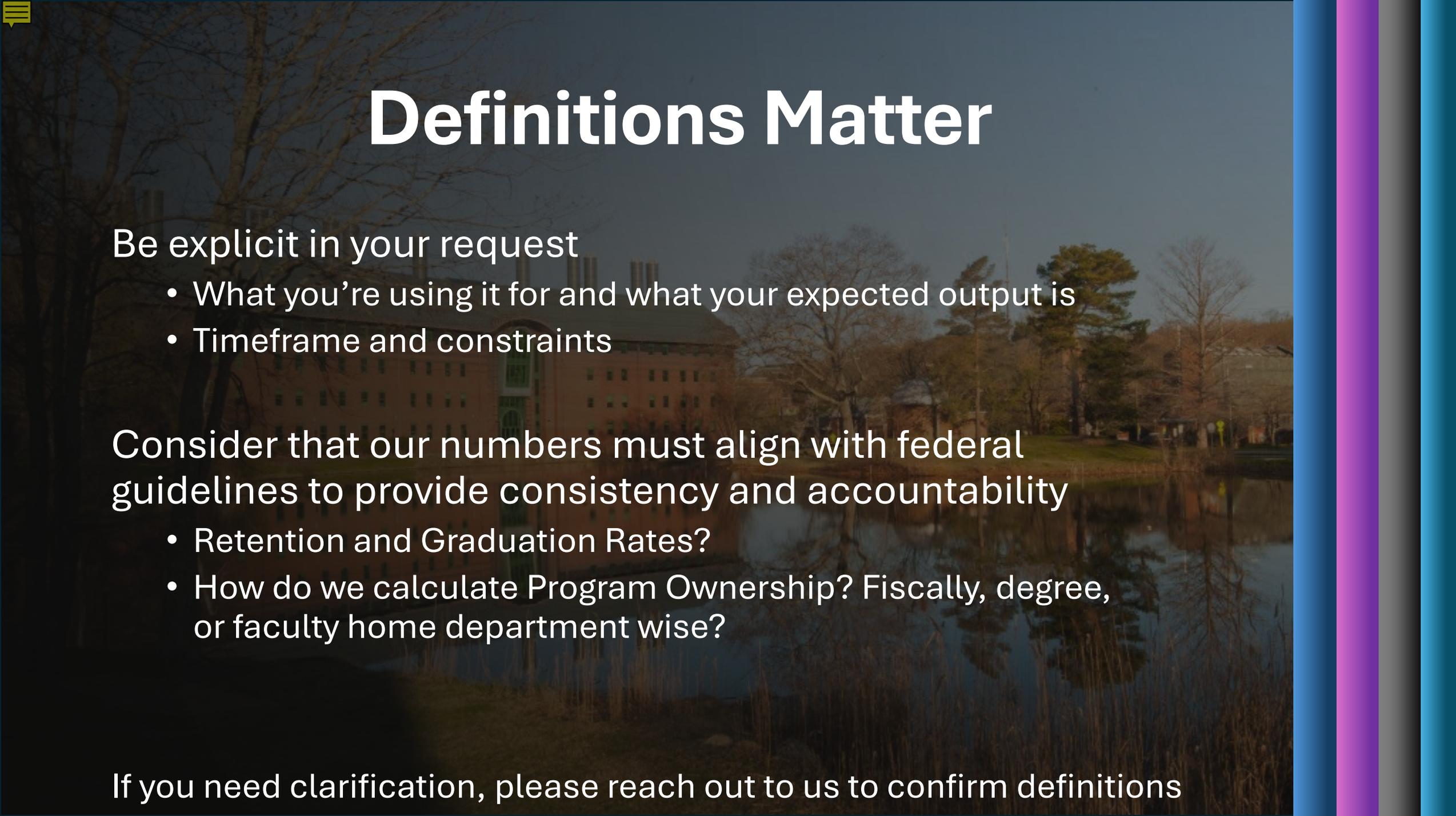
Grant  
Applications  
and  
Renewals\*

3



External  
Reporting  
Requirements  
or Surveys\*

\*Anything supplied to external sources must be aggregated and reviewed for privacy in a different process than internal sharing of data.



# Definitions Matter

Be explicit in your request

- What you're using it for and what your expected output is
- Timeframe and constraints

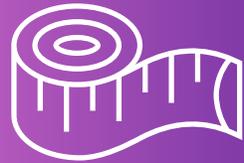
Consider that our numbers must align with federal guidelines to provide consistency and accountability

- Retention and Graduation Rates?
- How do we calculate Program Ownership? Fiscally, degree, or faculty home department wise?

If you need clarification, please reach out to us to confirm definitions

# Why Cell Size Matters

When reporting data, we generally must suppress small cell sizes



Alignment with CT Department of Education and Privacy Requirements

Trends taken from small cell sizes have too much noise to be reliable



After suppression, data requested may not be sufficient for analysis

# Why Cell Size Matters

An example of an unsuppressed table:

Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity							
District	Black		White		Hispanic		Total
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
District 1	3	60%	2	40%	0	0%	5
District 2	0	0%	4	40%	6	60%	10
District 3	10	67%	0	0%	5	33%	15
District 4	8	42%	7	37%	4	21%	19
District 5	10	40%	8	32%	7	28%	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>74</b>

# Why Cell Size Matters

An example of a suppressed table:

Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity							
District	Black		White		Hispanic		Total
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
District 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District 2	-	-	-	-	6	60%	10
District 3	10	67%	-	-	-	-	15
District 4	8	42%	7	37%	-	-	19
District 5	10	40%	8	32%	7	28%	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>74</b>

*A request for the raw data underneath this would be even worse!*

# Publicly Available Data Sources

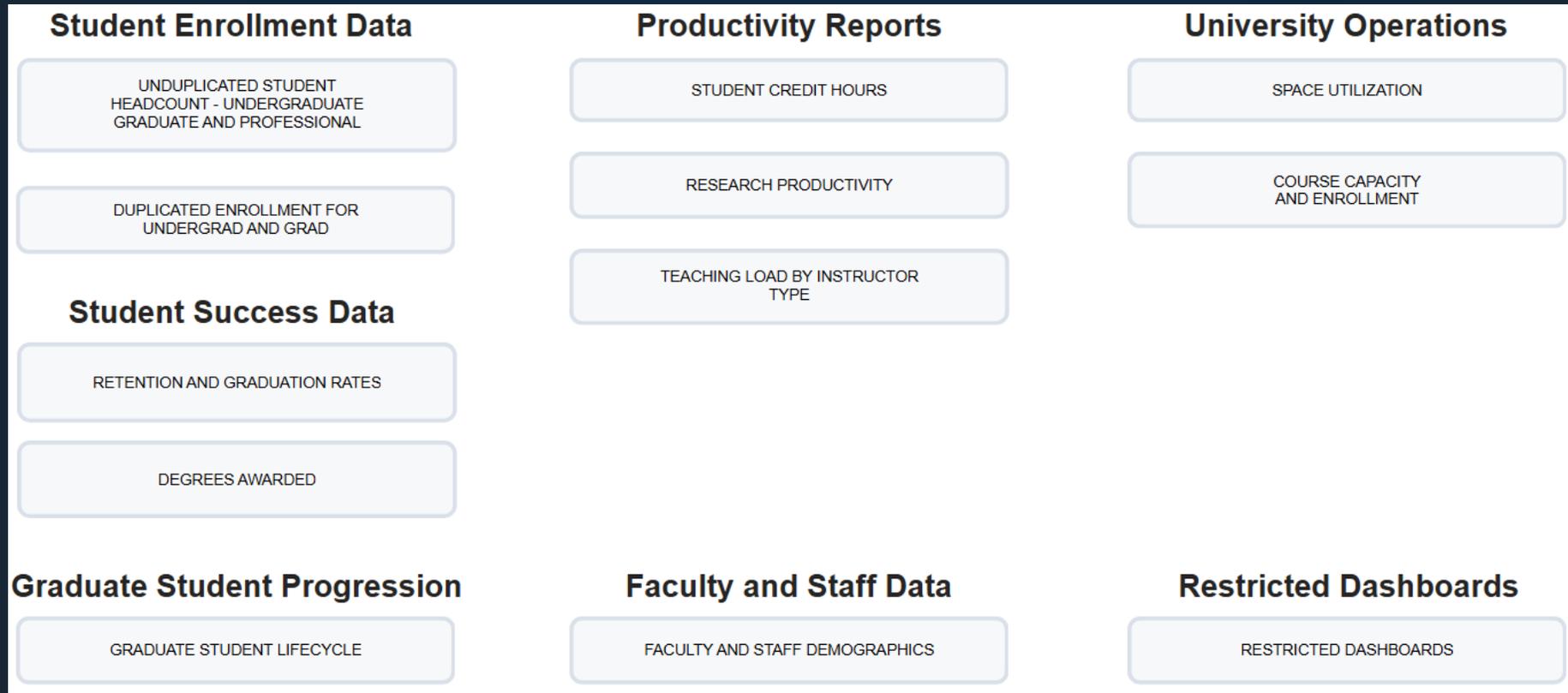
- Common Dataset, IPEDS, and Fact Sheet
- Student Enrollment PDFs
- Student Diversity Data
- Student Residency
- Retention and Graduation Data

# Who in your Orbit needs to Know?

- Department Heads
- Fiscal Officers
- Program Managers
- Anyone filling out reports that needs to report accurate information



# What dashboards can I have access to?



*\*Students, both Graduate and Undergraduate, will not be given access to any dashboard.*

[BPIR.UConn.edu](http://BPIR.UConn.edu)



# Data Request Guide

## Request Institutional Data

# Dashboards